

MUSEUM MUSINGS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2006

Last month we mused about the rumor that there had been a concentration camp of some kind in Blubber Bay during WW2. The term concentration camp conjures up visions of barbed wire and armed guards and I have been advised in no uncertain terms that there had been no such thing. It appears however that since the production of limestone was probably a vital industry, there were workers there that fell into the category of conscientious objectors and Maria Zaikow called to confirm that. Maria and her family moved to Limekiln Bay in 1943 and was kind enough to call and tell me about her memories. Thanks Maria.

Over the Easter weekend I took my grand kids Ben and Emma to the museum, which they thought, was cool. We then went down and explored Limekiln Bay including what remains of two kilns and the remains of the storage shed where barrels of lime were stored prior to shipping. A considerable number of these barrels still remain, fused together with many parts of the wooden barrels that held the lime. These barrels were made in Marble Bay and the pieces remaining are in surprisingly good condition considering they are about 100 years old. Lime must act as a preservative. We must give some serious consideration to preserving this site of the earliest limestone production on Texada. One kiln is partially covered with fill from the highway construction while the other is being destroyed from the top down by a large Arbutus tree growing in the middle of it.

Ben found some square nails and Emma found a heavy chock at the storage shed site and they contributed them to the museum. Thanks kids. The chock would indicate that there may have been a dock of some kind at one time.

We want to thank Frank Grenon who brought us a floor polisher in response to our plea for one. It is a sturdy chrome plated specimen and we think we may use it in a display of household artifacts at some time.

Until next time please remember to take care of each other.

Norm MacLean