



**Twenty-Fifth Anniversary, October Twenty-Ninth, 1947**

*University of British Columbia*

*To the glory of our alma mater . . .*

IN THE DAYS WHEN U.B.C. WAS HARDLY MORE THAN AN INFANT, A GALLANT BAND OF STUDENTS ACCEPTED THE CHALLENGE CONTAINED IN ITS UNIVERSITY MOTTO: "TUUM EST"—IT'S UP TO YOU! THEY STAGED A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN WHICH SHOWED THE GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA THE NEED FOR BUILDING THIS UNIVERSITY ON ITS PRESENT SITE. IN APPRECIATION OF THE GREAT TRADITION BEGUN BY THESE STUDENTS, THE 9000 STUDENTS OF 1947 DEDICATE THIS BOOKLET.

TO THE GLORY OF OUR  
ALMA MATER  
STUDENT CAMPAIGN  
1922 — 23

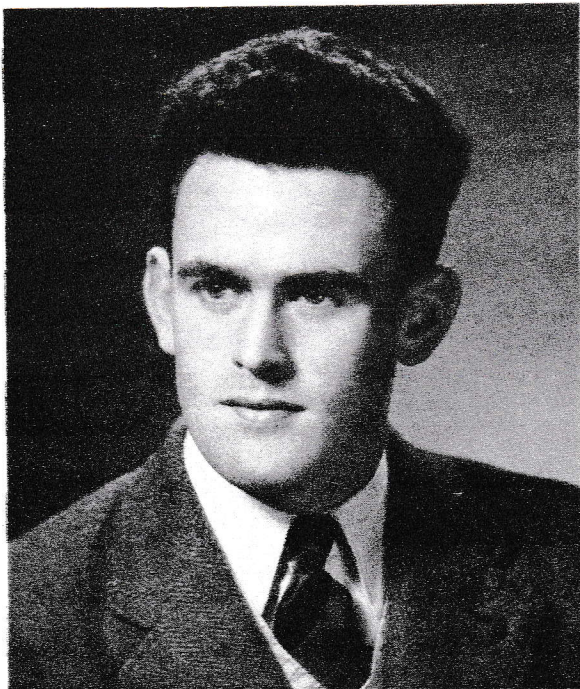
# Welcome . . . Alumni of the Great Trek



Twenty-five years ago today, the students of the University of B.C. established an honourable tradition. They fought for the completion of the University on its present site; and their campaign, which culminated in the trek and Cairn ceremony of Oct. 29, 1922, set a standard of student endeavour that is the constant inspiration of succeeding generations.

With humility and pride, we welcome back to the campus the Alumni who took part in the trek. And I pledge that as they dedicated the Cairn to the glory of our Alma Mater, we shall dedicate our strength to the continuation of their great work.

**GRANT LIVINGSTONE,**  
*President of the Alma Mater Society.*



On behalf of the students of the University of B.C., I should like to present to you this commemorative booklet. The story of the Great Trek of 1922 will live as long as there is a University of B.C. Present-day students have a sense of genuine indebtedness to you for the tradition of independence and energy which you have handed on. This booklet, we hope, will recall to you your own undergraduate days here; and it will also serve to show you that we are sincerely glad to have you back.

**ROBERT BAGNALL,**  
*Chairman of U.B.C. Homecoming Committee.*

## “We celebrate the Silver Jubilee . . .”

The tradition which has been most closely identified with the University of British Columbia is that of the student body's active concern for the present and future welfare of their Alma Mater. All undergraduate bodies possess it in some degree; in this University they do so in an exceptional way. It is a tradition which has done much to make identification with the University the stimulating and enjoyable experience it is.

On October 29th of this year we celebrate the Silver Jubilee of a great event in this tradition, the march from the Fairview huts to Point Grey and the erection of the Cairn. It is for this reason that it is a particular pleasure to welcome home the graduating class of 1922.

Your vision of a fully equipped university is still in the process of being realized. The active concern of us all, exemplified by you in 1922, remains the best guarantee that it will be realized.

NORMAN A. M. MacKENZIE,  
*President of the University of B.C.*



# First there were shacks . . .

This vast "city" of ten thousand people, the University of British Columbia, has a proud history. Behind the hewn stone facades of its permanent buildings and the brash walls of its "temporary" structures there is a story of energy and faith equalled by few other institutions in this province.

A university, like a man, has a life which is a complexity of detail. The spirit of U.B.C.—like the spirit of man—is the telling factor. U.B.C.'s spirit has been vigorous. The buildings will become stained with age and crusted with ivy, but this spirit will not change.

Today, 22 years after the opening of the university, the creepers grow thickly on the applied science, agriculture, and arts buildings. They are the symbol of U.B.C.'s growth and maturity.

The site of U.B.C. showed a different kind of green growth in 1877. Then, the whole area was a stand of brush and timber. That was the year in which John Jessop, Provincial Superintendent of Education, first suggested a university for British Columbia.

In 1890, the Provincial Legislature made its first move to realize Jessop's dream. It established a body corporate and politic named "The University of British Columbia". Dr. I. W. Powell of Victoria was appointed Chancellor and a Senate was elected.

Eight years passed before the next step was taken. In 1898, Vancouver High School affiliated with McGill University to offer first year arts. It took the name of Vancouver College.

McGill University College of British Columbia was established in Vancouver in 1906. The following year, an Act was passed endowing the University with 2,000,000 acres of Crown lands, and in 1908 the old Act of 1890 was repealed. The new Act, with amendments, determines the present constitution of the University.

A committee on sites chose Point Grey as the best location for U.B.C., and this site was granted in 1911. This grant was later increased to its present size of 548 acres. The 3,000-acre tract adjoining the campus proper was granted in exchange for the Crown lands previously given.

Hon. H. E. Young, Minister of Education in 1912, called for tenders for four buildings to be erected at once. Messrs. Sharp and Thompson were chosen university architects. The university had become a living organism at last.



## and bare girders . . .

The first convocation, held the same year, chose Mr. F. L. Carter-Cotton Chancellor; and in the year following, Dr. F. F. Westbrooke was appointed President. Clearing operations were begun in Point Grey shortly afterward. Construction was begun on the Science Building and on the "Aggie" barns early in 1914.

But the advent of World War I halted the operations. The bare girders of the Science Building symbolized the first disappointment in the life of the new university.

Nevertheless, in the second year of the war, U.B.C. opened its doors. That was September 30, 1915. Location was then in the "Fairview Shacks" on the Vancouver General Hospital grounds at Tenth Avenue and Laurel. First year enrollment was 379 students, who elected Sherwood Lett first President of the Alma Mater Society. The Players' Club and the Musical Society were founded that year.

*Anon*, a monthly literary magazine, appeared first in 1916. It became, later, the *Ubicee* which in 1918 became the *Ubysey*, a weekly newspaper.

Alma Mater Society fees were \$2.00 in those days!

Shortly before Armistice, Dr. Westbrooke died. He was succeeded as President by Dr. L. S. Klinck. Mr. Carter-Cotton retired and Dr. R. E. McKechnie became the new Chancellor.

By 1919, the inadequacy of the "Fairview Shacks" was painfully noticeable. Rats were seen in classrooms. The roofs were thought to be falling in. Overflowing students in the "Auditorium" were seated on the rafters. Classes were held in shacks, tents, a church basement, attics, and nearby homes.

Between 1916 and 1922, enrollment increased 211% to 1176 students; accommodation had increased only 25% during this time. Early in 1922, the students began agitating for action in building the university on the Point Grey site. On their return to classes in the fall, they formed the Publicity Campaign Committee.

This group, and the 1000-odd students who supported its activity, staged the campaign of 1922 which convinced the Provincial Legislature to continue the building of University of B.C. at Point Grey.

Today, 25 years after, their efforts are gratefully remembered by the University which they helped through difficult adolescence into vigorous youth.



# Then came the Trek . . .

As dissatisfaction with the "Fairview Shacks" increased in the early months of 1922, a good many plans of action were suggested. The most likely one, in the opinion of A.M.S. President-elect Ab. Richards, was that "The government be petitioned to take the necessary action which will result in the University being moved to Point Grey."

Ab., energetic and enthusiastic, interested the student body in the idea. Petition forms were printed and distributed to the students, who undertook to get them signed during the summer. By the opening of winter session, 15,000 signatures had been obtained.

It was apparent, then, that a great, organized, effort would be needed. A committee was therefore formed under the chairmanship of Richards. From a large group who had worked consistently all through the summer, he selected Marjorie Agnew (secretary), Betty Somerset (assistant secretary), Percy Barr (vice-chairman), Brick McLeod (treasurer), Jack Grant (campaign manager), Jack Brown, Jack Clyne, John Allardyce, Al Buchanan, and Aubrey Roberts.

A news service and a house-to-house canvass for petition signatures were organized. Students set up a booth at the exhibition, attended the Manufacturers' Dinner, addressed audiences from the stages of Vancouver theatres and over Radio Station CKCD. One student even set up a soap box in a downtown pool-hall. Another rode the Fairview street-car all day in order to collect signatures.

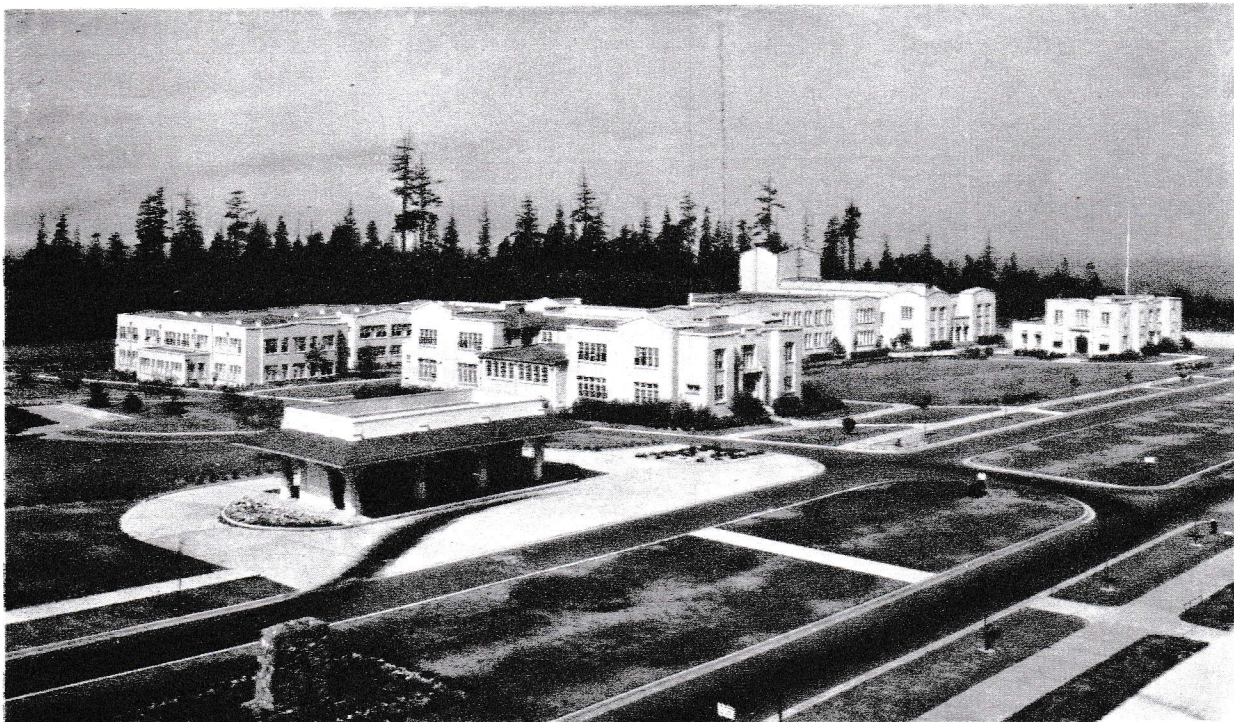
The week of October 22-29 was declared "Varsity Week", and students utilized a Wednesday half-holiday for a further canvass. When the names on the rolls were counted, it was discovered that over 56,000 signatures had been collected. Six page boys were required to present the rolls to the House! Today, this monster petition rests in the Provincial Archives.

Meanwhile, a mammoth Saturday morning parade through the main streets climaxed "Varsity Week". One famous float was formed with a huge sardine can on the back of a truck. It was labelled



"Sardines, Varsity Brand, Packed in Fairview". The science float carried complicated machinery and bore the title "B.C. Future Engineers". A horse-drawn cart carrying hay and animals represented the "Aggies". The Arts float told the story pointedly: "Is the present condition of the University a credit to B.C.? . . . 1200 students are crowded into accommodation for 300."

The parade disbanded at Davie Street, and the students rode street cars to 10th and Sasamat. Disembarking, they marched



## . . . and a new University

over a horse trail to the almost-bare campus. In protest against government "inaction", each of them picked up a stone and hurled it into a spot in front of the uncompleted Science Building. On this site, the stones were later fashioned into a Cairn. (A metal tube inside the Cairn contains the names of over 1000 students who participated into the trek.)

Showing excellent organization, the students climbed onto the girders of the Science Building for pictures, then formed up on the ground in gigantic letters: "UBC". These scenes are preserved in motion pictures owned by the University.

"Varsity Week" and the pilgrimage to Point Grey were almost immediately successful. The Rt. Hon. Ian McKenzie, then an M.L.A. for Vancouver, took up the students' cause in Victoria. On Tuesday, November 1, Ab Richards, Percy Barr, and Jack Grant went to Victoria to interview the Cabinet. The House adjourned its business to hear the pleas of the students. The *Vancouver World* reported that Ab. Richards made a "stirring and convincing speech to the House".

On November 9, the *World* carried the bold headline: "The University Will Be Built".

Premier John Oliver had announced a government grant of \$1,500,000, and construction on the Point Grey site began once more.

The Publicity Campaign Committee had done its work well.