Volume 1. No. 2

Campus Voice

Mountainview School Newspaper *April 30, 2002*

Featuring this month:
The history of the Boys' Farm (Part One)

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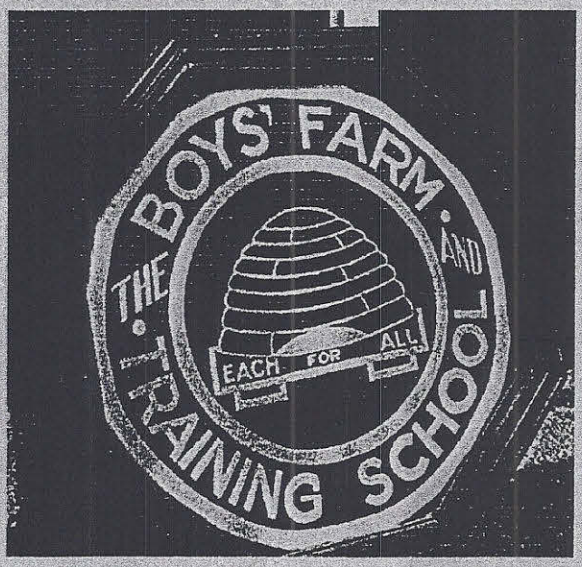
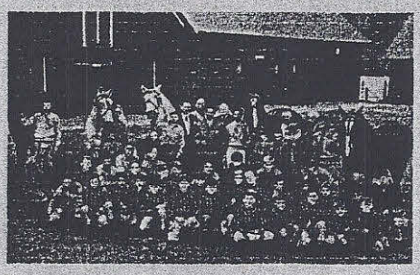


The Boys' Farm and Training School sign that stood at the main entrance of the Campus for more than half a century.

Agricultural Day in the 1950's



Getting the horses ready...

This special issue is dedicated to the memory of Owen Dawson (1888-1954) who worked for many years here on the Campus. In 1952 he wrote a small booklet (My story of the Boys'Farm at Shawbridge) about those years and most of my findings are inspired from it. A tombstone in his memory was erected near the Chapel in 1954. We can still see it there today.
I would like also to thank the following people for helping me in my research: Wayne Adams, Program coordinator; Pierre Beauchamp, employed on the Campus since July 17, 1972 and now in charge of the Maintenance department; Dave Brown, Program manager; Hazel Milley, Principal of Mountainview School; Eric Moran, in charge of the Tree Plantation; Selwyn Selby, employed on the Campus since August 9, 1971, in charge of Maintenance around the Campus.

M. B.

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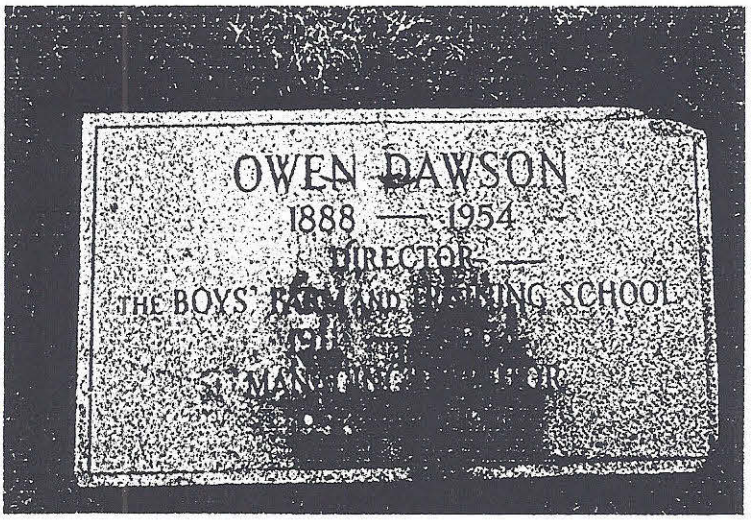


The gravestone as seen today near the Chapel

Quote of the day...

"Everyone leaves footprints in your memory, but the ones that leave footprints in your heart are the ones you will truely remember."
Nicholas Sperling

To the memory of an unsung hero, Jack Stevens...

Editorial

by Nick N.

Since our first paper was a success, it is time for our second edition. In this month's paper, we are featuring the first part of the History of The Boys' Farm. You will notice also that the name of our School newspaper is now CAMPUS VOICE. Thanks to all those who suggested names.

In this issue you will find also some art material and somes pictures, poems etc... Thanks to Marcel for putting all this together.
I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire newspaper staff and wish good luck to the new editors who will take my place next issue. Thanks and I hope you will like this issue as much as the first one.
Nick N.

The Story of the Boys' Farm

Part One

The original founders of the Boys' Farm were members of the Directorate of the Boys' Home on Mountain Street in Montreal. A sub-committee of the Boys' House was formed to handle the Boys' Farm project under the the direction of J.S. Buchan.

In 1908, a two hundred and fifty acre farm was bought in The Laurentian foothills from Mr. H.G. Goodfellow for the amount of $8,500. It then contained a neat cottage and a rather dilapidated barn. The Board of directors started a campaign for funds and erected a wooden building which cost $12,300, exlusive of plumbing and heating. This building was to house the staff and boys and to provide accommodation for a kitchen, dining-room, dormitories, school-room and storeroom. The structure was designed by Cecil Burgess and built by the Rev. Day Baldwin. It was heated with wood and lighted by acetylene gas.

This main building was completed in September 1908, and its erection was greatly facilitated by a railway siding that was constructed in November 1907 close to the future building. The official opening of the new structure was held on October 26, 1908. Mr. Mathews and the directors undertook the task of securing of a suitable staff consisting of eight members. It is interesting to note that the first teacher, Mr. M. Thompson, commenced his duties at the magnificent salary of $10 a month plus board and lodging!

The first group of boys arrived at the Boys' Farm on March 31, 1909. They were fifteen in number and came from Sherbrooke Jail, where they had been detained in a wing of that
Institution, under conditions that were most unsatisfactory. They were under the watchful eye of

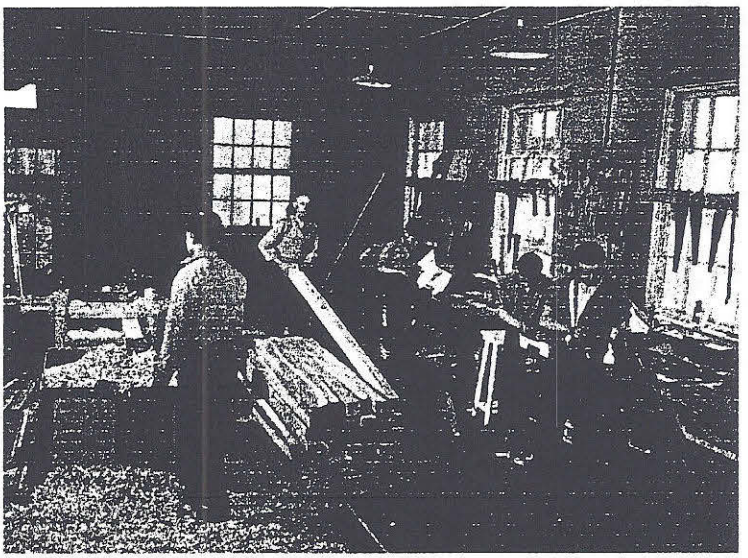
Sargent Thorn and four constables of the Provincial Police.

The boys were smoking and chewing tobacco and all were hadcuffed. They were a motley crew, and the police who brought them offered to remain for a time to Help Mr. Mathews get them settled down. Mr. Mathews politely refused the offered assistance saying that he thought he could handle them himself - and handle them he did - by kindness, patience and tact. Many of them had planned to run away on the day after their arrival, but changed their minds when they realized the fair treatment they were receiving.

The second lot of fifteen boys arrived on April 14. They were from the Roman Catholic Reformatory in Montreal, where many Protestant boys were sent at the time.

Immediately after the arrival of the last fifteen boys Mr. Mathews put into effect the program to which he had given much thought. In addition to the many duties the lads were assigned, including care of the animals, tending the crops, house work, etc., the boys attended School and received a fair education. There were also evening classes five nights a week where the pupils were instructed by members of the staff in farm subjects, mechanical drawing, gardening, etc.

A cadet corps and a bugle band were also formed. All the boys in the School were provided with a very neat khaki uniform, furnished by the Federal Government.



The shop, today the Maintenance building

Periodical inspections were carried out by a cadet corps instructor.

Mr. Mathews also arranged a comprehensive mark system for his pupils with chevrons and badges, each boy being credited with a certain amount of pocket money and having his own bank book.

Sports and games were eagerly participated in and each had his own garden plot during the summer months. The health of the boys was given every consideration and Dr. Prévost of St-Jérôme visited the

School frequently. His charge for these services, including the supply of medication, was one dollar a year per boy!

The kind treatment and individual interest shown by the staff was an eye-opener to the boys, about half of whom had been accustomed to pretty harsh treatment. It was quite remarkable how they responded, and serious breaches of discipline were infrequent.

In their report to the Provincial Government on December 31, 1909, the directors were able to state that only two boys had escaped during the first nine months of the life of the School.

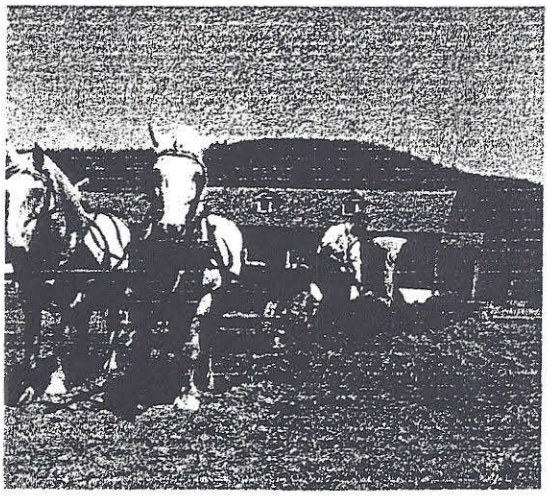
The various judges of the Province, knowing that a suitable Institution for the need of juvenile delinquents had been provided, were encouraged to commit more of the boys who came before them, and the population of the Farm increased rapidly.

Shortly after the first thirty boys arrived, it was found that the accommodation was inadequate, and in June 1909 a wing at the north end of the building was commenced. This work was undertaken by the staff and boys of the School under the direction of the architect, Mr. Cecil Burgess. It was completed by the end of the year and included a schoolroom and dormitory for about eighteen boys. The basement provided a small gymnasium and play room, wich were greatly appreciated.

CECIL SCOTT BURGESS

Born in Bombay, India, Cecil Scott Burgess (1870-1971) worked primarily in Edmonton, Alta. He emigrated to Canada in 1903, settling first in Montreal, where he carried on a practice and was a part-time instructor at McGill under Prof. Percy E. Nobbs, who was the first architect for the University of Alberta. While in Montreal Burgess served on the board of the Boys' Farm at Shawbridge, Québec, and designed the original buildings there. In 1910 he taught at the School of Architecture of McGill University, moving to Edmonton in 1913 where he held the position of professor of architecture at the University of Alberta until his retirement. Burgess also worked as a consulting architect to the Alberta Government for administrative offices.

In 1910, a fire destroyed the barn that was located on the Boy's Farm. No one was hurt and all the animals were saved with the exception of a



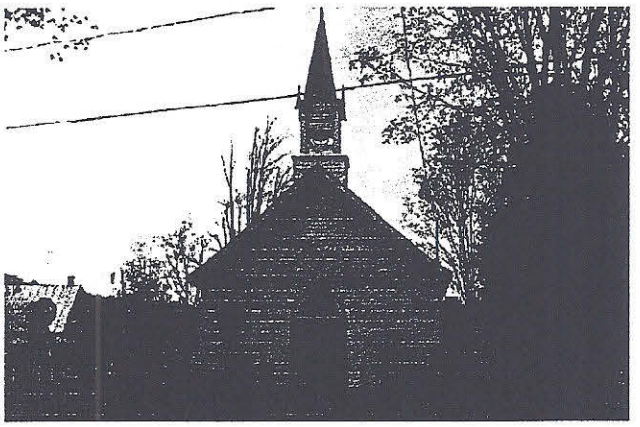
few sheep. Under the direction of a farmer living near by, the boys saved practically all the farm machinery, including a heavy manure spreader that had to be carried out, as the brakes had somehow become locked.

This farmer reported one incident that illustrated how the boys responded in time of emergency. As soon as all the machinery was saved, with the exception of the cream separator, which was bolted into the concrete floor of the barn, all the boys were ordered to leave the burning building on account of the danger of the roof collapsing. On passing the door of the barn a few moments later the farmer was amazed to observe one of the boys, Jack Stevens, sitting on the floor with a hammer and cold chisel in his hand. He was cutting off the bolts that held the separator, while several other boys poured pails of water over him to prevent his clothes from catching on fire from the falling embers.

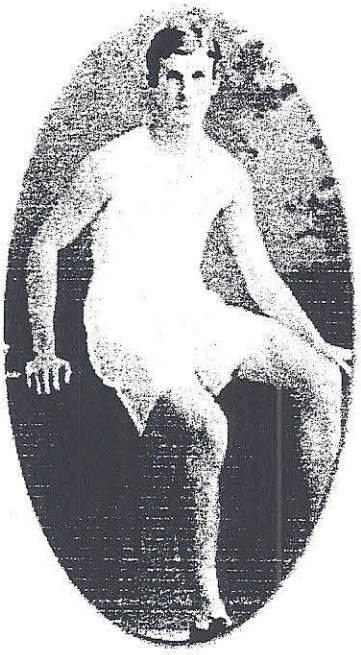
A new barn was soon erected by P.M. Jordan of Shawbridge. This was a very fine structure in construction appearance. It was well insulated and the first storey was built of concrete with a reinforced cement ceiling which proved most useful a couple of years later when there was another fire.

The beautiful new barn was burned along with one of the cottages. The fire broke out in the farmer's small house and quickly spread to the barn. It was destroyed, with the exception of the silo and the lower floor, wich was constructed of cement. The lower floor proved to be most useful as the cattle were housed there during the rebuilding operations which were completed in the Fall of 1912.

When the Boys' Farm first opened, the boys used to go to the small Methodist Church in Shawbridge Village, where they attended the service each Sunday morning. Apparently, this was always quite an occasion, as they wore their neat military uniforms and were accompanied by a bugle band. And as the population increased, the boys would fill up the entire centre of the church, and it was later found necessary to meet elsewhere. The Sunday service was, for many years thereafter, conducted in the schoolroom at the Farm, though on fine summer days the lads often gathered on the lawn at the end of the building. In 1922, the Molson



The Shawbridge Methodist Church built in 1861



Percival Molson

Chapel was built.
The Molson Chapel was built of field stone gathered on the Campus property and the roof trusses were of pine cut from the bluff of the property also. The Chapel bell was donated. It was cast in France and bears the name of every director who was in office at the time the Chapel was erected.
After this time, the School closing ceremony was held in the Molson Chapel and was eagerly looked forward to each year by the boys and the staff.
Many years later, on May 5, 1951, a fire occured in the chapel. The furnace , which had been lit in preparation for a Sunday Service, apparently became overheated.

Born in Cacouna, Quebec on August 14, 1880, Percy Molson developed into one of Canada's most outstanding all-around athletes. At the age of 16 he played on the 1896 Stanley Championship Montreal Victorias. He graduated from McGill in 1901 with a B.A. and captained the hockey team in 1902-03, starred in track, racquet sports and football. He won the Individual Trophy as the School's best "all-around" athlete for three consecutive years, a feat unmatched in McGill sports history. Percy earned every athletic honour the university offered and set a world record in the long jump at the American Athletics Meet in 1900.
Molson was renowned for his sportsmanship and earned the unique distinction of never having been penalized in any sport for unfair tactics. In one particular hockey game versus Queen's, Molson was penalized for what was perceived by the referee as an illegal body check on George Richardson, Captain of the Golden Gaels. However, Richardson protested that he had been checked fairly and the referee agreed to cancel the penalty. Later in the game, Molson was given credit for a goal but he admitted to the referee that the puck had gone off his arm and the goal was disallowed.
After graduation, Molson became the youngest member to serve on the McGill Board of Governors, chairing its Finance and Stadium Committees. He was severely wounded overseas in the Battle of Sanctuary Wood on June 2, 1916 and received the Military Cross for gallantry and distinguished conduct in action. He insisted on returning to action and was killed by a direct hit from a trench mortar on the outskirts of Avion near Vimy Ridge, France on July 5, 1916. In his will was a $75,000 bequest towards the construction of a McGill football stadium, which was dedicated in 1919 as Percival Molson Memorial Stadium. Captain Percival Molson was inducted to the Canadian Football Hall of Fame in 1963 and to the McGill Sports Hall of Game in 1996.

A portion of the floor was destroyed and considerable damage was caused by smoke. It was only on account of the prompt and wise action of the superintendant and staff members assisted by the boys, that the fire was kept under control. The Chapel was finally re-opened les than two years later. The insurance received allowed remodeling the interior. A tile-covered cement floor was put in, a new furnace was placed in the basement and beautiful chancel and appropriate altar furniture were installed. Due to a legacy from the late F. N. Southan, new pews replaced the former folding chairs. An electric organ was also installed.

On October 10, 1921, Edward Beatty became president of the Boys' Farm and for 21 years he held the position, enlisting the cooperation of his many friends to assist him in helping the boys of the Province who needed special training.

It is during his term as president that the gymnasium was built.

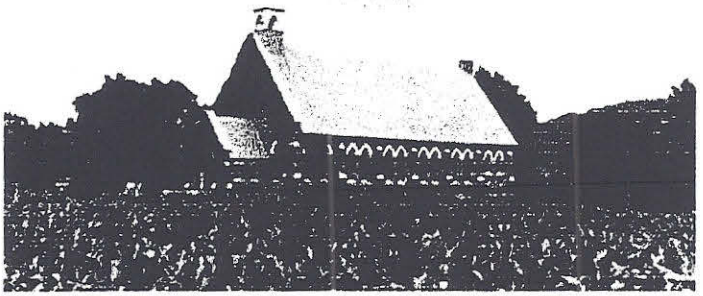
For a long time a gymnasium had been needed, especially in the spring and fall, when outdoor recreation was limited.

In 1926, with the financial assistance of Edward Beatty, the construction of the

The Molson Chapel as it stood until 1977. A landmark since defaced ...

builiding was undertaken. The building plans were designed by Frank Peden and the construction work was carried out by Harold Johnston. The structure was built of field stones gathered on the farm property. It matched the appearance of the Molson Chapel.

The gymnasium was finally opened on June 26, 1927. The cost was considerably more than the original $30,000,



Field of corn growing around the Chapel in the 1950's.

but the additional expense was entirely borne by Edward Beatty, after whom the structure was finally named. It was a splendid monument that contained a full-size gymnasium floor, a bowling alley, a well-equipped recreation room and a swimming pool.

Today, we can still see a plaque above the main entrance bearing Beatty's name.

A few years later, in October 1948, a fire destroyed the interior of the gymnasium. A military unit had been given permission to hold some exercises on the Farm propery north of the railroad track.

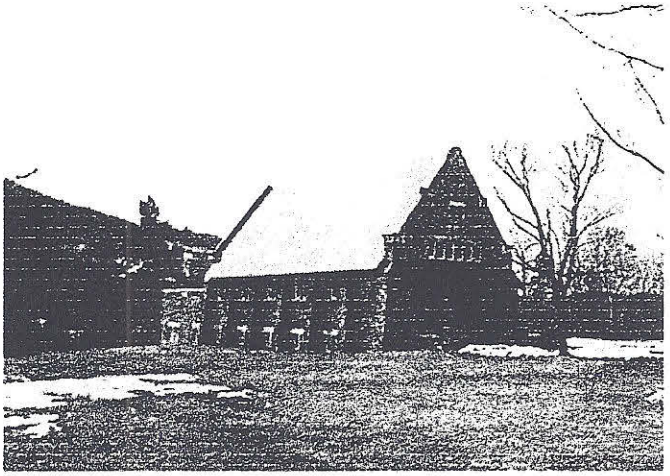
At about noon time on the day of this visit, it began to rain and the officer in charge asked permission for his men to have their lunch in the recreation room of the gymnasium, which was on the lower floor under the gym. This was granted and the stone fireplace was used by their chef for heating the coffee. As the wood supplied proved rather damp, a two-gallon tin of gaseline was brought in, from which a reasonable quantity was placed in a receptable and poured on the fire. Unfortunately, the larger tin was left in close proximity to the fireplace and the ensuing burst of flame ignited the contents of the two-gallon tin. An explosion immediately followed and the whole recreation room, which was lined with wood, burst into flames. The fire spread so quickly that some of the visitors had barely time to escape.

The alarm was promptly given. The Boys' Farm fire brigade went into action. Unfortunately, however, it was too late. The fire made such headway that the whole structure was soon a mass of flames. The inside of the gymnasium , with its contents, was completely destoyed. Only the stone walls remained.

In the spring of 1949 a new gymnasium was commenced. Leslie Perry was the architect and Gordon Tarlton the contractor. The walls of

the previous building were tested and found to be satisfactory. The new building was to be entirely fire - resistant with a tile -covered cement floor. Living quarters for the athletic instructor were to be added, together with a hobby room. A stage was planned at the rear of the gymnasium which was to prove very satisfactory when entertainment events were held in the building.

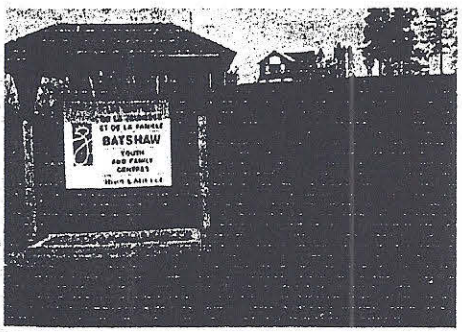
(End of Part One. To be continued...)



The E .W. Beatty Gymnasium

The story of a name.....

Manuel G. Batshaw



Born in Montreal, Manuel G. Batshaw devoted more than 50 years of his professional career to social work with various institutions to help families, young people and old people. He played a key role in the construction and the exploitation of a community centre sheltering 20 social agencies, two low rent buildings for the elderly, a recreational centre for elderly and two for young people. He also directed the "meeting" program centered on the strenghtening of bonds between the francophones and Jews of Quebec.

Mr. Batshaw was a graduate in social sciences from McGill University. He was responsible for social services in the Canadian Army in Québec during the Second War. He also sat on the

Quebec Superior Council of Education. At the time of the Vietnamese refugee crisis, he voluntered to organize the efforts of hundreds of other volunteers whose mandate was to raise funds and find host families for those refugees.
Mr. Batshaw always attached great importance to the welfare of children. He held posts as diversified as head scout with the Tameracouda Camp and as a social worker for children with psychological difficulties.
In 1975 there was a crisis in an institution for French-Speaking children caused by ill treament. Mr. Batshaw proposed to the Quebec Ministry of Social Welfare to inquire into these allegations. His offer was accepted; he formed a committee which produced a report recommending solutions to these problems. The recommendations were approved and the Ministry asked Mr. Batshaw to study 73 other centres for children in difficulty. This working group took the name the Batshaw Committee. A report of 11 volumes was presented after 11 months. This examination involved not only considerable improvements in a great number of institutions, but also the adoption of a new law for the protection of children in Quebec.
In 1993, 5 institutions for English-Speaking youth - Shawbridge Boys'Farm, Youth Horizons, Allancroft, Mount St-Patrick and Ville-Marie Youth protection Services - all amalgamated. These institutions unanimously decided to name their new organization " The Batshwa Family Youth Centres" in recognition of a whole life devoted to the community of Montreal and to the development of measures improving the welfare of youth in Quebec.

Write on!

Poetry pages

Thinking about...
by Kayla

As I sit here thinking about you,
And all the stuff you put me through,
Water comes to my eyes, but I don't let them show.
So many things I want to say
But I can't say it the right way.
So many people told me lies,
But for some reason, I can't cry.
In you, I thought I could trust,
But now that trust is gone in the wind like dust.

Lost and found
by Candace

Lost like a misshapen snowflake,
Tumbling towards the ground.