FROM THE ARCHIVES
APRIL, 1995

The following information is excerpted from the report on local cemeteries researched by Jessie Lockhart in the Fall of 1994. The complete report is available at the Museum.

<u>WINDERMERE DISTRICT CEMETERY</u>

R.L.T. Galbraith, owner of the townsite of Windermere, donated 5 1/2 acres on Windermere Point to be used as a cemetery for the people of the Valley. The first burials took place in 1886 when a double tragedy occurred. James Mahon Rogers was killed when a wagon load of lumber fell on him. Robert Thornbury was digging the grave and on his way home afterward, was thrown from his horse and suffered a broken neck. A double funeral was held. The cemetery was managed from the Townsite Office.

August 23, 1911, J.T. Laidlaw, a surveyor authorized by the Provincial Government made a survey of the Windermere Townsite. On the map he prepared he shows the boundary fence of the cemetery containing 4.39 acres. 1.78 acres were designated for Protestant burials; 1.04 for Roman Catholic and 1.57 for others. The area marked 'other' is now known as the Legion area. The map is in the Museum.

In 1924, The Windermere District Cemetery Co. was formed to maintain the cemetery. Shares were sold at $10.00 each and this entitled the shareholder to a plot in the cemetery. The Windermere Orchards Co. who had purchased the Windermere Townsite from Galbraith, had control of the cemetery property. It appears that either in 1919 or 1923, when both Mr. W.H. Cleland and Mr. W. Weir were substantial shareholders in the Windermere Orchards Co. and the Invermere Contracting Co. Ltd., that the management of the cemetery was transferred to the Invermere Contracting Co. The Windermere District Cemetery property was then owned by the Invermere Contracting Co. The company also stocked coffins and at the time of a funeral, supplied a truck for a hearse and transportation for the mourners when necessary.

In 1971, the Invermere Garage closed and the building was sold. The cemetery property was transferred to the Corporation of the Village of Invermere the agreement was signed at 10:00 AM, April 24, 1972.

1980-81, the Windermere District Historical Society became interested in restoring the cemetery as a historical point of interest in the Valley. A Cemetery Restoration Committee was formed. Margaret Christensen, Phyllis Falconer, Jessie Lockhart, Winnifred Weir were members of the committee which had the cemetery officially declared an historical site on December 14, 1984 under the Heritage Conservation Act. This was accomplished by the support and help of Jim Chabot, MLA. The committee was greatly assisted by H.E. Richardson, an old-timer of Windermere then living in Victoria. He spent much time lobbying the various divisions of the government.

<u>ALL SAINTS CEMETERY, EDGEWATER</u>

The opening service for All Saints Anglican Church was held September 17, 1931. The church was to be used by Anglican, United and Lutheran congregations throughout the years. The land was donated by Columbia Valley Ranches and the building materials were given by the local sawmill. The graveyard was surveyed and the first memorial monument is dated 1932. Mrs. Dave Sawchuk has had jurisdiction of the graveyard. The original portion was nearly filled and the cemetery was extended onto land donated by Harry Moore.

SAINT MARK'S CEMETERY, GALENA
St. Mark's Church was built in 1896. It was built by volunteer labour on land donated by T.F. Pirie, an early settler. In 1903 the land was sold to John Fraser, a nephew of Rev. James Fraser, Presbyterian. In 1919 it was sold again to Fred Thatcher, son of an Anglican clergyman who conducted Anglican services occasionally until his death in 1934. Fred Thatcher sold the farm in 1945 and at the time deeded the church to the Anglican Church, Invermere.   The hilly location of the churchyard makes this small cemetery unique. The first grave marker is dated 1892. Winston Wolfenden has jurisdiction over the cemetery.

COLUMBIA BAND RESERVE CEMETERY
In the 1890's, Father Coccola of St. Mary's Mission, built the Sacred Heart Church on the Kootenay Indian Reserve and a graveyard was established in the churchyard. The graveyard and church are under the jurisdiction of the Columbia Lake Band Office. They have occasional services in the church and the graveyard is still used.

SHUSWAP INDIAN CEMETERY
The Shuswap Band had the first Indian church in the Valley. It was built on Chief Pierre Kinbasket's land and was attended by Indians and settlers. The cemetery was established on Charlie Kinbasket's land. He was the Chief's twin brother.
The old Indian log, Catholic Church was built in 1848 and was later replaced by St. Paul's Church on the Shuswap Reserve in the 1890's. It was built under Father Coccola's orders and James Lambert was the carpenter. Weddings and funerals are still held in the church as are Christmas services. The cemetery is still on the high land above the Columbia River.

FAIRMONT CEMETERY
The cemetery is located on property ranched by Joe Young and is now known as "the Meadows". He established his ranch in 1884. Mr. Young was killed in a horse & buggy accident in 1920. In 1923 the property sold to the Ogilvie-Wills. At the time of the death of Mrs. Ogilvie-Wills in the late 1930's, a part of the farm property was set aside for a graveyard and hers was the first burial. The resort was eventually sold but the sale did not include the cemetery.
Sometime in the years 1966-70 Miss Jeanette Ogilvie-Wills donated the cemetery and transferred the ownership and jurisdiction to Mr. Lloyd Wilder of Fairmont Resort. The Resort still controls the cemetery.