

WHONNOCK HISTORY CALENDAR 2010





Sternwheeler "Beaver" approaching Whonnock wharf. Vessel was built in 1898 in Victoria for Canadian Pacific and worked on the New Westminster to Chilliwack run on the Fraser River until 1913.



This photo may have been taken when “Whonnock Road” (now 272nd Street) was prepared to receive its first asphalt covering. Roads before that time were just gutted tracks—dust bowls in summer and mud pools in winter. The sign reads: “soft shoulder.”



From left are Axel Lee, his wife Anna Oline Lee sitting with her children Ted, Henk Gudrun and, on the fence, Fred. Standing at the door is Axel's brother Ole Lee. About 1914 Axel Lee replaced this old house with a new home (see insert) that is still in use today—now painted bright yellow. (Courtesy Linda Mattis)





The "Armes" house, better known as "the house with the monkey puzzle tree," was demolished in 2006. The house was built before James Armes bought the property around 1911. The photo to the right shows James with his wife Florence and two of their three boys: Harold and Frank. After Florence Armes died in 1919 James and his sons moved away. What is left is the monkey puzzle tree, here seen at its early stages. "The monkey puzzle tree was just a little tree when I was a little boy. I used to jump over it," remembered Frank Armes in 1997.



Noble Olliver was the first shopkeeper and postmaster in Whonnock and also one of the first school trustees. Mr. Oliver died in 1923, and his wife Catherine (née Robinson) in 1932, almost a centenarian. They are buried side by side in unmarked graves in the Whonnock Cemetery.



Members of the Ladies Club, which was incorporated in 1911 for that purpose, built this community hall. They met in the new hall for the first time in the spring of 1912. This photo was taken around that time. A porch was added in 1913 or 1914. For decades the Hall, later named Whonnock Memorial Hall, was the centre of social life in Whonnock. To the left is a picture of the interior taken in 1912 ready for a theatre performance. The photo to the right was taken in the 1970s shortly before the hall was torn down.





Noble Oliver built the first general store in Whonnock around 1885. The location of the store is now under the Loughheed Highway. L.C. York was shopkeeper around the turn of the century. He is shown here with his family and his father in law, John Williamson, with Bible in hand. Williamson left a diary telling us about Whonnock and Whonnockians in 1897. The store burned down in 1916, never to be rebuilt.



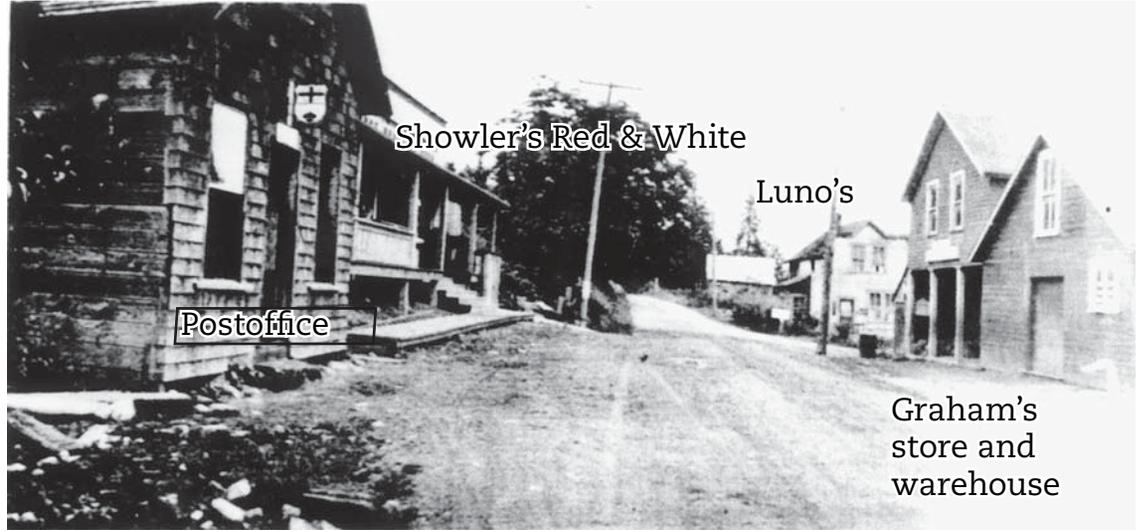
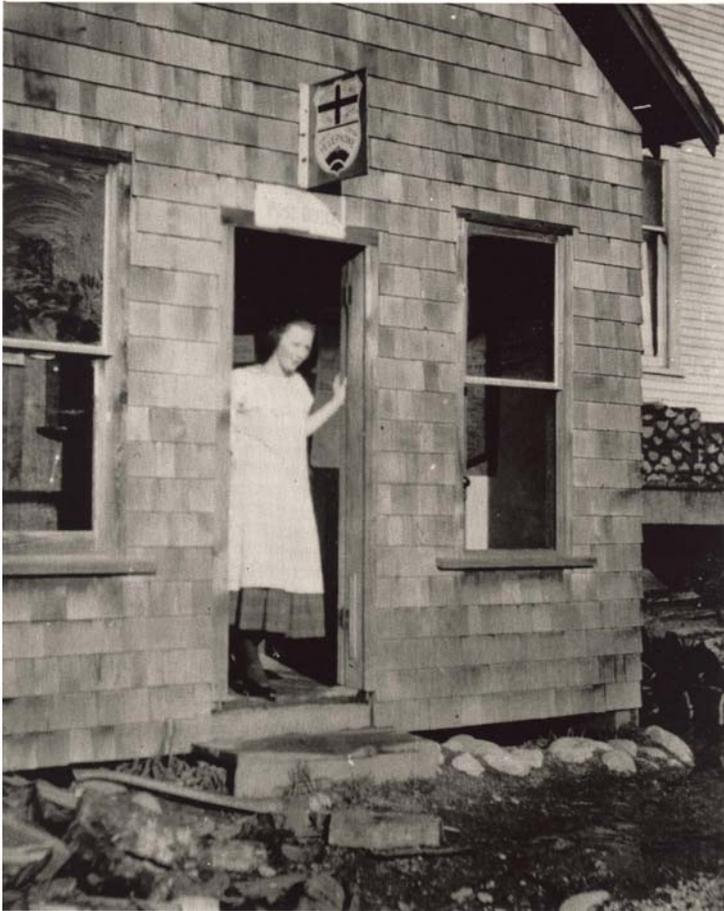
Richard and Margaret (Benson) Whiting



Richard Whiting was postmaster in Whonnock from 1907 until 1953.

The house where the Whitings lived at 26809 96th Avenue, now owned and very well cared for by Gerald and Nadine Andrews, received an Honourable Mention by the Maple Ridge Community Heritage Commission for the 2009 heritage awards.

Margaret Whiting's mother "Granny" Benson (insert) was much loved and respected by the community. At the end of her life she lived in the adjunct to the left of the main house.



Whonnock's "front"





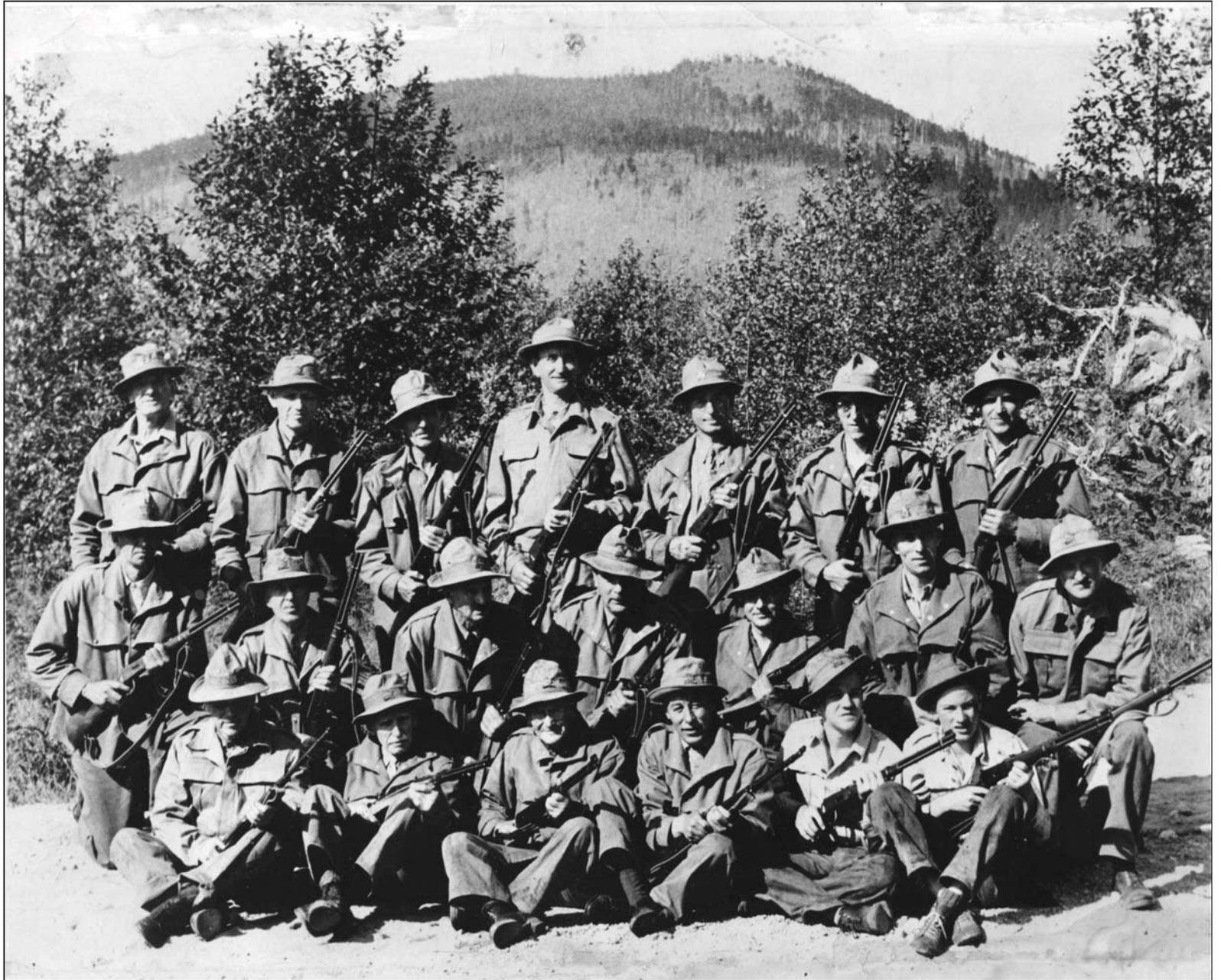
Courtesy Wally and James George

Ralph George purchased the warehouse of the Graham store (across from the Red & White store) and moved it to the adjacent lot directly in front of Byrnes's. He fixed it up as a residence and lived there with his wife Ellen and their children Johnny, Jean, Gerry, Wally, and Freda. After 1962 son Wally George, his wife Nedra and their children Sherri, Ralph and James lived in the house. This photo, taken from the Loughheed Highway in 1946, shows Ralph's wife Ellen working in the garden. The house is still in use today at 26912 River Road.

British Columbia's Own Home Guard

Formed on March 3, 1942, the Pacific Coast Militia Rangers (PCMR) were volunteers who patrolled, performed military surveillance, and provided local defence of the coastlines of British Columbia and in the Yukon against the wartime threat of a possible Japanese invasion.

At their height, the Pacific Coast Militia Rangers consisted of 15,000 volunteers in 138 companies. The Pacific Coast Militia Rangers were officially disbanded on September 30, 1945.



Whonnock Detachment
60th Company Pacific
Coast Military Rangers

George Crockett | Alan Grant | Norris McKay | John Larson | Gordon Kearns | William Baines | Hans Nielson
Fred Lee | Lewellen Nash | Henry Byrnes | Horace Hollinshead | Edmond Key | Edward Nadin | Leslie Cameron
Herb Jones | Louis Muston | Arthur Coldrick | Ilmari Hoicka | Glen Elwood | Christopher Benson
Missing: Fred Rolley, Art Halverson and Brian Byrnes



THE FRASER RIVER AT WHONNOCK, B. C., CANADA

A postcard with a photograph taken from the Whonnock Wharf.