

The Museum Corner: A Page From History

June 2016: 1916—Looking Back to The Big

“The morning brought a scene of desolation. Where there had been fine buildings and prosperous businesses, there remained only heaps of brick, twisted iron, still smoldering ashes, and deep holes that had been basements of stores or cellars of hotels. Owners were seen scratching about among the ruins with hopeless optimism that some article of value might have escaped destruction.”

(Ashcroft Journal)



30 YEARS AGO

From the Journal of July 8th, 1916

ASHCROFT: “Five Blocks in Ashes, \$500,000 Damages”. Fire broke out at 7 p.m. July 5, apparently in the second story of the Ashcroft Hotel. Volunteer fire brigade did excellent work, but before sufficient water could be supplied, the hotel building was a steaming mass of flames. It was soon realized that water was of no avail.

QUESNEL: Excavation work for the basement of the John Strand new hotel on the site of the old one burned last January, commenced this week. Mr. Strand will push construction as rapidly as possible.

SPENCES BRIDGE: Joe Martel is shipping his fruit up the Cariboo road by truck delivery from his fruit farm. Joe lost all his peach trees with the late frost.

GENERAL: “The Northern Crown Bank takes the opportunity of thanking the many friends who so successfully assisted us in saving the property of the bank (Ashcroft) from the fire on the evening of the 5th.—J. A. Murchison, Mgr. Word received from Minister of public works that construction of public building for Ashcroft will begin at once.



The Museum Corner is a monthly newsletter that gives a brief snapshot of the history of Ashcroft. It is written by Museum Curator Kathy Paulos. To learn more about Ashcroft’s history, visit the museum, located at 4th and Brink.

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We have some interesting recent donations: come down and check them out!



Mail to : Huang Liang Sen, Vancouver :donated by Loyd Wong



A 1960's General Electric "Stylette" hair dryer. Donated by Janet Quesnel.

Hugh Parke (bottom left) son of Tom and Annie Parke was born in Cache Creek in 1895. Hugh enlisted in the fall of 1915, and served overseas until the end of the war. (Photo donated by Laurie Webster, great nephew)

John Dawson Evans (bottom right) was born in Ashcroft in 1901, and was the son of Oliver and Ellen (nee Brink) Evans. Olie enlisted in the spring of 1916 and shortly after seeing action he was injured. During his stay in hospital the nurses discovered that Olie had enlisted at the age of 14.

Hugh and Olie became brothers-in law after marrying the Ericson girls, Margaret and Katie. Photo of Olie donated by his granddaughter Cindy Johnson.



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.

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Bethlehem Copper Plate made in England exclusively for the Ashcroft 5 cents – 1\$ store. Donated by Society of St. Vincent De Paul Thrift Store Kamloops.

