

The Museum Corner: A Page from History

May 2016

April showers bring May flowers! Well in Ashcroft May was also a time for picnics and May Queens! So I decided to pull out the May Queen Album and share some wonderful photos and newspaper articles.



1918 Spud City Queens

Left to right: Margaret Bryson, Blanche Munro, Margaret Fraser?, Queen Laura Patterson, Gwen Richards, Marion Smith and Lottie Davis.

Unfortunately the Ashcroft Journal carried no news about the 1913 picnic. Although there was lots of news about the Spud City Potlatch, there was no mention about the Queens. Thankfully someone had written the names on the back of the photo. The Spud City Potlatch, a fund raising event for the Red Cross was only held twice, in the fall of 1917 and 1918, but the May picnics were a long time tradition with Ashcroft and Cache Creek folks meeting at the Semlin Ranch or Hat Creek.

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The Ashcroft Museum is open from Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Come on down and learn some fascinating history about the area.

Located at 4th and Brink.
250-453-9232
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May 24, 1930, Hat Creek Ranch

Flash forward to 1948 when the first May Queens appear, along with the annual May picnic.



Left to right: top: Carol Minnabariet, Della Lamont, Queen Jean Holgate, Betty Jarvis, Miss Canada Phyllis Parke
Flower Girls: Shirley Kusiak, Audrey Nesbitt, Carol Hanna, Cynthia Foxcroft, Betty Nishiguchi, Jaunita Wholleben
Crown Bearer: Harris Loy

a, Thursday, May 27th, 1948

FIRST ASHCROFT MAY QUEEN CROWNED

After three days of foreboding skies and rain the greater part of Sunday brought early clearing of clouds and warm balmy sunshine, fitting weather for the first May Queen ceremony in Ashcroft.

Due to flooding of Mr. Basil Jackson's field, the picnic was held at the Semlin Ranch this year, and a good attendance of town's people was noted. The children were taken to the grounds at 10:30 am. by Tom Stewart, Phil Parke and W. T. Louie. Jim Hewitt and Lew Cumming made several trips to town to pick up adults and everyone attending in cars brought along someone else.

The crowning ceremony took place at 1 pm. with Rev. J. L. Clark as MC. The Scouts and cubs formed a guard of Honour for the May Queen and her attendants to pass through. The dias had been tastefully decorated in patriotic colors of Red, white and blue emblematic of the British Empire and Queen Victoria whose birthday we still celebrate.