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87.

Pat Low's letter

In reading ^{Don} Pat Low's letter To the Editor
Re Compensation To our Japanese Canadians
I was so aware of his complete lack of
Knowledge + ^{was so obvious} ~~was so obvious~~ That I felt
His letter did not deserve a Response.

However realizing that many younger people
MIGHT read his letter + take it to be factual

Being raised in the Fraser Valley at Mission
Prior To world War II, I ^{grew up knowing these Japanese Canadians} ~~not only knew~~ ^{clearly} ~~clearly~~ seeing the Japanese families ^{I recall them} ~~clearly~~ ^{clearly} clearing + leveling the land; growing

Some of the finest Strawberries Raspberries
coming knocking at your Door ^{early in February} with a Bundle
of Beautifully Forced Rubarb. They helped
organize the P.C.U. (Pacific Cooperative Union)

Through which they marketed their ~~the~~ Fruit
+ Vegetables. These families were very hard + diligent
~~then what~~ ^{then what} ~~was~~ ^{was} workers. The majority of
the students in my class were of Japanese origin
The Hayashis the Kumuras, the Hataris, + ~~the~~
Kimi Nakashima was certainly one of the Brightest
Students To Graduate from Mission High

① cover

plan insurance and
individuals' premiums to
aims a few of us will
pay your premium,
using protection in case
accident leading to pro-

compensation being paid in this
respect, because of our firm belief
that the dislodgement of most
Japanese-Canadians from their
former occupations has done them
nothing but good — at the expense of

courses from university by sea
responsibility, met life-mates, learned
a great deal about the great outdoors,
and were educated far more in any
number of vocations, other than
fishing and operating small corner

that retain his imprint.

Strictly 'off the cuff' though, what
are we going to do for relaxed reading
without the uninhibited, keen-witted
roguish style of Off the Cuff?

Ah well, one cannot impede that

Frank Ross Lt 1959

The war came along with Pearl Harbour
on ~~with~~ 24 hours notice These Families were
^{many Head of} evacuated from their Homes. Rounded up like so
Cattle and confined + Barracked ~~both~~ Vancouver
Pacific National Exhibition Grounds. Several
Months later they were Relocated at various
Centres throughout Canada including Tashme.

These Families lost everything - Their Homes
Farms Equipment ^{The} Families Personal Property. They
were allowed To take with them only a few
Personal belongings. These Pioneers were forced
To leave ~~being~~ their life saving + their
Life Labour. This was poor management
on part of the Government of the Day
we could well have used their fine Fruit
Vegetables + other produce during the war.
but within a year the Majority of these
Farms grew up in weeds + contributed
Nothing To our war time economy.

How would Pat Low feel if His assets
were unilaterally Expropriated with out
Compensation - Not Very Good + Further
more the Community wouldn't feel very
good about it either. Mr Low you might
I will hang your Head in Shoppe. Some of Nape
Finest citizens are Those Personal you Detain justly



Readers' Forum

I welcomes letters to letters must be sign- the address and phone writer. Names will only in special cases. reserves the right to letter writers will be participate in the editing

highways safer, and our Autoplan premiums lower.

Ken Hardie
Manager, Media Relations
ICBC

Japanese weren't wronged

Editor, *The Standard*:
In regards to the article, 'The Japanese were wronged' in the April 6 issue of *The Standard*:

It seems that as long as the new generation of young Japanese keep on agitating, and as long as Ottawa does not call the shot, and conclude the matter, it will hang around for a while and appear periodically in various newspapers.

But now that it has been brought up in *The Standard*, I think it appropriate that some response be given from the side of 'realism' and not only from the sympathizers and bleeding-hearts. I have played a big part in this scenario both emotionally, physically, and intellectually, with respect to experiences and study of the whole matter. I enclose copies of letters I have written to prime ministers and justice ministers together with some of the more pragmatic news items which I have collected in this matter over the years. I think it would be reasonable and justified to print some of this material in a second article on this matter, in order that your readers may see the other side of the story.

An (1983) open letter to Justice Minister Mark MacGuigan:

We strongly object to any further compensation being paid in this respect, because of our firm belief that the dislodgement of most Japanese-Canadians from their former occupations has done them nothing but good — at the expense of the rest of us long-time full-time Canadians.

Let us explain: We acquired a property 100 miles east of Vancouver on the Hope-Princeton Highway (12 miles east of Hope, B.C.), which was

used as an internment camp for these Japanese-Canadians during World War Two. Approximately 3,000 of them were held at this location.

While the writer was dispatched as a teenager to the European War theatre as a stretcher-bearer in the Medical Corps, and risked his life to keep Canada free from foreign tyranny, these Japanese-Canadians were frolicking in fun and laughter as they lived their very well protected lives in this encampment called 'Tashme'. They had ball fields, hiking trails, schools, a church, correspondence courses, food growing, processing and preparation facilities, and generally lived a very easy, happy type of life during those war years. We see a far different life-style between them and those of us who had to go abroad, and many of whom did not return. These Japanese-Canadians should be thankful that they did not have to serve in overseas forays, only to be killed at the hands of our common enemy. We hear of none of them sacrificing their lives.

If you are about to give compensation to these people for their so-called 'sacrifice' for being interned, and/or for the so-called loss of some assets, then are you considering compensation to men like this writer, who dropped five years of the most productive time in his life, thereby suffering heavy loss of education, and opportunities to be grounded in a business or profession. The damage to men like us, was far greater than the damage to the interned Japanese-Canadians.

Moreover, we had hundreds of the internees of 'Tashme' now called Sunshine Valley, return to the property for the purpose of taking pictures of the area where they spent four or five happy years during the war. While at Tashme, they attended school, took courses from universities by correspondence, met life-mates, learned a great deal about the great outdoors, and were educated far more in any number of vocations, other than fishing and operating small corner stores, (as they were doing before the war)

We report all this to you, to show how that these Japanese-Canadians were, in fact, well treated during the war; — had all the breaks; — did not

work hard, and were well-fed. Then they went on to elevate themselves on the social ladder in a manner and height which would have been impossible, had they remained in the previous environment.

No doubt, these Japanese-Canadians are to be commended, but the rest of us Canadians should be commended even moreso. They were not ill-treated even in so-called 'internment' but, in fact, were given opportunities that few, if any, of the rest of us Canadians have ever had. We strongly reject the statement that the so-called 'internment' was a 'blot on Canada's record of respect for human and minority rights'. In this case, we should pat ourselves on the back, that they were treated well, and came off ten times better than the rest of us who had to serve overseas during those war years.

Don Low,
President, Sunshine Valley
Developments Ltd.
Sunshine Valley

Stories

Standard:
your *Off the Cuff* and have to concur with wholeheartedly. Born in this area, moving away back and now moving back, he says this is the last time to leave the area and at one acquires. If us that are leaving will always have the real neat town, friend-community spirit — 'Off the Cuff nut'.

Mo Barry
Hope

Opinions

Standard:
'Reward The Skillful' 23 *Hope Standard* editor Dediluke's letter 'Increase in Rates' in issue, ask why accident-ave to pay more for

plan insurance fund individuals' premiums to aims a few of us will you pay your premium, using protection in case accident leading to pro-injuries or loss of life. could afford to cover the in accident ourselves. widely reported that ac- insurance claims are at Because of this, there over demand on the in- to pay those claims. of insurance protection everyone.

rated scale offers dis- 40 per cent to claim- This means that those in accidents will pay more for their insurance instance, a claim-free

Riding into the sunset

Editor, *The Standard*:
Hope breeds good people, doesn't it? Trouble is, they become so good, their expertise so recognized, that new horizons beckon 'Go West, young man, Go West'.

So it is with the 'new man' who followed the well-regarded, Frank Klassen.

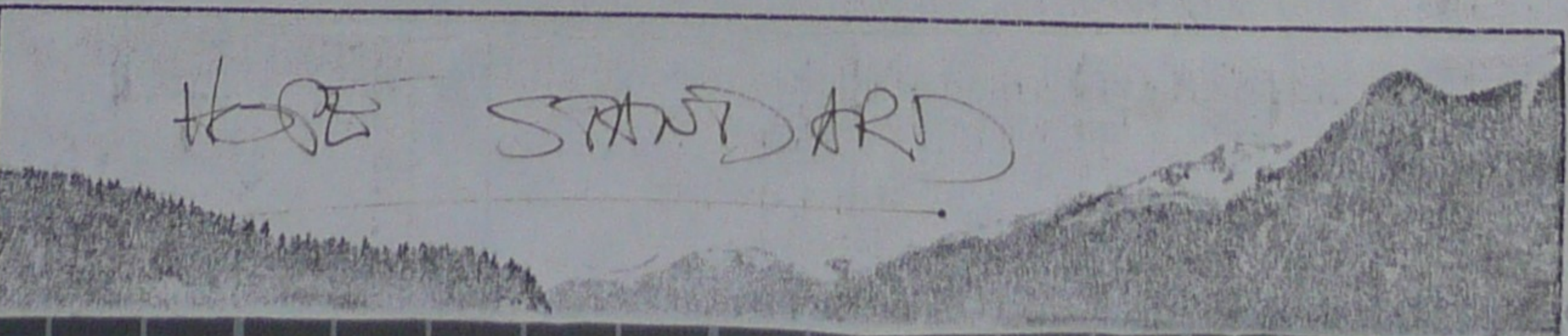
True to the best tradition of newspaper editors, Andrew Holota's editorials have pulled no punches in communicating the facts. They have alerted and at times, alarmed. And there was always space reserved for 'well done'.

While 'Hop-a-long Holota' hopefully will miss this community and its people, there are many projects here that retain his imprint.

Strictly 'off the cuff' though, what are we going to do for relaxed reading without the uninhibited, keen-witted roguish style of *Off the Cuff*?

Ah well, one cannot impede that kind of progress, and as Andy heads off into the sunset, good wishes from this part of Rainbow Country will ride with him.

Frances Thomas,
Hope



EDITOR:

On reading Don Low's letter to the Editor re: "Japanese weren't wronged" his complete lack of knowledge and narrow outlook was so obvious that I felt his letter did not deserve a response. However, realizing that many younger people might read his letter and take it to be factual, I decided to respond.

Being raised in the Fraser Valley at Mission prior to World War II, I grew up knowing these Japanese Canadians first hand. I recall them blasting the stumps, clearing and leveling the land; growing some of the finest strawberries and raspberries. Then come knocking at our door in early Spring with a bundle of beautiful forced rhubarb. They helped to organize the Pacific Co-Operative Union through which they processed and marketed their fruits and vegetables, which provided me with my first hourly paid summer job.

These pioneer families were very hard and diligent workers. The majority of the students in my class were of Japanese origin. Kimi Nakashima was certainly one of the brightest students ever to graduate from Mission High.

The war came along to B.C. with Pearl Harbour and within hours these pioneers were forceably removed from their homes, rounded up like so many head of cattle and confined & barracked in the Pacific National Exhibition Grounds in Vancouver. Several months later they were relocated to various centers throughout Canada including Tashme.

These Japanese Canadian families lost everything - their homes, farms, equipment and personal belongings. They were allowed to take with them only a few personal items, leaving behind their life's savings and their life's labours.

This was poor management on the part of the Government of the Day. We could have used their fine fruit & vegetables and other produce to help bolster our war effort. Within a year the majority of these farms were weed infested, and so contributed nothing to our war-time economy. Despite this harsh and cruel treatment, several sons served in the Canadian Intelligence Corps.

How would Don Low feel if his assets (in Sunshine Valley) were unilaterally expropriated without compensation? Not very good I suspect! And furthermore the community would not feel very good about it either. They would be demanding that he receive restitution or compensation!

Mr. Low, you might well hang your head in shame for such a narrow-minded attack. Some of Hope's finest citizens are those whose Canadian Heritage you attempt to defame.

Yours truly,

William L. Hartley