

TREASURES FROM YOUR ATTIC

One never knows when a surprise discovery will arrive at Texada Museum's door.

A very recent donation is an original map (circa 1920) hand-drawn by Peter Staaf. It was found in the family's attic and shows the entire Upper Gillies Bay farm preemptions with owners' names. Folded and fragile, the map was opened carefully and pressed flat to preserve it for future display.

Many people have donated old bottles of every shape and size. Diving offshore, Chinese medicine bottles, crockery and utensils have been discovered reflecting the times when those workers laboured here.



A broken plate marked "BC Salvage Co" found under the Van Anda wharf is possibly an undersea souvenir from the ship that raised and refloated the ill-fated *Cheslakee*.

Many items are discovered by accident. While logging recently near the Copper Queen mine site a steel rod appeared projecting from the ground. When unearthed it was found to be a

crank handle attached to a completely-preserved Leyner rock drill used at that time. Cleaned and restored the drill is now a prominent feature in our Little Billy Mine display.

Many Texadans have discovered treasures in their basements, attics and out-buildings. Art Liebich was happy to offer us an old drag saw blade he found in his shed. It completed the display when hooked up to the saw donated by Joe Little.

Some donations can be appreciated as family heirlooms. A popular display is Don Pillat's chainsaw collection with the addition of the handsaws handed down from his father, Joe. A wooden carpenters' box complete with vintage tools was recently donated by the family of Bob Jones (Senior). The Burditt family has donated many items of period furniture including the wall clock now on display in our new schoolroom exhibit.

Many Texadans have saved certain items for posterity and are happy to see them in the museum. Some examples are the wash jug and bowl from the Windsor Hotel, the whistle, wheel and prop from the (1908) steam-powered water taxi *Wood Nymph*, and a fascinating 1902 ledger book of Blubber Bay workers' wages.

The museum is always pleased to receive donations of interesting items from the past. Thank-you! Even if only a plate, a tool, a costume or souvenir book, your donations allow islanders to view and appreciate Texada's history.

Peter Lock

Texada Island Heritage Society