

## Royal City Man 100 Years Old Tomorrow

NEW WESTMINSTER, March 2.—William Furness, who will be 100 years of age on Wednesday, will spend the anniversary taking a walk around the block and sawing wood in the basement of his home at 340 Tenth Street.

He will be New Westminster's oldest resident and his sole centenarian. Despite his great age he is still hale and hearty and enjoys life to the full.

"I feel fine, have no pains or aches, sleep well and have a good appetite," Mr. Furness said.

He can offer no recipe for longevity except that he always observed the rules of moderation.

He does not smoke but enjoys a "drink" once in a while.

He was born on March 3, 1843, at Stretton, Staffordshire, England, and came to Sherbrooke, Quebec, in 1882. He arrived in New Westminster in 1888, and was the first caretaker on the Lulu Island bridge. He retired in 1929.

"He is in wonderful health, and our problem is to prevent him from over-exercising himself," said Thomas Furness, his son.

He also has a daughter, Elizabeth, 14 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

## Valley Might House Many

Inquiries into the possibility of finding vacant homes in the Fraser Valley and nearby summer resorts for part of Vancouver's population surplus were initiated today by Mayor Cornett.

His Worship sought information by letter from William Wright, secretary of the Fraser Valley and Lower Mainland Associated Boards of Trade.

"Among our new arrivals and also among other residents are some who could, probably with advantage to their children and themselves, reside in some of the smaller communities," the Mayor wrote.

He suggested that Mr. Wright bring the question before his board, after noting that summer resorts may be hit hard by the gasoline shortage. If the idea is feasible, the Mayor proposed that information be furnished to some central housing agency in Vancouver, where interested persons could consult the lists.

## Awarded Divorce

Doris Caroline Frew was awarded a divorce from Herbert Campbell Frew by Mr. Justice Sidney Smith in New Westminster.

## Vancouver Airman Saved in North Sea

News that a Vancouver flier, Sgt. M. F. Gray, captain of an RCAF bomber, was missing on a mine-laying flight reached the city simultaneously with the news that he and six other crew members were rescued from the sea.

"I saw in the paper last night that a crew of fliers had been picked up in the North Sea but



THE WOMAN WITH THE HOE is Mrs. W. F. Ganz, of Silverdale. She is the busy tenant of a former Jap berry farm of fifteen acres. Immediately adjoining the dairy farm operated by Mrs. Ganz and her husband, this evacuated farm was taken over in excellent condition.

## Father Coccola, Famed Pioneer Priest, Dies

SMITHERS, B.C., March 2—(CP) — Father Nicholas Coccola, 88, who served in Roman Catholic missions in Central British Columbia for 62 years, died in hospital here Monday. He was a native of Corsica.

Father Coccola spent 24 years at Kamloops and the Kootenay district during the construction days, 15 years at Port St. James, 12 years at Lejac and nine years at Smithers.

He received extensive private schooling and at age of 19 entered a seminary and later joined a religious order to study for the priesthood. He studied in France where he made his perpetual vows in 1879. The following year he left LeHavre for America, eventually reaching New Westminster.

### DISCOVERED MINE

He was ordained a priest and appointed to Kamloops under Father LeJac.

With Indian aides, he discovered St. Eugene Mine at Moyie, later using proceeds of sale of property to establish the St. Eugene Mission at Cranbrook.

In 1906 he made a notable trip to Ottawa to plead the cause of natives, resulting in government assistance in obtaining fish nets and farm implements. With the help of an assistant, Father J. Allard, another well-known priest and missionary, he attended the sick and buried the dead during the influenza epidemic of 1918.

### HEAD OF SCHOOL

In 1920 Father Coccola enjoyed a respite from his arduous duties take charge of the Indian Residential School at LeJac. Here he

didn't connect it with my brother," N. E. Gray, 2892 West Twenty-eighth Avenue, told The Vancouver Sun today. "We had a letter from him yesterday mentioning the fact that he was just back after a bombing raid on Hamburg."

Sgt. Gray, 24, came to Vancouver in 1940 and was employed by the York Knitting Mills Ltd., until he enlisted in the RCAF in May 1941.

A new airmail service between Cuba and Mexico has been inaugurated.

Fire badly damaged a floating tool shed at Spencer's Booming Grounds, foot of Eton, Monday afternoon. The flames were extinguished by crews from Fire-halls 1 and 9.

Best and worst examples of evacuated Jap farms near Mission City, where many are going to ruin, are pictured above. The neat rows of strawberries (left) are on a farm where the former owner husbanded each plant right up to the day he was forced to leave. On the abandoned patch (right), now grown up to grass and weeds, the Japanese tenants stopped all field work as soon as the evacuation plan became certain. Beyond immediate redemption as a berry farm, this land must now be ploughed and replanted.

## Jap Properties Not Easy to Rehabilitate

By WILLIAM ROSE

Thousands of acres of former Jap berry farms in the Fraser Valley are going back to the jungle and the total crop this year, when it is most needed, is not expected to exceed 40 percent of normal, because there are not enough experienced berry-growers to replace the former owners.

Guided through the creeping wilderness of weeds by Constable Donald Thompson of Mission, this reporter and a staff photographer Monday travelled over miles of table-lands above Mission City to see in detail the once fruitful areas now abandoned or given over to new-comers struggling against the two evils of inexperience and last year's neglect.

### WEED CROP

It is a distressing sight. Strawberry patches which only a year ago were vigorous and tidy are now overgrown with moss and grass, full of giant Canadian thistles ready to pollute the farms of the entire Upper Valley.

A. C. Fisher, manager of Central Fruit Distributors, has been in the berry business, both as grower and shipper, for 30 years. He has "never seen an upset like this."

Most of the Japs, when they learned of the evacuation plan, stopped all weeding and planting. By the time the farms were available for others, the situation was out of hand. Six months of neglect, the experts say, will ruin a berry patch; and most of these patches have been abandoned longer.

A Canadian Canners' official estimates that only 10 percent of the evacuated farms will be thoroughly cropped. An old-timer suggests that all that can be done with much of the acreage is plow it and seed it to clover. And beneath the anxiety about the crop there is an undercurrent of worry about a future social problem. Nobody wants to be quoted, but everybody talks about Okies, and a future "Grapes of Wrath." What happens, they ask, if many of the newcomers fail?

### SHORT LEASE

"Some of them thought they were going to make a killing because the Japs did, and now they want a subsidy," one farmer said. "By golly," he added, "when we started years ago and had a failure we took the rap ourselves."

On the other side of the picture is a story of hard work, unfavorable weather, shortage of pickers, and a bad bargain. One tenant writes:

"The greatest drawback is the present one-year lease. If the government would give us a three-year lease, and compensate us in case the farm is sold, we would know what to do. All we tenants need is assurance that we can occupy our farms in peace and we will show that we are real berry-growers."

Some of the farms were turned over in good condition. Mrs. W. F. Ganz, near Silverdale on the North highway, took over 15 acres of strawberries, black-caps, and rhubarb. The Nipponese had kept right in the furrow until the day he left. Next door is the Ganz dairy farm of 50 acres, and Mrs. Ganz, working every day herself in the berry patch, has a comfortable margin of safety over the weeds.

From Dawson City last summer came Mrs. Isabel Rawson, a school-teacher, after eight years in the far North, to pick berries. She liked it so well she returned this spring to rent four acres which were in fair condition.

With her son and daughter, 17

and 15, in school, this pretty little woman is daily battling with a tangle of loganberry vines that should have been trimmed out last Fall. When interviewed, it was 6 p.m., and she had been at it all day. She looked tired, and maybe that is why she seemed a little discouraged.

Up Cedar Valley way, farther back in the hills where the mail boxes still carry the names of Ogawa, Hayashi and Shono, there is a hard-bitten wheat-grower from Radisson, Harry Tiegrah, untangling, with his wife and daughter, a barbed skein of blackberries. He has been there since September. He was either optimistic or stoical. It's anybody's guess.

The Chinese coolie, who might have been expected to move in en masse, is not there. But two Canadian-born Chinese, Leslie Chan and Eva Tom, have both taken over Jap farms and are making progress.

### MONEY IN IT

There is little to cheer about on Fraser Valley berry farms, except, perhaps, that the whole family seems to be working, and maybe when the returns are in it will be better than it looked this week.

"The pioneer berry growers who stuck with it through all the lean years are going to get some of their money back now," L. R. Wilson, of Fraser Valley Growers Ltd., ventured hopefully. "And anybody on a Jap farm who really wants to grow berries will never have a better opportunity than today."

Mr. Wilson estimates an 80 percent drop from normal production on Jap farms. The old established white growers, like Charles Goodchild of Matsqui, Joseph Brown of Huntingdon, and Frank Aish of Upper Sumas, men who ship 40 to 100 tons of small fruit a season, will do well this year if they can get pickers, Mr. Wilson states. This is the one bright prospect.

## Accused Auto Driver Denies Intoxication

Evidence by police officers that he was intoxicated when Fidel Johnson, Agassiz Indian farmer, was fatally injured by his friend's car last October 2, was denied in Assize Court today by John McKay, foundry worker.

McKay was a passenger in the car driven by Gordon H. Frankforth, 25, and he swore at Frankforth's trial today on a charge of manslaughter, that they had had only two glasses of beer each four hours before the accident.

Although subpoenaed by the Crown, McKay was called by W. J. Murdock as a defense witness. He said he glimpsed Johnson 10 feet from the car at Hastings and Princess, Frankforth sounded the horn, and then the man was struck.

"We came to a stop and then drove on to find a telephone," testified McKay.

"I killed him but I don't believe I was to blame," Frankforth was quoted by a police officer as saying when he was charged with Johnson's death.

The witness was Traffic Officer F. R. Spencer, who said he asked Frankforth why he did not stop at Princess and Hastings, where Johnson was struck.

### CAR WENT ON

"Frankforth said he was looking for a place to phone. He had been drinking, but was not drunk. He said he had had two glasses of beer and that Johnson walked right in front of him," testified Spencer.

Horace Thomas Mullins, instructor at the UBC officers' training centre, told Mr. Justice Robertson and the jury of 11 men and one woman that he was driving behind Frankforth when the accident occurred.

They were travelling about 25 miles an hour and he saw the farmer between the car tracks, then saw his body go up in the air, Sgt.-Major Mullins testified. Frankforth slowed up, but did not stop so he followed him for a couple of blocks, forced him into the curb and told him to go back, he added.

General J. A. Clark, K.C., is conducting the prosecution, and W. J. Murdock is defending. The case goes to the jury this afternoon.

Vancouver East Conservative Association executive will meet in Memorial Hall, 342 Kingsway, Thursday at 8 p.m.

## BIRTHS - MARRIAGES ENGAGEMENTS

By BETTY CLARKE

### BIRTHS

HIRST—To Capt. and Mrs. R. E. Hirst (nee Olive Dunsmuir) 2145 York St., Vancouver, at St. Paul's Hospital, on Saturday February 27, 1943, a daughter, Roberta Anne. Nansimo, papers please copy.

JARVIS—To Gunner Lindsay and Mrs. Jarvis (nee Marion Mosher) at the Vancouver General Hospital on Monday, March 1, 1943, a son. Both doing well.

KING—To Gunner Herbert King and Mrs. King (nee Ethel Abel) on Monday, March 1, 1943, at St. Vincent's Hospital, a daughter, Lois Ethel. Both doing well.

WARD—To Pilot Officer and Mrs. A. W. Ward (nee Madeleine Dyke), of Victoria, at the Royal Jubilee Hospital, on February 28, 1943, a daughter, Madeleine Beth Louise.

### MARRIAGES

BAIN—HALLEY—On Saturday, February 27, 1943, at First United Church, by Rev. Andrew Roddan, John Arne Bain, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. James Bain, of 331 West 7th Ave., to Margaret Lawson, only daughter of Mrs. John Halley, of 2867 Cambridge St.

BURN-FIELDEN—On Saturday, February 27, 1943, at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Vancouver, B.C., by Rev. F. G. St. Denis, Robert McF. Burn, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. W. Burn of Vancouver, to Pamela, daughter of Mrs. Fielden, No. 3 Road, Lulu Island, and the late Mr. H. Fielden.

CATON HULME—On Monday, March 1, 1943, at Ryerson United Church, by Rev. E. D. Braden, D.D., Paul Cecil Hulme, younger son of Mrs. Jessie Caton and the late Mr. John Caton of Kansas City Mo., to Vivian Nadyin, only daughter of Mrs. Mildred Hulme, 1538 West 11th Ave., and the late Mr. Gordon Hulme.

FORSTER-MACDONALD—On Friday, February 26, 1943, at St. Joseph's Rectory, Edmonton, Alta., by Rev. Father Doyle, John Frederick Arnett Forster, only son of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Forster, 1833 W. 16th Ave., Vancouver, B.C., to Doris Marjorie, only daughter of Mr. William Rhodes Macdonald, 4518 W. 2nd Ave., Vancouver, B.C., and the late Mrs. Macdonald.

GIBSON-WOOD—On Friday, February 26, 1943, at Queen's Avenue United Church, New Westminster, B.C., by Rev. P. C. McCrae, Sgt.-Major, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Gibson, New Westminster, to Veronica (Ronnie) second daughter of Col. and Mrs. G. Wood, 85 Seventh St., New Westminster, B.C.

MCCORMACK-DANCEY—On Monday, February 22, 1943, at Christ Church Cathedral, by the Very Rev. Cecil Swenson, D.D., Branchford W. McCormack, youngest son of Mrs. I. McCormack, Calgary, Alta., to Winnifred Beatrice Dancey, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. M. Dancey, 2051 W. 2nd Ave., Vancouver, B.C.

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