

MS 14

WINFIELD
A HISTORY
by June Vreeswijk

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This essay will describe Winfield from the time prior to the first contact between the Okanagan Indians and the White Traders. From there the advent of the mission will be traced, the arrival of the settlers, the reasons for their settlement and the consequent growth of the community.

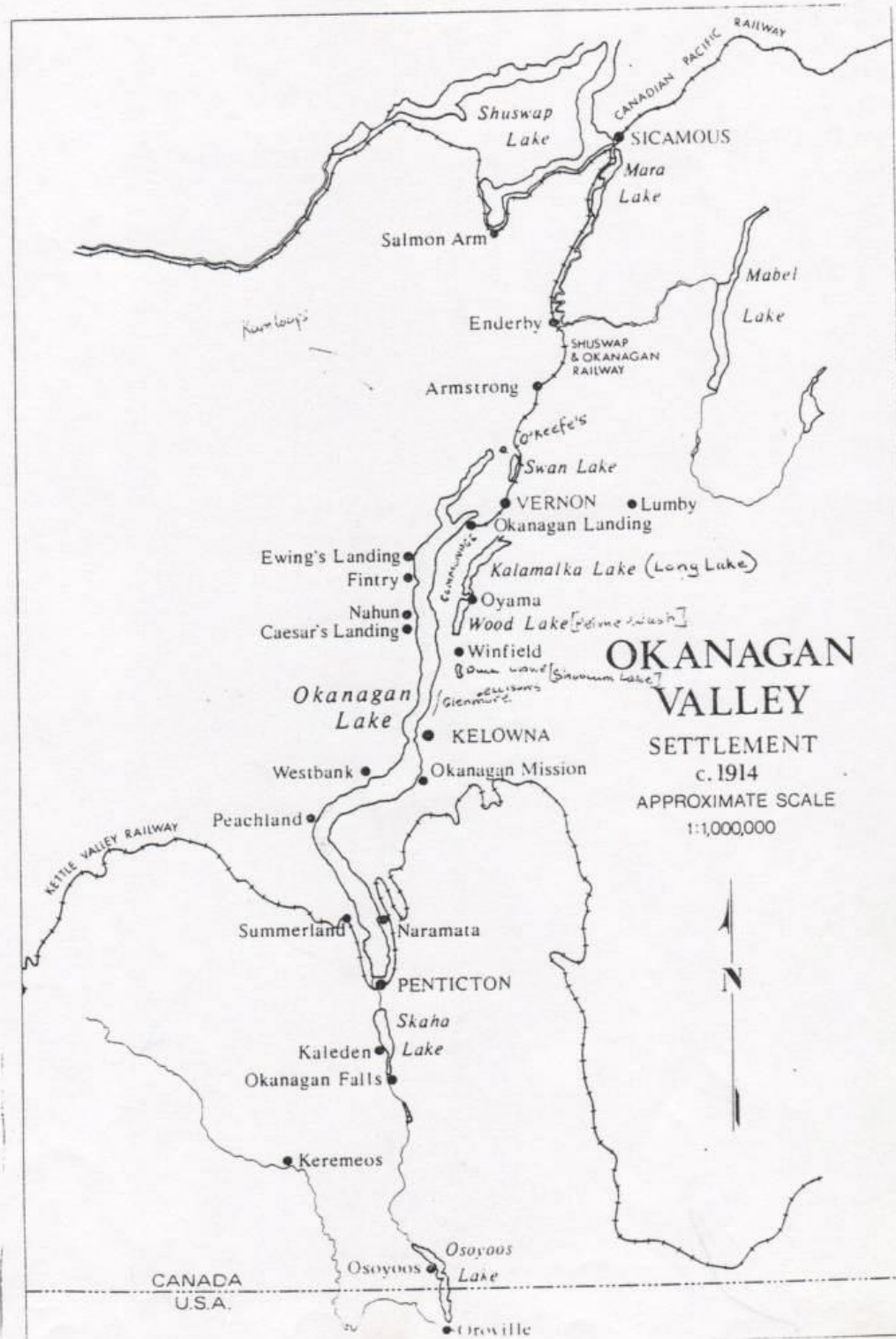
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Winfield, a growing and changing community, is located almost half way between Kelowna and Vernon in the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia.

A traveller on Highway 97 entering Winfield from the south at Duck Lake [Shoocum Lake to the Indians], continues to drive steadily along the valley passing through two sets of traffic lights. Within five miles Winfield's northern boundary would have been reached since the remainder of Woods' Lake [Pelme-wash to the Indians] along which the highway passes, belongs to Oyama. If the traveller were to take an easterly route he would quickly find himself on the crest of the orchard bedecked hill that divides Winfield from its near neighbour, Okanagan Centre. A turn to the west would necessitate a longer, steeper climb passing through a parched landscape to the cooler wooded regions of the hills that contain both Fir Valley and Beaver Lake in company with fifteen smaller lakes. ¹

Before the first white men appeared in this area its inhabitants were the Okanagan Indians, part of the linguistic family of the Interior Salish. ² Because of the nature of the climate (hot, dry summers and cold, snowy winters), and the nature of the vegetation the Okanagan Indians in this area were semi-nomadic. During the winters they lived in a Kekuli (winter house). The Kekuli was built around a circular pit about 2 to 3 feet deep, with an average diameter of 30 feet. Poles were erected to form the outer shell and these were lashed together and then covered with cedar-bark dry grass and earth. ³ During the summer the Indians lived in teepees: a teepee had a conical framework of light poles covered with mats or skins. ⁴ The Indians moved from one

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food-gathering area to another: the women collected and prepared vegetables and berries for winter consumption and the men both fished and took part in community hunts. The Okanagan Indians made deer nets from dogbane woven into cords and acting together they drove large deer herds into their nets.⁵ Though they migrated extensively during the summer, the different dialect groups stayed within their own areas though invitations to hunt and fish were frequently offered between groups.⁶

The people's clothing was mainly prepared from dressed buckskin of deer and elk, though occasionally bark clothing was used and also the hides of fur-bearing animals. Short cloaks, used to shed the rain, were woven from the fibres of sage-brush, willow-bark or bulrushes. Several decorative devices were used including dentalia-shells which had arrived from the coast by way of trade.⁷ At that time the Indians traded only with those groups on their borders,⁸ but they certainly had traded before the advent of the white fur-traders.

The first white traders to have journeyed through the Winfield area were David Stuart and Alexander Ross. Ross wrote "On the 31st [August 1811]⁹ ... we reached the mouth of a smooth stream called Oakinacken¹⁰ ... the source of the Oakinachen is 280 miles due north, and in its course south the stream runs through three lakes".¹² Ross discovered that "The Oakinakers are... rather easy, mild and agreeable people."¹³ The men ... are always employed and industrious. Nor are the women less busy...¹⁴ They are brave, generous and often charitable...¹⁵ Ross added: "they are far from being numerous. I should say there are not more than fifteen persons to every square mile."¹⁶ By the 1880's settlements of white people through the Okanagan Valley made their impact on Indian

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life since one of the earliest pioneers wrote "Indians came up from the United States in a group of eight hundred to one thousand....[they] travelled to the Coldstream Ranch [Vernon], to pick hops." ¹⁷

Possibly the Indians travelled along the same trail followed by the first "wagon train" which was the Palmer and Miller expedition of 1858; they brought American merchandise on the Hudson Bay Trail. They crossed the Okanagan Lake near Mission, went north on the east side of Duck Lake, then crossing over at Winfield to the west side of Okanagan Lake followed the Commonage road to Vernon. ¹⁸ [This is the same route later used by the itinerant ministers and is still occasionally used today by those folk who prefer to escape from the highway].

Besides larger numbers of nomadic Indians, another difference in the Indians' life-style was made by the impact of Father Pandosy. Powley says that in 1856 Father Pandosy with two other Oblate Fathers camped at the south end of Duck Lake where they remained for one winter before they moved to Mission Creek [Kelowna] to establish a permanent mission. ¹⁹ Because Casorso says the Father Pandosy "taught the Indians catechism [and] trained an Indian choir....It was an excellent choir".... ²⁰ we may assume that the Indians of Duck Lake also learned Christian songs.

Sad to relate, the coming of the settlers led to the disappearance of the local Indian band: their nomadic life could no longer be continued and the piece of land reserved to their use in 1861-62 ²¹ and later ratified by the Reserve Commission in 1877 ²² contained just 457 acres "K'lakolum" or "open flat". Most of the lakes and hills had been taken from them and thus their complete way of life disrupted. Mrs. W.R. Powley says that "there were a considerable number of Indians

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on the Reserve, but after this date [1875] they gradually left for other reserves until only the highly respected Chief Enoch, Mr. and Mrs. Dave MacDougall and family and Mr. and Mrs. Victor Boriot, remained." These few people saw their land reduced by another 17.56 acres since it became part of the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway Company's right of way.²⁴

At present there are four Okanagan Indian families living on the reservation, their number Ranger Robins informed me that a rift exists between them and the Vernon Band since most of the income from their reserve goes to the Vernon Band Chief and his sons. Ranger, hopes that his three young children will be well-educated so as to compete in the white man's world: his wife will return to a secretarial job when the children are older. None of the Indian men is skilled, so they work at any available labouring job. Ranger, himself, is involved in community life since he plays soccer, hockey and softball and coaches minor hockey and soccer teams.

As Canada was explored through its waterways, so it was the waterways of the Okanagan that first attracted settlers to this region. From the Vernon News we learn that in 1867 Thomas Wood with Cornelius O'Keefe drove cattle from Washington through the Okanagan Valley to Kamloops to provide sustenance for men working in the Cariboo region. Wishing to shorten the lengthy journey he decided to ranch in the area and in 1871 took a homestead at the south end of Pelme-wash, later known as Wood's Lake. Thomas Wood became a wealthy man owning "about 3,800 acres, the greater part of which is entirely range, and his property extends from the south end of Long Lake up the east side to the "railroad" which divides the lake in two, the southern portion of which is

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generally known as Wood's Lake".²⁵ The first plow and hay mower were brought to Winfield by Wood: they were transported in pieces from Sicamous by pack horses. Thomas Wood, one of the Fathers of the Okanagan,²⁶ was appointed the valley's senior justice of the peace in 1875. In 1889 he married, and his wife bore a son in 1891.²⁷ He named his house Winfield: in 1920 the local inhabitants voted to apply that name to the whole district. Prior to that the district had been known as Wood's Lake although "there was a post office called Alveston which operated from 1909-1919".²⁸

In 1870, an Oregon cattleman George W. Simpson also recognized the valley's potential: he introduced both breeding cattle and an iron flour mill operated by a water wheel.²⁹ By the mid 1870's the number of men in the Cariboo mines had decreased and thus the cattlemen looked for new markets- some making a two-year cattle drive to Chicago.³⁰ Perhaps the lack of cattle markets encouraged diversification for by 1888 Edward Postill ~~was~~ introduced alfalfa into the region and successfully ~~grew~~ grapes and peanuts.³¹

The Vernon News Editorial of May 14th 1891 suggested that "It is time for the people of the Okanagan Country to abandon their...unbusiness manner of cultivation and proceed on sounder principles and more intelligent lines." Those comments may have inspired the formation of The Okanagan and Spallumcheen Agricultural Association on June 18th 1891 with two of its objectives being the disposal of the wheat crop and exhibition of produce at the fall fair.³²

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stimulated into such activity because in 1892 on May 12th, the Shushap and Okanagan Railway was completed:³⁴ produce could be shipped to far distant cities, first by steamer to Okanagan Landing and then by rail or by cart to Kelowna and then by steamer. It takes time for trees to mature and thus 1901 arrived before the growers were ready to send the first carload of apples [700 boxes] by way of Kelowna to the prairies. In 1902 there was a B.C. exposition at the Royal Horticultural Show in London.³⁵ The next year, apples were exported for the first time to an overseas market-the trial run was to Glasgow in Scotland.³⁶ Winfield, in accord with the rest of the valley had changed its main industry from cattle breeding to orcharding: the transformation occurred because the lakes that had first attracted settlers also attracted developers, notably The Okanagan Land and Development Company Limited. This company expanded the population of Winfield since it introduced capital to buy large acreages, then sub-divided and improved them by irrigation. Tempting advertisements were printed to lure settlers. Typical was the one printed during 1891 in The Vernon News, part of which reads, "The opening of the Shushap and Okanagan Railway....will give great impetus to the farming, fruit growing, grazing and mining industries....This is a great chance to make money....Improved lands can be bought at from \$10.00 to \$20.00 per acre. The climate of this section cannot be excelled on the American continent...Special inducements are offered to those who propose building. Free sites will be given to parties establishing industries." ^{37, 38}

Interest in the Okanagan rose and so the Okanagan Land and Development Company built its own dock at Okanagan Centre, and in 1908 their delegates met a group of prospective buyers. ³⁹The people who

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settled in Winfield during this time appreciated the changes that made their homes less remote. Until 1885 the few Winfield settlers acquired their necessities from Kamloops: or from a little general store at Okanagan Mission; in 1885 a general store opened in Vernon and in 1887 a Hudson's Bay Store opened there also. Winfield's first store opened in 1910⁴⁴ and its first real motel, the Lake Shore Inn in the 1920's; this inn had previously been situated in Oyama, but was transported to its new site at the south end of Wood Lake by two barges. The 1908 settlers witnessed the extension of the telephone service. From 1891 to 1915 there had been one line only, running from Postill's Ranch to Tom Wood's Ranch: it was just five miles in length and had cost \$55 per mile.⁴⁵ In 1915 Winfield's second telephone came into operation and in 1927 Winfield residents could phone both the Lower Mainland and the United States directly.⁴⁶

These early settlers witnessed the growth of mail services. Twice yearly mail-packing trips were made by James Wardle via the Dewdney Trail to Hope. A post office opened at Okanagan Mission in 1872 and a ranger, Charles Lawson, was the first mail carrier.⁴⁷ From 1873, mail arrived via Cache Creek and Joseph Brent of the B.X. Stage Company rode from O'Keefe (Vernon) to Okanagan Mission.⁴⁸ From 1881 James Leighton drove a mail stage along the same route: this occurred once weekly from April to October and twice monthly from November to March.⁴⁹

Medical services were not easily obtained for the early settlers. Kelowna's (and therefore Winfield's) first doctor established residence in 1894.⁵⁰ At the turn of the century the first dentist, Dr. Bob Mathison, settled in Kelowna.⁵¹ Not until 1955 did Winfield acquire a resident medical practitioner and the first resident dentist settled

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Not all early settlers arrived in response to realtors advertisements but in common with recent settlers some came because of medical advice. Hence Ethel Arnold (nee ^{Duggan} ~~Mc Garity~~) arrived ~~here~~ in the early 1900's with her parents, three sisters and six brothers. This family introduced tobacco growing-it failed; they introduced a mink farm-most escaped: undefeated, they started a dairy on their Woodsdale farm in 1923. Two years later one brother expanded the business by collecting cream from all the local farms; he transported it into Kelowna Creamery in a Ford truck and today his son Lloyd continues to truck for the large Noca Dairy which is a cooperative venture serving the Shuswap-Okanagan area. ⁵⁴

Ethel illustrated the role of the early female settlers. At sixteen, her sisters married and her parents dead, she was responsible for running the household for her six older brothers. Ethel married and left home: within six months all her brothers were also married!

Other early and more recent settlers arrived by chance: they saw the country and liked what they saw. Arthur Arnold's father, Jack, was one such person. With his wife and two children he had almost starved on a prairie farm, so they fled to Ontario. In 1911, Jack grasped at a job opportunity: he escorted a team of two horses, some chicken, a pig, a cow and a Shetland pony from Ontario to Glenmore. ⁵⁵ On arrival he helped build the house and established the farm. Then he bought 4 1/2 acres in Winfield and sent for his family. In the Spring of 1913 they travelled by train from Ontario to Vernon, by steamer to Okanagan Centre where they and their two trunks were set down- but no

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familiar face was there to greet them. Arthur, then a child of three years, chuckles as he says, "The mail was as slow then as it is now and father did not know when to expect us." A kind hearted stranger made inquiries as to the location of the site and then drove them in his cart up a very steep incline, over the crest of the hill, along the bench to their home- a tent. Arthur remembered that there was nothing in that tent, but people gathered around and loaned mattresses; they drank from empty milk cans. Jack arrived that evening after a four hour walk home from his carpentering job at Ellisons.⁵⁶ Arthur recalls that during the course of that job his father walked home twice weekly to visit his family; during his spare time he built a house and planted an apple orchard with berry bushes interspersed amongst the trees. Within three years and with only two inches of blade remaining on his shovel, the task was complete. Jack Arnold would leave home at 3 a.m. to be amongst the first to load his fruit onto the steamer which was the first stage of the journey to the prairies.

Mrs. Jack Arnold was no less busy than her husband. The nearest store was at Okanagan Centre and during winter time a steep, muddy or icy road made the journey difficult and at times impossible. So this enterprising lady not only corresponded with the mail order berry clients of the prairies but she also operated a general store from her own home. Despite their long working hours the Arnolds found time for fun. After surviving a train crash and after being stranded on the Okanagan Centre wharf for over a month the Arnolds piano along with their furniture arrived at Winfield and both parents shared their love of music with their children. They encouraged their children to swim and sled in

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addition to their chores one of which was to collect the mail at the Okanagan Centre Post Office.⁵⁷

Most of the settlers arriving here during the early part of the 20th century in response to the Okanagan Land Company's advertisements were of British, Scottish or Irish nationality. However, one advertisement saw the beginnings of the Japanese community. Denbei (Sigh) Kobayashi was awarded a contract in 1908 to plant 800 acres of fruit trees for the Land Company. He, and his brother George, sponsored other workers from Japan who lived in a camp. A few years later, in 1916, Elijiro Koyama and his wife Fumi bought 20 acres of land on the Winfield flats next to W.R. Powley's land; Elijiro used a team of W.R. Powley's horses to move his family to Winfield from the Coldstream Ranch in Vernon where he had worked as a foreman since 1903. For the first few years the Koyamas grew strawberries, but then went into dairy farming. One of their daughters still lives on that farm which is now managed by a grandson.⁵⁸

More settlers arrived to work at logging. Between 1907 and 1910 the Western Bottom Lands⁵⁹ were cleared by Johnston and Carswell whose boat the "Maud Allen" towed the logs to a saw mill at the end of Long Lake. Later, logging commenced in Fir Valley, the logs arriving at Woods Lake by means of a chute.⁶⁰ By 1922 residents saw the first logging truck and the Munson's saw mill was operating in Winfield by 1927.⁶²

The steamers that travelled on Okanagan Lake from Okanagan Landing⁶³ to Penticton were "The link with the rest of the world."^{63a} During the 1880's the pioneer freighter, Captain Thomas Shorts, rowed or sailed a large open boat between O'Keefe's and Penticton. By 1886

addition to their chores one of which was to collect the mail at the Okanagan Centre Post Office.⁵⁷

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More settlers arrived to work at logging. Between 1907 and 1910 the Western Bottom Lands were cleared by Johnston and Carswell whose boat the "Maud Allen" towed the logs to a saw mill at the end of Long Lake. Later, logging commenced in Fir Valley, the logs arriving at Woods Lake⁶¹ by means of a chute.⁶⁰ By 1922 residents saw the first logging truck and the Munson's saw mill was operating in Winfield by 1927.⁶²

The steamers that travelled on Okanagan Lake from Okanagan Landing⁶³ to Penticton were "The link with the rest of the world."^{63a} During the 1880's the pioneer freighter, Captain Thomas Shorts, rowed or sailed a large open boat between O'Keefe's and Penticton. By 1886

he owned the first steamer on the lake the "Mary Victoria Greenhow"; however, in 1898 his business collapsed because of the Canadian Pacific Railway and its Steamers. ⁶⁴ The first of the C.P.R. steamers, the 554 ton stern wheeler S.S. Aberdeen, began service on May 3rd 1893. ⁶⁵ It was succeeded by the S.S. Okanagan and then the S.S. Sicamous. The return journey from Penticton to Okanagan Landing required two days. ^{66, 67} An alternative water route offered itself in 1910 on completion of the canal ⁶⁸ between Wood Lake and Kalamalka Lake: Johnston and Carswell's steam boat the S.S. Maud Allen transported people and cargo from Woodsdale (Winfield) to the head of Kalamalka Lake and from there the passengers travelled by stage to Vernon. ^{69, 70}

Many people preferred the water journey to Vernon rather than the lengthy road journey which was an alternative since in 1875, for the sum of \$23,000 Philip Parke had built a wagon road from O'Keefe's to Okanagan Mission: "The contractor has completed this work in a most creditable manner, and the road is one of the best on the main land." ⁷¹ A stopping place was built in Winfield at the top of Robinson's hill some time after 1904. ⁷² For the mail-stage, ^{the} Vernon-Kelowna journey was a two day affair ⁷³ and it left Vernon three times weekly. ⁷⁴ The stage road was changed and improved in 1910 ⁷⁵ and by the 1920's cars and trucks were beginning to replace the steamers. In 1923 the Canadian National Railway was built through the land where Thomas Wood's house once stood. ⁷⁶ The first train travelled from Vernon to Kelowna in 1926 ⁷⁷ thus reducing lake traffic so that in 1935 the S.S. Sicamous discontinued the passenger service. ⁷⁸ Meanwhile migration in the Okanagan continued and although the present Vernon-Kelowna road Highway 97 was completed in 1948,

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From 1929 to 1931 "the driest period on record in the Okanagan valley" was recorded.⁸⁰ Casorso recalled that "1931 to 1938 times were very difficult ... many individual farmers dumped practically their entire crop"⁸¹ Even so other orchardists sent boxes of fruit to their prairie neighbours.⁸² Such gifts may have encouraged the rapid influx of migrants from the prairies after World War II.⁸³ Additionally the Veterans Land Act⁸⁴ brought in many New Canadians. The completion of the Rogers Pass Highway in 1962 led to another boom in real estate and by 1964 many small acreages and farms in the Central Okanagan were planted with grape vines;⁸⁵ a new industry, Winfield's Gray Monk Winery bottled its first wine in 1980.⁸⁶

Who are the newest settlers? Many are from the prairies- they have come to retire away from a harsh climate. Others still come from Europe to the land of opportunity as did our Yugoslavian baker. The most obvious newly arrived settlers are the few coloured families, three of whom are East Indian Sikhs and three ~~of whom~~ are of East Indian descent but from the Fiji Islands. All of these families have arrived during the late 1960's and early 1970's. They too enjoy the scenery and the climate and they appreciate the opportunity to have a good life style, but they have concerns. Despite their attempts to become Canadianized in dress (my informant Jogiader Sandhu, had his hair cut on arrival in Canada and no longer wears a turban.) Both adults and children suffer from insults

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hurled at them by ignorant Caucasians. Hopefully the next generation will be more tolerant and more like Wilton R. Powley one of Winfield's early pioneers: he homesteaded in Winfield in 1912 and his son W.R. Powley wrote that he had respect for people of other origins as is indicated by the fact that a ^{Japanese} friend, Sax Koyama, was a pall-bearer at his funeral in 1971. In addition, besides being Chairman of the School Board and a director of Winfield Cooperative Growers, Wilton Powley "grew onions and potatoes on a share basis with a Chinese named Wong Jim who was highly respected by all who knew him".⁸⁷ All the long time residents that I interviewed have stressed that there was previously no racial discrimination: the three racial groups intermingled at work and play.

Winfield's recent population explosion is clear to the eye for during the last ten years three sub-divisions have been erected each with between 75 and 250 homes. In addition, there are 4 residential trailer parks that have commenced operations since the early 1960's. This last population explosion has occurred for several reasons one of which is the employment opportunity offered by Hiram Walker and Sons Limited that required approximately 200 employees when it started production in 1971.⁸⁸ Vanguard Trailer Limited started production in 1970 with 200 employees a number that has fluctuated to a high of approximately 600 employees in 1978^{88a}; production has decreased and only 200 people are presently employed with more lay-offs threatened because of the prevailing economic situation. Though there are few other employment opportunities in Winfield its pleasant rural setting attracts dormitory residents who work in Vernon or Kelowna.

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All events of Winfield interest are published once weekly in the Calendar. Just three or four pages at first, this newspaper was started on March 26th 1956 by the Women's Institute; it was subsequently upgraded by the Kelowna's Hospital Auxiliary -Winfield Branch which produced it monthly from April 1973 until 1979 when it was sold to the present owner Jack McCarthy.

Schools have also been upgraded. Duck Lake school the first one, was built by volunteer labour in 1899.⁸⁹ Ten years later the first meeting of Woods Lake School District took place and a year later, 1910, a new school was opened. Its facilities were quickly outgrown and in 1923 a new Elementary School that is still in operation was opened on Berry Road, and the old building became the first Community Hall.⁹⁰ A two room Seventh Day Adventist school was also in operation at the time. Another elementary school, on Woods Lake road opened in 1967 and a further elementary school is due to start operation in September 1984. George Elliot High School commenced its life in 1959; prior to that time the students attended Rutland High School and before that students journeyed to Oyama.⁹¹ For an educational trip the 1983 school children may visit the latest Winfield attraction, the Westfield farms, which is both a breeding farm for

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Hanoverian horses and also a center for teaching riding skills.⁹²

Basic entertainment has not changed greatly through the years. Clara Bailey Hallam, a resident from 1904 onwards, reported that "we might go to Marshall's who were all musical, or there would be a debate, or someone would put on a play. In winter, we skated...and people would come from ever so far for dances."^{93,94} W.R. Powley remembered, "we used to ride around in a row boat... and sing."⁹⁵ Picnics and baseball games attracted their clientele,⁹⁶ as did horse racing.⁹⁷ By 1928 the few with broadcast receivers could listen in to Radio-Amateur George Dunn's Dawn Patrol [live and recorded music running from Saturday evenings to 5 a.m. Sunday mornings] beside the Sunday morning and evening church services broadcast via George from Kelowna. In 1931 the C.K.O.V. began broadcasting regularly and by 1948 C.J.I.B. (Vernon) also began regular daily broadcasting.⁹⁹ Television made its debut by way of Kelowna in 1957.¹⁰⁰

As facilities for residents increased so did facilities for visitors. When the McCoubrey family arrived here in 1946 access to the beach at the south end of Wood Lake was easy. However in 1948 the highway to Vernon-started before World War II- was completed¹⁰¹ and by 1953 3 camping motel-camps had opened and so there was less beach accessible to residents. So many cars were in use that the Canadian National Railway ceased its passenger service from Vernon to Kelowna during the late 1950's.¹⁰² In 1962 the Rogers Pass was completed giving easy access to the Okanagan to Albertans. Axel Larson who bought one of the primitive auto camps enlarged and modernised it and others followed suit. Now there are 8 camping complexes with beach frontage; only one small public access for boats and a small public park donated by the Lions Club remains to be enjoyed by the residents.

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Eating out in Winfield can be a gastronomic adventure as at Wood Lake Inn or rather more homely with a choice of 9 restaurants. A sundowner can be enjoyed in the lounge of the four year old nine-hole golf course which was created entirely by its owners Amand and Ann Koble, refugees from Edmonton's cold winter.

The first few settlers in the Winfield area were served by itinerant priests or ministers. Mass was said in private homes approximately every three months by the Roman Catholic missionary priest Father Carlyle whose area extended from Penticton to the Head of the Lake (Vernon). By the early 1940's a church building was built in Oyama. After the 1939-1945 war a great influx of Catholics into the area necessitated a second church and so in 1948 St. Edwards ¹⁰⁴ was built in Winfield. The first resident priest ¹⁰⁴ was not appointed until 1955. ¹⁰⁵

The Anglican history is similar since the first service was held in Priest Valley in 1880 by the Bishop Sillitoe who, accompanied by his wife, travelled on horse back from New Westminster. ¹⁰⁶ Ten years later, if not before, they paid a return visit. ¹⁰⁷ In 1909 the first minister, the Rev. Bulkley, was appointed to Okanagan Centre; in 1928 the Parish of Wooddale was formed and St. Margaret's Anglican Church was built in Winfield by 1931. A new Anglican church hall was dedicated to Eva Seaton ¹⁰⁸ a prominent pioneer wife.

The Rev. James Turner, "the Saddle-Bags Missionary" was the first Methodist minister appointed in 1885. ¹⁰⁸ Methodists built a church in Oyama in 1919; it served the United Church from the time of Union in 1925 until 1932. The ~~first~~ ^{second} United Church, ^{the Rev. A. McMillan} lived in Okanagan ¹⁹²⁷⁻⁷²

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Several other denominations also serve the community, namely the Seventh Day Adventist Church built in 1947 and dedicated in 1951, the Missionary Church founded in 1948, a Kingdom Hall dating from _____ and the Alliance Church formed in 1982.¹¹¹

During the weekend many local people are church goers but during the week they work, and many long time residents are orchardists. Orchard and irrigation are inseparable. As improvements have taken place in the latter so growth in the former has occurred. The irrigation system now owned by Winfield and Okanagan Centre District (W.O.C.I.D.) was originally constructed in 1909 by a private company, Maddock Bros. Ltd. . Later that year it became the property of the Okanagan Valley Land Co. Limited. During those early years the water was carried from Beaver Lake by open flumes.¹¹² Just as Western farmers struggled against financial interests from outside the area so did local people struggle against vested interest in the irrigation system complaining

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In the meantime, in 1930 a private company consisting of local, interested individuals was incorporated-the W.O.C.I.D.- and the following year a storage dam was constructed on Crooked Lake.¹¹⁵ In March 1943 the trustees of W.O.C.I.D. discussed the future of the irrigation system with members of the Water Board, and Jack Seaton was paid \$30⁰⁰ six investigative trips to Beaver and Crooked Lakes. In September 1943 a member urged that "the domestic water situation would have to be thoroughly looked into one day soon. Each year a larger proportion of the water supply was being used for domestic purposes". On October 8th 1943 there was another plea for increased water rates since "the District needed money for the dam". The entry for December 5th 1944 notes that the dam was completed. However, a trustee asked on June 6th 1945 "if there was some way to keep dirty water out of the system"-38 years later Winfield residents continue to ask that question! By November 1945 it was resolved that a more effective control should be maintained since too much water had been drawn from Beaver Lake.¹¹⁶

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In 1965 a report was prepared for the Department of Lands, Forests and Water Resources; it stated that the "physical characteristics of the existing water system indicate that storage structures are unsafe, the distribution facilities have inadequate capacity, and the quality of the water supply is poor". A major system rehabilitation was recommended at an estimated cost of \$1,302,572.00. ¹¹⁸ Six years later, Mrs. J. A. Seaton and Premier W.A.C. Bennett opened a new Agricultural Rehabilitation Development Act Dam which "is an earth filled structure 32 feet high" ¹¹⁹ Thus was the original 1908 system replaced, but problems continued. In 1973 there still existed long standing applications for domestic water from families within the District boundaries whose own wells were "scarcely sufficient for domestic use [and] ...some families ...hailed barrels of water from other sources" ¹²⁰ Each year during the spring run off, residents on the W.O.C.I.D. water line frequently collect drinking water from people with wells since their own supply is too dirty. During April 19th 1982 there was a huge mudslide into the creek; on January 22nd 1983 "water and mud was still oozing from the slide area into the creek... causing dirt in the water" ¹²¹ by May 10th 1983 a letter arrived from Alex Fraser, Minister of Highways, stating that the government would pay for repairs to the Slide Area and District Intake Clearance.

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step, for in 1967 only 250 homes were being serviced whereas, in 1903 the number has risen to over one thousand. That number excludes a continually expanding new sub-division with upwards of 200 homes all of which take water from a common well located on the Flat Lands.¹²² Obviously water supply will continue to play a prominent part in the community's wealth and welfare especially if the population increases in the same ratio as during the last few years.¹²³

Recently North Okanagan's (including Winfield) M.L.A. Don Campbell reported that "growers in the Okanagan are receiving returns below their cost of production, [and that] 5% of the returns of the B.C. Tree Fruit Association are from the government... Apple Producers are ... applying for assistance from the federal government under the Agriculture Stabilization Act".¹²⁴ Winfield's orchard story is that of the entire Okanagan: from the beginning orchardists have experienced problems with marketing. As long ago as March 1st 1906, Mr. E.M. Carruthers "returned from the B.C. Fruit Growers Society at Vancouver angry about the fact that they (the local group) have no representation at the Dominion Fruit Growers Convention in Ottawa. 3,800,000 pounds of fruit was shipped from the Okanagan in 1905 but the Coast people sent only one representative for Vancouver Island and one from the Mainland."¹²⁵

It is interesting to note that as the farmers of the western provinces became more cooperatively minded so also did the Okanagan farmers who formed the Okanagan Fruit Union in 1908. In that year also a packing house was built in Oyana and another in Okanagan Centre. Local farmers built the first area cannery at Oyana in 1909. A Farmer's Institute formed in Winfield in 1912 and had representation in Victoria.¹²⁶

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Winfield farmers helped form the Okanagan United Growers, consisting of approximately ^{126c} thousand growers in 1913; shipping houses were then built throughout the valley but they were in competition with private growers until 1923 when the Associated Growers formed with the object of handling ^{126a} 100% of the crops.

Jack Seaton built a fruit packing house in Winfield in 1917; The Vernon Fruit Union followed suit in 1921. ¹²⁷ In 1922 the Winfield Cooperative built a packing house on the railway grade before the steel was laid. ¹²⁸ In the same year a United Farmers Group was organized but it split up because so few of them were interested in political action. ¹²⁹ Another packing house built by the B.C. Orchard Association appeared beside the railroad tracks in 1928. ¹³⁰

Margaret Ormsby noted that growers' returns in 1929 were 15% lower than 1928 and that the fruit industry in the Okanagan Valley had long been in serious difficulties. A Commissioner appointed by the provincial government in 1930 suggested abandoning controls and returning to a free market. ¹³¹ 1936 saw the amalgamation of the Winfield Cooperative Growers with the Vernon Fruit Union and in 1940 a plant was built for the manufacture of apple juice. ^{132,133}

Harold Viel reported that problems in the 1930's were so serious that the government created the B.C. Fruit Board. The B.C. Fruit Board Association- the voice of the growers- formed the B.C. Tree Fruit Limited, the marketing agency, in 1936 and by 1939 that organization was supposed to be the sole selling agency for fruit grown in the interior of British Columbia. However, just as independent growers glutted the local markets with low prices in 1896 so also do independent farmers continue in the same

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trend today. ¹³⁴

By 1951 Winfield growers cooperated with other valley growers in exporting some 9 million boxes of fruit. ¹³⁵ Not only apples but also peaches, pears, cherries, apricots and plums were exported. Together that fruit earned 30 million dollars. By 1981 sales had grown to 104 million dollars. ¹³⁶

One may conclude that Winfield is a microcosm of Canada. Within the past 200 years the Okanagan Indians met the white fur trader and were converted by the missionaries; their land attracted white settlers and government officials. As the Indians declined in numbers so the white population grew; railway companies opened up this area and land developers proclaimed its attractions. Immigrants arrived in increasing numbers bringing with them foreign capital and different types of expertise. As Canada suffered during the two World Wars and the Depression so also did Winfield; after the Second World War as Canada once more prospered and eagerly accepted new immigrants so also did Winfield. During the economic depression of 1982-83 some Winfield residents have suffered from unemployment and failing businesses in common with Canadians across the country, but in common with others, Winfield residents hope that the economic problems will dissipate leaving unclouded minds to appreciate more this beautiful area of the Okanagan Valley.

I enjoyed reading your community history (as you show often times through and much admired). You have provided a very good local overview based on an excellent body of sources. The appendices were pertinent and very helpful. All in all, I thought you would have provided a little more in the way of intelligent comment on the community with little more reference to national affairs - you say practically nothing of the political life of the area. The last section (which I think should have come earlier in the essay) on irrigation and orcharding covers a critically important subject, and

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Notes

1. See Map opposite P. 1.
2. Interior Salish. Volume 3 of Our Native Peoples, Series I of the British Columbia Heritage Series. Victoria: Provincial Museum. 1952. p. 11
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4. Ibid. p. 19.
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9. Alexander Ross, Adventures of the First Settlers on the Columbia River, Smith, Elder and Co, 65, Cornhill, London, 1849. in March of America Facsimile Series, Number 58, Ann Arbor University Microfilm Inc, 1966, p. 121.
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24. Report of the Royal Commission of Indian Affairs for the Province of British Columbia. Volume 3. The Arcton Press, Victoria, British Columbia 1916. p. 708
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28. Mrs. Powley, p. 22
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31. Brian Wilson, K'LAOKUM A Photographic History of Wenatchee, Okanagan Centre and Ojama, Finlay Brindley Kelowna, 1976. p. 8
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34. Buckland, O.V. p. 81
35. The Vernon News. Jan. 4th, 1906
36. Buckland. O.V. p. 99.
37. The Vernon News. May 21st, 1891.
38. Appendix M
39. Wilson p. 14.
40. Mrs. Powley, p. 12.
41. Ibid. p. 17
42. Ninety Years of Vernon. Compiled and published by the Greater Vernon Board of Museum and Art Gallery, 1982. p. 9

43. Wilson, p. 15
44. Mrs. Rowley, p. 25.
45. The Vernon News. Oct 25th 1891
46. George Bechtold, Follow the Painfinder: Through the Okanagan and Osoyoosland to the Shuswap.
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47. Mrs. Rowley, p. 13
48. Bechtold, p. 71.
49. Buckland, O.V. p. 59
50. O.H.S. Report 35. p. 63.
51. Information from the Dental Health Unit: supplied by Dr. Bill Emslie
52. Information from Dr. Marian Dobson who was the first resident doctor.
53. That was Dr. Jack De Gruchy: he supplied the information.
54. An interview with Mrs. Ethel Arnold.
55. See Map. Appendix 1
56. See Map. Appendix 1.
57. Information supplied through interview with first Arnold (Harris).
58. Information supplied through interview with Sae Koyama and his wife Sachio Koyama (née Kobayashi).
59. Appendix 3
60. Mrs. Rowley, p. 21
61. Wilson p. 49.
62. Ibid. p. 45
- 63? 63. See Map opposite p. 1.
64. Nan Harris, A Child's Eye View of Early Okanagan Settlement
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66. O.H.S. No. 35 p. 61.
67. Appendix 4

68. Cyama: Tweedsmuir History of Cyama, British Columbia.
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69. Cyama, p. 10.
70. Appendix 5.
71. Duckland, C.V. includes this Report from the
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85. Bechtold 181.
86. Kelowna Daily Courier, Aug. 2nd, 1953.
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88. Information from Hiram Walker & Sons Ltd. administrative office.
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90. Mrs. Pawley, p. 23.
91. Ethel Arnold (interview).
92. The Calendar, Aug. 3rd, 1983. p. 1.
93. C.H.S. 50 p. 95
94. Appendix 7.
95. David Mitchell & Dennis Duffy eds., Bright Sunshine and
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97. The Vernon News June 18, 1891.
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102. See note 42. p. 82.
103. Mrs Pawley, p. 26.
104. Named for Edward the Confessor and Bishop Edward
of Kamloops Diocese.
104a. Father Switzer. [Hermance Herchak]
105. This information ^{was} supplied from an old member of the R.C. Church -
She had researched this and it is a handwritten document
prepared during the 1970's.

106. Bechtold, p. 80.
107. The Vernon News June 25, 1891 p1
108. Information supplied from The Reverend Eric Dexter - present minister.
109. Mrs. Pawley, p. 16
110. O.H.S. No 50. pp. 38-40
111. Information from the various ministers.
112. As note 80. p. 4
113. O.
114. Parker in Gray, "The Story of Irrigation - lifeblood of the Okanagan Valley's economy", in O.H.S. 32 (1960) p. 76-7.
115. As note 80. p. 4
116. All information in this paragraph taken from the W.O.C.I.D. Minutes. [Files at the Irrigation Office]
117. Omitted this section
118. See note 80. p. 65
119. Kelowna Daily Courier. July 16th, 1971. p 13.
120. Letter from Quiter Brodie, Chairman of Trustees of W.O.C.I.D., to the Trustees. Jan. 4th, 1971.
121. Work Superintendant's Report Jan 22nd, 1983 in minutes of W.O.C.I.D.
122. Information from W.O.C.I.D. Secretary Raymond Campbell.
123. Appendix 8.
124. The Calendar, July 27, 1983 p1
125. The Vernon News March 1, 1906.
126. Mrs. Pawley, p. 27.
127. Wilson, p. 47-3