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# Gulf Islands Driftwood

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When a group of travel writers came to the Gulf Islands last week they were entertained at various places. These pictures show part of Friday afternoon's reception at Booth Bay Resort in Ganges as the visiting newsmen took part in the entertainment program. At the left are visitors and local residents against the bus. In centre is Little Bo-Peep who had found her sheep. She is, of course, Darlene Marcotte. On the right, president of the Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce, Les Ramsey shows his daughters how easy it is to put a diaper on a lamb.

## Work is Holiday for Newsmen Touring Area

Work was one big holiday for a group of newsmen touring the provincial resort centres.

Some 50 reporters from radio, and television, as well as newspapers, came to Salt Spring Island on Friday en route for Vancouver Island and a brief call at Mayne and Galiano.

Bus load of newsmen came off the ferry at Vesuvius and headed out to Booth Bay Resort, where Tom Portlock had been invited by Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce to entertain the group.

The newsmen took part in a lamb-diapering contest under the personal direction of Little Bo-Peep. Little Bo-Peep was Darlene Marcotte in an authentic blue outfit.

The contest was followed by large quantities of clam chowder and oysters straight off the beach.

The visiting newsmen met local residents and personalities during their visit. Travelling with them on behalf of the British Columbia Government's travel bureau, John Buckley was coming home. Many years ago his family settled on Galiano for a few years. He has felt a close link with the islands as a result of their participation in the island's development, he explained.

Greeting the visitors were Chamber of Commerce president

Les Ramsey and Island Pioneer W.M. Mouat as well as local resort operators and others.

Colorful representative of Galiano was Mary Backlund, enveloped in a Spanish garb.

Final stage of the newsmen's visit was a display of animal herding by dogs. Showing his sheep dog was W.P. Evans, but the sheep were ducks. Only once did the dog betray his master. At one point he took issue with one of the ducks and withdrew with feathers hanging from his mouth.

The bus, accompanied by a few cars, left Salt Spring Island on Friday afternoon aboard the Queen of the Islands. The Portlock household and the Chamber of Commerce members who had helped were faced with a major clearing-up task. There were few regrets. The visit had been brief and a tour of the island was impossible. The gathering at Booth Bay Resort had been undertaken as the only practical means of entertaining the visitors.

## CHAMBER DINNER FRIDAY

Annual dinner of the Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce will be open to members and non-members. Dinner will be held in the Golf Club on Friday evening with a reception at six o'clock followed by dinner at 7 p.m.

New executive of the chamber will be formally installed during the evening and an address on the route from Port Renfrew along the Pacific coast of Vancouver Island will be given by Bruce Scott. Mr. Scott will also show slides of the scenic coastal rescue trail.

## THREE BLOOMS

North end of Salt Spring Island is kind to daffodils. Mrs. E. Sampson, Fernwood Road, reports a daffodil with five blooms on one stem. The blooms were in two clusters of two and three blooms each.

## HOSPITAL WEEK AT GANGES

BY DOROTHY ATKINS  
This week - May 7 to May 13, is National Hospital Week. Hospital Day is Friday, May 12 the anniversary of the birthdate of Florence Nightingale, that valiant pioneer of nursing.

It is fitting that on May 12 an Open House and Tea will be held at the Lady Minto and Gulf Islands Hospital. We feel it is also fitting, at this time to offer a brief chronicle of the past history and an outline of the present-day set-up of our hospital.

Many people ask - "Why is it

called the Lady Minto?" It was named in honour of Lady Minto who was greatly interested in hospital work and also connected with the Victorian Order of Nurses. There is another Lady Minto hospital in B.C. and several in Ontario.

Our original hospital, now the school dormitory was opened in May 1914, by Dr. H.E. Young, the provincial secretary, the site having been donated by Colonel Beech, M.D.

The accommodation was limited to six beds, there were few

facilities and practically no operating room equipment. The first staff consisted of the matron Miss A. Calhoun, and a Sergeant Newens, who was also cook, janitor, and orderly. The first board of directors included Dr. Beech, Rev. Bastin, Edward Walter, Ernest Prentice, W.M. Mouat.

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## EVENTS CLASH IN GANGES ON FRIDAY

Clash between two functions on Salt Spring Island will occur on Friday evening.

Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce will stage its annual banquet at the Golf Club, while the Salt Spring Island meeting of the Lady Minto Gulf Islands Hospital will be held in Mahon Hall.

## History of W.A. To Lady Minto Hospital Is Long

It was the year 1914, and on a tree-clad slope of Salt Spring Island the Lady Minto Cottage Hospital was being built.

The country road beside it led down to Ganges village, the dock and the sea and thus to the other, smaller Gulf Islands which the hospital would also serve. Twenty-two years later, on January 15, 1936, at the suggestion of the incumbent Lady Minto Matron, the Women's Auxiliary was formed.

This tiny group of less than a dozen women, met in the small board room and paid 25 cents annually as dues. The island was then just struggling out of the depression and the hospital was suffering a dire lack of funds. The institution was desperately short of linen, and even of food.

The Auxiliary came to the rescue and gave generously, donating not only their time and skill at sewing, but also sheets, pillow-cases, clothing, sewing-machines, needles and thread, homemade bread, and painted the furniture! Hospital Day resembled a country Fair - all the extra fruit, vegetables, baked goods, needlework, (some brought over by boat from the Outer Islands) that the hospital couldn't utilize was stacked on the wide verandah and sold.

Then, 1939 brought the Second World War and subsequently the

Hospital suffered an acute shortage of nursing staff. Among the Auxiliary members were a few

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## Served Aboard Ganges During First War

When a large group of newsmen arrived on Salt Spring Island on Friday afternoon there was a direct link between Toronto and Ganges.

Dean of the news room of the Toronto Telegram is E. H. Bartlett. Travel editor for the large eastern daily, Mr. Bartlett was delighted to find a community of the name of Ganges. Particularly was he interested in finding the origin of the community's name. Mr. Bartlett is a graduate of HMS Ganges. Half a century ago he served as a cadet in the Royal Navy, living in the Ganges. He had many reminiscences of the training vessel.

The young cadet slung his hammock against one of the starboard gun ports and the groove of the ramrod was very evident above his sleeping quarters.

Reading a copy of Driftwood in which the story of the Royal Navy vessel was explained, Mr. Bartlett learned a few details of his old ship which had been less evident at the time.

The Toronto newsmen was one of about 50 who came to Salt Spring Island from Duncan on the Vesuvius Bay ferry, during a tour of the coastal resort areas.

Former Ganges cadet recalled that he was part of the Indus establishment when the Armistice was signed in 1918. He explained that he was skipping a navy whaler en route to pick up the mail. Overtaken by a steam pinnace, he was ordered back to his ship. There he learned that the war was over.

A member of the staff of the Toronto paper for more than 40 years, he transferred his affections to the Royal Canadian Navy during the Second World War.

## Beards Are Sprouting On Island

Beards are a-sprouting on Salt Spring Island. Author of the wave of hairiness is Les Ramsey, genial Ganges druggist.

Mr. Ramsey has sponsored, through Ganges Pharmacy, a beard-growing contest as a centennial project. Salt Spring Islanders may enter the contest by taking a \$2 ticket. Top prize is a razor.

The wave of beards is already spreading through the island.

Such veterans of the art as Mr. Ramsey or Ed Gould are automatically disqualified for being too hairy too soon.