



Jennie & Vic Nancollas

“It snowed on the mountains last night”, “the geese are back”, “the ice left the big lake today”, “the snowdrops are blooming”, “I saw my first robin” – these are yearly statements we heard in our household from two people who loved their community and natural surroundings. Jenny and Vic Nancollas were passionate about their home of Salmon Arm and continually instilled in those around them the wonderful opportunities of living in such a place. They contributed to Salmon Arm in many ways and in their own individual way.

Jenny was born in a house out “in the Valley” in 1910 and never left the area. She had many stories to tell of changes in Salmon Arm. One such story was having picked apples in Turner’s orchards and then years down the road she saw the old hospital replaced by the Salmon Arm Motor Inn and the new hospital built in the orchards! Jenny was a keen painter and was a founding member of the Salmon Arm Sketch Club. She was also very concerned about the history of Salmon Arm being preserved and worked tirelessly with friends to establish the Salmon Arm Museum. She helped cut the ribbon to the Museum in the Centennial year, 1967. She also spent many hours with the Salmon Arm Pottery Club and her family remember her learning to ‘throw clay’ in the basement of their home. Jenny was a member of the United Church Women and hosted Unit (Circle) meetings in their home when it was her turn in the rotation. Jennie was also an active member of the Salmon Arm Horticulture Society. Neighbour children (and their parents) will always remember her Hallowe’en doughnuts, as do her daughters and grandchildren. She was a keen traveler and enjoyed visits to Mexico with her friends, bringing back memories she had sketched or painted. When you visited the Nancollas house you always knew there would be a cookie or a square to have with your coffee (or tea). Jenny cherished her life in Salmon Arm and was a very supportive partner to her husband Victor, who was also very involved in the Salmon Arm community.

Vic was raised in Durham, England and came to Canada in 1928. He worked in the gardens near Armstrong when he first came to this country and then worked in the grocery department at the Salmon Arm Farmers’ Exchange until he became owner of The Furniture Store, (a business he purchased from his uncle Joe) for 18 years. Vic very quickly became involved in many aspects of Salmon Arm com-

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of Salmon Arm community life. He married Jennie (Miller) on July 18th, 1934. Jennie and Vic became involved with musicians, actors and choral groups and spent many happy hours performing musicals and minstrel shows in Salmon Arm and neighbouring communities. They both had strong voices and Vic used to join a Minister on his trips to Seymour Arm and other points on the lake as the 'organist'. Over the years Vic participated in the Masonic Lodge, he was president of the first Junior Chamber of Commerce, president of the United Church Young People, a Boy Scout leader and a Life Member of the Kinsmen Club and later a K-40 member. He served as chairman of two centennial committees, one of which started the famous Salute to the Sockeye Salmon on the Adams River. A World War Two veteran, he was long time secretary-manager and a Life Member of the Salmon Arm Royal Canadian Legion. Vic was a volunteer fireman for 33 years, served 20 years on the hospital board, served 27 years on council, 11 years as a councilor/alderman and 16 years a village chairman/mayor. He was also a member of the combined Columbia Shuswap Regional District and Columbia-Shuswap Regional Hospital District and served as deputy mayor following amalgamation of the two Salmon Arms in 1970. This amalgamation was the "best thing that ever happened while I was a council member". Through all this volunteer work he still managed to grow a very large garden that was harvested and preserved/frozen by Jennie for tasty meals over the winter months. Vic loved to grow flowers and Jennie perfected the arrangements for inside the house.

Jennie and Vic treasured their home in Salmon Arm and all the wonderful people there. They especially enjoyed their surrogate nieces (Adele and Rhonda) next door who became their pride and joy and wonderful company in their later years. Their three daughters, Joan (Kamloops), Barbara (Prince George) and Mary (Irvine, California) were grateful to make a donation to the "Founders Fund" of the Shuswap Community Foundation in honour of their parents.

Notes by Barbara Basserman