

THE GREY OWL SOCIETY

Bulletin No. 28



Edited by Betty Taylor

Hastings. November 2009

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Belaney, Archibald: A15259 Private
13th Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Force 1915 – 1917

I am researching in as much depth as I can the period of Archie's service in the Canadian Army in France and Flanders with the Black Watch of Montreal. I have his army service record file, which I am analysing. I propose to write up my research. I am awaiting the 13CEF war diary for the period he served with them overseas from the UK National Archives in Kew. There are a number of potentially interesting facts arising from these records apart from those highlighted by earlier authors such as Donald Smith. There is mention of his previous service with the Mexican Scouts and 20th Dragoons (not 28th). He claimed his place of birth to be Montreal. This may explain how he came to be sent as replacement to the Royal Highlanders of Montreal. I found it interesting to think of Archie's family having originated in the Lowlands of Scotland that he should serve with a Regiment associated with the Highlands. The records give the colour of his eyes to be 'Grey'. I consider the papers will put to rest the misapprehension that the wound in his foot was self-inflicted. I cannot understand how a shrapnel ball embedded in the sole of his right foot could have been self-administered. Archie was admitted into the Hastings Canadian Military Hospital within two weeks of his marriage to Ivy. He was in a relatively poor state of health at the time. He is also described as being a sniper (not just a marksman as I might have expected in any British Soldier's records) in many of the hospital records as well as in one place as being teetotal. At the time of his discharge from the army in Canada, Mrs. Ivy Belaney was living at 19 St. Andrews Square, Hastings. If you are aware of any other references to his service career I would be most interested to learn of these. My interest in his First World War service follows on from my research into Claude Nunney who was born in Hastings and having been sent as a Home Child to Canada won the Victoria Cross posthumously in 1918. I obtained a copy of Belaney's service papers when I ordered Nunney's. I would be interested to see what

photographs remain of him in uniform. For example are there any photographs of his wedding day?

Peter Silk

The above research was sent to the Society in 2003 and was kept in file (by Colin) awaiting further details. Peter Silk is a military historian and a friend of our member, Brian Purdey, who received permission to use this material. If any member has any information they would like to share please contact

Many thanks to Peter Silk - and please see next page.



Photo of St. Andrew's Square, Hastings today. No. 19 is on the right. The Square is in Hastings town centre, across the road from Marks & Spencer! (See also recently discovered photo of Archie with crutches – p. 4).



Don Smith sent in the above on December 30th last, adding 'Please find enclosed the 'new' photo that has come to light – Archie Belaney – in the London area military hospital immediately after his foot injury...several years ago a Canadian school-teacher bought this copy (see next page) of **The Men of the Last Frontier**. Grey Owl had given this book in 1936 to the nurse who helped him twenty years earlier. This is now owned by David Barn, a school teacher and Don has sent out copies with his permission. This is a very interesting addition for the archives!

Bought by David Bain

THE MEN OF THE LAST FRONTIER

To Miss Dyer
Sovereign of the Old, Unforgotten Day
GREY OWL

Sincerely



Grey Owl

Wa-sha-gua-ar

Your friend
The Indian

LONDON
COUNTRY LIFE LIMITED

Cover of the book mentioned on the previous page. Don also included a copy of a letter written by Grey Owl in Ojibwa adding "Unfortunately by 1936 Grey Owl's written Ojibwa was not great - not very much apparently makes sense in his letter". Again, our thanks to Don.

Friends of the Park PANP – Waskesiu

It was with great sadness that I received the tragic news of Audrey Sanderson's death in a road accident last Spring. Audrey was the Administrator of the "Friends" and had brought great enthusiasm to the group and forged new links with The Grey Owl Society.

The new Bookstore and Grey Owl and Anahareo Gallery at the Park were brought to fruition by Audrey and a "reader's corner" was to be added where, Audrey wrote "people can sit and read about the famous couple or read one of the many annual publications of the **Hastings, England, Grey Owl Society's bulletin**" (see Bull.27:24). Audrey wrote in August 2008 with a list of the missing G.O.S. Bulletins (12 in all) and these were packaged up and sent to the Friends in February of this year. Audrey kindly sent one of their new T-shirts with the Grey Owl motif for the archives (see Bull.27:18) and also one with the Anahareo motif – see below.

I never met Audrey but her letters to me were stimulating and very friendly. In January 2007 she wrote that "the information you and Ralfe* have sent me is like "gold". We are thrilled that you have sent us so much information...". We hope, of course, to keep close ties with the Friends of PANP. Our sincere condolences were sent to both the Friends and Audrey's family.

(* member, Ralfe Whistler)



Society's Annual Donation

The TEMAGAMI Community Foundation

At the Committee Meeting held on 26 March (see p. 30), it was unanimously decided to make a donation to the TEMAGAMI Community Foundation in Ontario in memory of **Albert Lalonde** who died there in August 2007 in a tragic lumbering accident (see Bulletin 26:35-37). The "TCF" was founded in 2001 "advocating environmental stewardship" and Albert and the Lalonde family were much involved. In their NEWSLETTER for Spring 2008 they covered Albert's death and his involvement in the Angele Egwuna Project (see Bulletin 25:6-7).

Albert was, of course, the grandson of Archie "Grey Owl" and Angele Egwuna and the Project was to celebrate his Grandmother and to ensure "that her story would be told". She was an Ojibwa of the Teme-Augama Anishnabi and married Archie at the church on Bear Island. The TCF's NEWSLETTER adds "We owe Albert and his family a great debt of gratitude for their combined efforts to help us see the excellence in our midst".

To support the Foundation, THE GREY OWL SOCIETY sent a **cheque for £500** in memory of **Albert Lalonde**. The Foundation wrote in May and thanked the GOS, adding "your generous gift will go a long way in helping our organization reach its goals". (\$1,000 Canadian).



Albert Lalonde with Polish member,
Dagmara Ginter, at Temagami in May 2004.

DONATIONS TO THE GREY OWL SOCIETY

We are very grateful to the following members for their donations – Harry Garside, Chris James, Ray Morley, and Gabe Fritzen. Also for the generosity of Cathy Carpenter, John Gregg, Don Smith, Margaret Charko and especially Jenny Phiri. This is a great help.

Peter Ingram of Selborne has sent an interesting brochure for the archives entitled **A Message From Grey Owl**. The “leaflet” was published by ULAWS (The University of London Animal Welfare Society) after Grey Owl had “addressed an audience of about twelve hundred members and guests of ULAWS, of whom nearly half were students”*. In essence, the leaflet is a copy of a handwritten letter by G.O. to Miss Marjorie A. Challen who was their General Secretary and was sent to their office at 42 Torrington Square, London. In his letter, G.O. includes the remark “I sincerely hope, with you, that the absolute abolition of the gin trap will not be too long delayed by the apathetic complacency of those who could help...”. This is the only copy in the archives and we are very pleased to have it.

* in January 1936.

Audrey Brooke from Leeds has sent an article from the Winnipeg Free Press for 30 June, 2008. The article describes the 75th anniversary celebrations of Riding Mountain National Park and the naming of the town, Clear Lake. Amongst the list of anniversary events are “workshops on how to build a log structure’ and “period costume readings about Grey Owl”. (Our North American Treasurer, Tom Watrous, has a strong interest in Riding Mountain – see for example, Bulletin 11:5).

Kenneth Overend, a local poet, has kindly sent the Society a copy of his fourth book of poems called **Sam Going Home**. Most of Kenneth’s poems have a “local” setting and this volume has “Poems with a Kent and East Sussex background”. Included in this collection “Grey Owl and Mrs. Champness” (pp. 74-78). The author has certainly done a lot of research and I very much enjoyed reading it. Mrs. Champness was, of course, the oldest of the McCormick children, all close friends of Archie’s. When Archie was eleven years old, the family moved to Highbury Villa on St. James’ Road (almost opposite No. 32 where he had been born) and the McCormick family lived close by at Preston Lodge. The book is inscribed “Copy for Grey Owl Society, compliments of author” and signed **Kenneth Overend**. Under the Acknowledgements: “I wish to thank the Grey Owl Society for kind help and advice... Mrs. Champness in the poem “Grey Owl and Mrs. Champness” is not intended as a character representation of the real person”. Published and available from The Sutcliffe Press, 61 Vale Road, St. Leonards, East Sussex TN37 6PT. Price £7.50. ISBN 978-0-9557485-2-3. I would recommend it! Earlier this year, Ken Overend won an award for “the best self-published anthology of poems the length and breadth of the country” (Hastings Town magazine. No.20 September 2009:6).

Ralfe Whistler has given a 1960 edition of **A Book of Grey Owl**, published by The Macmillan Company of Canada Limited, Toronto. This copy is interesting as it has a different colour cover and an attractive dust-jacket (showing a deer, bear and a beaver) which the other three copies in the archives do not have. It is “fun” to build up the library with these different editions. (The other copies in the archives are (i) published by Peter Davies, London, 1946, given as a prize by Great Walstead School: (ii) paperback copy published by Macmillan of Canada, Toronto in 1973 and (iii) hardback (undated) with the Glossary at the back instead of the front, published by Peter Davies, London).

Donations to the Society cont...

Ralfe has also sent in a copy of a journal **Toronto Field Naturalist** (No. 561 for February 2009). In this issue there is an article "From The Archives" published originally in December 1989, written by Rosemary Gaymer who was the TFN's President from 1972 to 1974. Rosemary outlines her early life in East Anglia which from first memories was involved with natural history and especially birds. She kept "nature note books" and says that her Father "was in many ways far ahead of his time in comprehending environmental problems, and the need for conservation". She goes on to write that "Another great influence on me was short but intense: meeting writer and conservationist **Grey Owl**". She read Grey Owl's books "over and over" and her Father took her to one of G.O.'s lectures on the 1937 tour. She patiently queued for his autograph and being last in the line had the opportunity to spend several minutes talking with him and adds that "I can still feel his incredible presence". Years later, in 1955, Rosemary emigrated to Canada and slowly became aware that it was Grey Owl's influence which eventually turned her "mind and life" towards that country. As many members will know, from similar accounts in past Bulletins, Grey Owl's influence reached many people in many places in many countries!

Ian West has given a copy of **Penguin Post** (published by Drusillas Park, Alfriston, E. Sussex. Vol.6, No. 2 . 1996/7). The centre double-page spread is titled "Grand Opening of Grey Owl's Cabin" to commemorate the official opening of their replica cabin on 8th June 1996. There is a short piece on the history of **The Grey Owl Society**. There is another mention of G.O. on p.2. Drusillas was "Britain's first Zoo to achieve the Government's "Investors in People" award. (There is another copy in the archives).

Margaret Wolley sent in a report from the **Daily Mail** for December 31, 2008, of a beaver who had escaped from his enclosure on a farm in Lifton, Devon. Apparently "the only beaver to roam wild through the English countryside for 800 years"(?). His owner, the conservationist Derek Gow, added a very interesting comment "in the Middle Ages, it was an incredibly valuable animal to kill. If you could kill a beaver, it would be three years' wages. That's why there are no beavers any more. It is a native animal and should be here. They are an absolute elemental part of wetland ecology".

Margaret also sent a xerox copy from **The Daily Telegraph** for 1st September. "After 500 years, baby beavers emerge from the shadows". There is a photo of a baby beaver (a kit) filmed near Cirencester, Glos. Six European beavers were introduced into the waters there four years ago and the photographer, Mike Powles from Norfolk, built a "floating hide" and waited patiently for sixteen days. This "proves the animals have bred in Britain" he says. Margaret adds in a note "I wonder how soon they will be in Sussex, in the River Rother?".

Richard and Wendy Johnston sent an article from **The Globe and Mail** (Ontario Edition) for June 22, 2009. "Adventures in bear country" by Roy MacGregor describes an amazing visit into the woods where he saw a large group of black bears, including six newborn cubs. "I had not seen so many bears in one place for decades" he wrote, adding "The bears were in excellent shape and not in the least aggressive". One expert told the writer that "you're 120 times more likely to be killed by a bee than a black bear". MacGregor then goes on "That sounds a bit like **Grey Owl**, who claimed the "bear is really a good fellow" who will eat whatever you leave lying around "just to show you that his heart is in the right place". No doubt there are those with gutted cabins and campsites who might like to discuss this if only **Grey Owl** were still around". An interesting article with a footnote – "there are 750,000 black bears in North America"!!

Donations to the Society cont...

Betty Taylor traced a paperback copy of the **Selected Poems of FRANK PREWETT**, for the archives* (Exile Editions Limited, Toronto. 2000. Edited by Bruce Meyer and Barry Callaghan and published with the help of the Canada Council and the Ontario Arts Council). Frank "Toronto" Prewett was a Canadian poet who fought and was wounded in the 1st World War. He claimed Iroquois lineage and became "the toast of British literati", meeting many of the famous, including Thomas Hardy, W.B. Yeats, T.S. Eliot, Siegfried Sassoon, the Woolfs and Robert Graves amongst others. Prewett was five years younger than Grey Owl and Meyer writes in the Introduction "...at the very time that Archie Belaney – who also had fought in the trenches – was hood-winking the world as **Grey Owl**, Prewett was declaring his Iroquois lineage at Garsington...". (First published in 1987).

*With the help of new member, Ann Woolgar!

In addition, another copy of **Half Breed: The Story of Grey Owl** by Lovat Dickson, 1939 (with dust-jacket) has been added. We have several copies already in the archives but of interest here, is a letter written and signed by Grey Owl to the owner of the book – Miss Lorna Bell, 4 Addison Crescent, London W14. "Dear Miss Bell – It is very good indeed of you to send such a charming gift to Anahareo and I know she will be most grateful, as I am. I am very glad you enjoyed the lecture and am most grateful for your good wishes. Yours truly, Wa-sha-quon-asin Grey Owl". The letter is typed on Lovat Dickson and Thompson Limited notepaper and details the 1st Tour on reverse. There were 2 Tour Organizers: Mr. W. Whitaker in charge of 32 towns and cities and Mr. H. P. M. Bower in charge of 31, including Hastings! Also inside the book are the following **original** newspaper cuttings: (i) Obituary. Grey Owl, Friend of Beavers. Canadian Indian Who Lived With Animals. Lecturer and Writer. **The Daily ?**, April 14th, 1938 (no other copy in archives); (ii) Grey Owl. No Question of His Indian Blood. Career in Detail. Letter from Lovat Dickson. 18 April, 1938. **The Times**. (Xerox copy in archives); (iii) Parentage of Grey Owl. A Message from Canada. Born in Mexico. **The Times**, 20 April, 1938. (Xerox copy in archives); (iv) Grey Owl Leaves £2,900. Plea for his Beavers. **The Telegraph**. 21 December 1938 (no other copy in archives).

(The Secretary of the Godalming Cats Sanctuary, Sheila Turner from Cranleigh in Surrey, contacted me and I was pleased to obtain the book, original newspaper cuttings and letter for the archives. I wonder what the present was for Anahareo?! Ed.).

Hastings Beautiful Town by Oliver Tookey has also been bought for the archives. (Published by Breedon Books, Derby. 2009. ISBN 978-1-85983-703-0. Price £14.99). Tookey is a freelance photographer who has "lived in the Hastings area since he was a child". Under the section **Famous Hastonians**, **Grey Owl** is included on pp. 210-213 with four photographs, including one of the Native American cabinets in Hastings Museum. (For comments on the author's translation of Wa-sha-quon-asin as "great Horned One", see **Stop Press**, p. 29). There are very many beautiful photos of Hastings throughout the book.

Joe Mould our Canadian member, from Lethbridge, Alberta, sent us a small sepia postcard of "Baby Beaver asleep on Grey Owl's shoulder". The postcard is obviously 1930s and is the same photo as the one in **The Green Leaf**. Issued by Prince Albert National Park and printed by Herald Printing Co., Ltd., Prince Albert, Sask. This postcard is a "first" for the archives!

Donations to the Society cont...

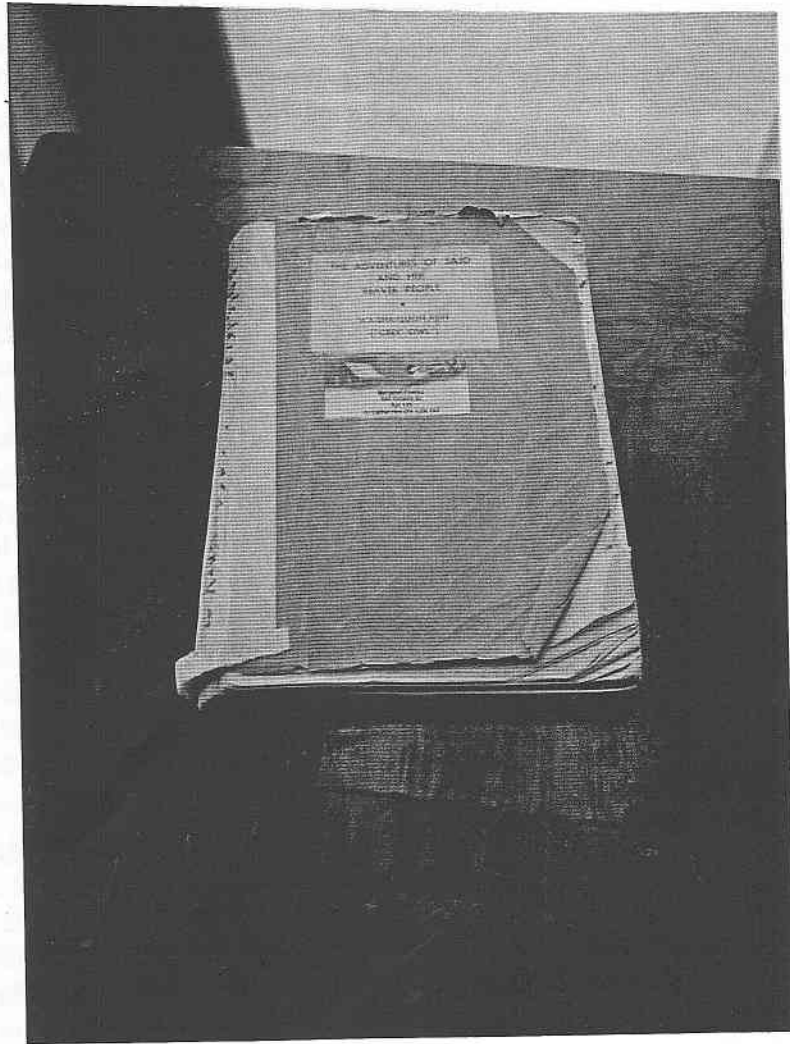
Don Smith (in addition to pp. 4 – 5), has sent the following items:

- (i) A **cookery** page (!) from The Globe and Mail, June 24, 2009. This fascinating story by Sue Riedl entitled “The Spread” is about a new variety of **cheese** named “Grey Owl”. This cheese has a “melt-in-the-mouth” texture and is described as a “showstopper”. “If the cheese world held a beauty pageant, Grey Owl could sweep all categories”. It has a “sweet and tangy flavour” and is made at Fromagerie Le Detour in Notre-Dame-du-Lac, Quebec at the request of “an American client”. It was first sold in the United States in January 2007 and introduced to the Canadian market in early 2008. One would have thought it might have been the other way round as the author continues that “the cheese was officially christened **Grey Owl**. The name not only refers to the colour of the cheese, it also honours the legend of Archie Belaney, one of Canada’s first conservationists, also known as Grey Owl”. Apparently, the “milk for Grey Owl comes from Saaned, a Swiss brand of goat”. The author of this amusing piece, Sue Riedl, studied at the Cordon Bleu in London. So, we have Grey Owl golf tournaments, Grey Owl wild rice and Grey Owl cheese!).
- (ii) A profile on **Lovat Dickson. Biographer and Publisher of Grey Owl** by Richard Dalby published in **Book & Magazine Collector**. Nov. 2000. No.200. pp. 20-30. The author writes that with the “release of Richard Attenborough’s new film, **Grey Owl**, this month is an opportune moment to remember the immensely varied career of Grey Owl’s chief publisher...”. The author writes that when Dickson decided to publish **Pilgrims of the Wild** in January 1935 “the book was an immediate success, and Dickson reprinted it three times within as many months. Sales quickly reached 35,000 copies”. He goes on to describe the first Lecture Tour in Britain that Dickson arranged: “Grey Owl’s lectures filled the Usher Hall in Edinburgh and the Free Trade Hall in Manchester, and after travelling from Exeter to Inverness, and from Bristol to Newcastle, he filled the Polytechnic Theatre in London twice a day for a month”. After Grey Owl’s untimely death and the revelation of the facts, Dickson reflected on the essential truth of Grey Owl’s message and contrasted the screaming, ranting voice of Hitler in the 1930s with Grey Owl’s words which “evoked an unforgettable charm...”. Richard Dalby goes on to discuss Attenborough’s film, adding “the film is a little plodding, but it is beautifully shot and the two beaver kittens....are enchanting”. He also agrees with most viewers of the film that the scene at the Aunt’s house in Hastings was “very moving”. Dickson wrote nine books (fiction and Biography/Autobiography) in addition to editing **The Green Leaf**. The author concludes that Dickson was “an outstanding editor and publisher”. The article is illustrated and we are very pleased to include it in the archives.
- (iii) Extracts from **John Buchan by his Wife and Friends** (Hodder and Stoughton Limited, London. 1947). Don has sent pp. 256-267 and on p. 261 there is reference to John Buchan’s (Lord Tweedsmuir’s) visit to Ajawaan Lake: “We lunched near Grey Owl’s cabin, now empty and deserted, and heard that Jellyroll, his favourite beaver, does not come when she is called, and that his other beavers do just what they like in his cabin”. (This visit took place in the summer of 1939). The Foreword was written by his Wife, Susan Tweedsmuir. For further references to John Buchan, see Bull. 8:23.

Donations to the Society cont...

Margaret Charko has sent a very interesting package for the archives. (i) an old and fragile **proof copy of "Sajo"** from her collection of items given to her by Grey Owl when she spent the Summer at the cabin, typing. She writes "I am sending you the book that Grey Owl sent to Lovat Dickson his publisher to be edited and returned to him with a few corrections. I am not sure he did them as he resented that, saying he wanted things printed as he wrote them..." (out of interest, I checked with the final copy and G.O. DID make the small changes that L.D. suggested, i.e. adding capitals to Happy Birthday (p.63), small "r" for Royalty (p.62), capitals for Long Ago (p.12) etc.).

- (ii) Photo of G.O's and Anahareo's daughter, Dawn at her wedding to Bob Richardson together with newspaper coverage (see p. 13).
- (iii) Outlines on some of G.O's articles in **Canadian Forest and Outdoors** (copies already in archives).
- (iv) Copy of newspaper (Saskatchewan, April 16, 1938) outline of G.O's funeral (photos) "Simple Cross Marks Grey Owl's Grave".
- (v) Replica copy of **The North Bay Nugget**, April 13th, 1938. Front page (another copy in the archives).



The fragile proof copy of "**Sajo**" with Lovat Dickson's suggested "corrections". (Given to Margaret Charko by Grey Owl when she worked as his Secretary at the Cabin in the summer of 1936), Margaret has generously donated this to the Society's archives. It is interesting to remember that this book was translated into 25 languages.



Dawn on her wedding day when she married Bob Richardson on October 15th, 1979. Dawn was, of course, the daughter of Grey Owl and Anahareo. **Margaret Charko** kindly sent the photo for the Society's archives together with a newspaper cutting from **The Kamloops News** (no date). The article is headed **Wed at Knouff Lake: Anahareo Grey Owl gives daughter away** (though the paper gives the date as October 20th). In his memoir*, Bob describes Dawn's skirt as "full-length" with "green aboriginal designs...and an aboriginal designed shawl". The Reverend Pederson from the Kamloops United Church performed the ceremony in the living room of the house that Bob and Dawn had just built themselves "by hand"! Margaret Charko's mother, Mrs. Winters who had brought up Dawn, attended the wedding and an excerpt from **Men of the Last Frontier** entitled "Fall of the Leaf" was read (the title of Chapter 6 in the book). Don Smith was amongst the guests and gave the "Toast to the bride". (For an outline of Bob and Dawn's visit to Hastings, Bob's exhibition and the sudden and sad death of Dawn, see Bulletin 3:1a – 4). (See also next page).

* **A Face Beside The Fire: Memories of Dawn Grey Owl – Richardson** by Bob Richardson (Steller's Jay Art and Publishing, Kamloops, B.C., Canada. 2001).

Donations to the Society cont...

Margaret Charko has also sent a copy of her "lecture" that she "gave so many times in Tillsonburg". Entitled "My Memories of Grey Owl", it runs to 15 pages and includes her memories of when her family moved to Prince Albert in 1932. Her Mother, Mrs. Etta Winters, ran a Boarding House for a while, mostly for Park Wardens from Waskesiu; Anahareo "Gertie" went to stay there waiting for her baby to be born (23 August 1932) and Margaret goes on to say that when Gertie came home from hospital "she was wearing a nice black dress, with her hair all permed. As she had been waiting at a Hotel until the birth of Dawn, she went shopping for a dress and got her hair done". That was the last time they saw Gertie in a dress – "very uncomfortable" she had said! It was in the fall of 1933 that Dawn went to live with the Winters family whilst Gertie went North, prospecting. Margaret's Father moved up to the cabin in the Winter of 1934 and typed Grey Owl's text for **Pilgrims of the Wild** (of interest, they were almost the same age, only 2 days difference). In 1936, Margaret took a "crash course" in typing and moved up to the cabin with her brother. As most members know, Margaret typed up **Tales of an Empty Cabin**, (on an Underwood typewriter)! There are some lovely descriptions of how she got "friendly" with the beavers and stopped being "scared"! Dawn stayed with the Winters family and went to school from their home – she was "like a Sister to me" writes Margaret. There is also an outline of the time when Dawn, as a teenager, developed diabetes which affected her eyesight, her heart and then her kidneys. It was from this background of ill health that Dawn was taken ill in Hastings and died aged only 52 years (1984). Margaret brings her talk up to date outlining the formation of The Grey Owl Society in 1982 and how much she enjoyed her visit here in 1998. She also adds details of the Attenborough movie "Grey Owl" when she was an "honoured guest" at the Premiere. Margaret finishes with "I will end all this with the same way Grey Owl ended his lectures: "Remember, you belong to nature, not it to you". (Enclosed were xeroxes of the two photos of Margaret and Stanley with Grey Owl at the cabin – see The Grey Owl Society 21st Anniversary Special Publication, 2002: pp. 6 and 8). This is a very interesting item for the archives and we are grateful to Margaret for including it in her package!

Margaret also sent another copy of Grey Owl's letter dated 25th October 1935 re "THE PRICE OF FUR" and written to a Mrs. Eva Graham Murray in London. (See Bulletin 18:14 for a copy and further details).

Finally, Margaret sent a copy of **The Universal Appeal of Grey Owl as a Writer and Conservationist**. This includes references and footnotes to many articles in most of the Grey Owl Society's Bulletins. It is headed "Conclusion" and I am sure that this was written by Dagmara Ginter as part of her Thesis on G.O.

Ann Woolgar (our new member), sent a copy of a Review of **Telling Tales: A History of Literary Hoaxes** by Melissa Katsoulis (from **The Sunday Times**, 1 November, 2009). The lengthy Review commences with an outline of the "bestselling author" **Grey Owl**, and sums up the book as "a delight from start to finish". Published by Constable, the third Chapter is entitled **Native Americans** and includes Grey Owl and Chief Buffalo Child Long Lance. B.T. has added a copy to the archives. It is interesting to compare this new edition of "Literary Hoaxes" with the following, also in the archives:


- (i) 1992 **Hoaxers and Their Victims**. Robson Books Ltd., London. The author, Nick Yapp, sums up G.O.'s life as "a gentle masquerade, and one of the most honourable" (p. 83).
- (ii) 1995 **The Book of Hoaxes: An A-Z of Famous Fakes, Frauds and Cons**. Headline Book Publishing, London. The author Stuart Gordon adds "Probably he was a much greater man as the fake "Grey Owl" than he could ever have been as the genuine but plain Archibald Belaney" (pp. 43 – 44).

Continued from previous page:

(iii) 2000 **Impostors: Six Kinds of Liar. True Tales of Deception.** Viking. (Penguin Books, 2001). The author, Sarah Burton, describes G.O. as “the prototype eco-warrior” and “a talented writer”, adding that his lectures “spoke pure romance” (pp. 208 – 210).

(See also p. 26)

A tapestry as rich as Bayeux



A MURAL depicting the colourful history of Hastings will be making a rare appearance tomorrow at an exhibition.

Ron Nicola's epic series of paintings entitled *The Millennium Chronicle of Hastings* are on display in the town hall's council chamber from 10.30am to 4pm.

Ron is inviting visitors to the Books Born in Hastings exhibition to view the nine panels that make up his pictorial history of the town, and will be talking about some of the stories behind the project.

The fascinating series of panels, which depict more than 50 characters and events in the history of Hastings and its people, was displayed at Battle Abbey during the Millennium celebrations in 2000 and attracted interest from a variety of arts organisations but in recent years, they have been relegated to Ron's spare bedroom.

He said: "The Millennium gave me an opportunity to create a work of art based on the style of the famous Bayeux Tapestry. Hastings has a particularly rich history."

Local publisher Kay Green is planning to work with Ron next year on a book about the painting, and about the aspects of Hastings it depicts, from Grey Owl to John Logie Baird, the inventor of television, and from King Harold to Catherine Cookson.

She said: "When I first went to see the paintings, I was struck at once by the enticing colours."

"The enthusiasm a lot of Hastings people feel for their town really shines out."

"As I looked closer, unexpected details caught my interest one after another. It's fun spotting the familiar icons of the town like Grey Owl and Robert Tressell, or the fishermen's church."

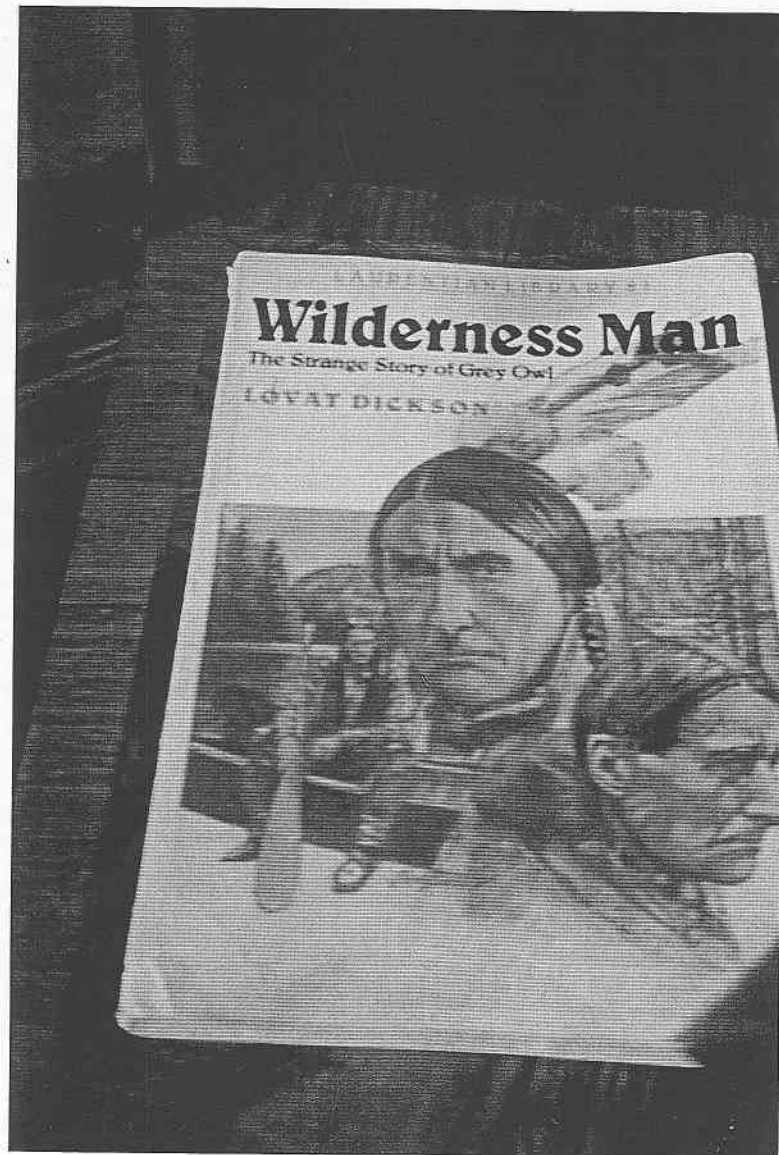
"Ron's work is of great value to the town and something which stimulates so much curiosity would make a fantastic learning resource."

Mural "The Millennium Chronicle of Hastings" by artist Ron Nicola. Grey Owl depicted on the left. (Hastings & St. Leonards Observer 9.10.2009.) (See p. 30).

Donations to the Society cont...

Mrs. Joan Fowler of Outwell, Cambs., donated three books to the Society. (i) **Grey Owl and I** by Anahareo (with dust jacket). Inside is the inscription "To Richard from Dawn 1998". This cannot be Anahareo's and Grey Owl's daughter Dawn (to whom the book is dedicated), because Dawn died in June 1984. (ii) **The Green Leaf: A Memorial to Grey Owl**, edited by Lovat Dickson (with dust jacket). (iii) **The Adventures of Sajo and her Beaver People** by Grey Owl with a short review (from the **Radio Times** (?) of Margaret Horsfield's programme "I Bring You a Green Leaf" (broadcast by the B.B.C. on 8 September, 1984 – a cassette is in the Society's archives, sent to us at the time by Margaret Horsfield). Also enclosed in this package, was an article about Grey Owl and Richard Attenborough's film from **The Mail on Sunday** for March 7, 1999. Although we have other copies of these items in the archives, it is good to have extras. (See also p. 24).

Ralfe Whistler has given a paperback copy of **Wilderness Man** with an "original" cover not on the other copies in the archives. This "Laurentian Library 81" edition was published by Macmillan of Canada/Toronto in 1984. (See below).





The photo above shows "boyhood friends of Archie Belaney". Left to right: Bob Overton, Henry Hopkin and Bill Dyer, taken at the unveiling of the Grey Owl Plaque in Fairlight Country Park (near Hastings) by the Ontario Heritage Foundation, in the mid-1970s. Bob (and other friends) used to laugh at Archie "for being so different" but they admired him for his "expertise about nature". Henry Hopkin became Archie's "best friend" at school and the fact that neither of them had a Father living at home probably "drew them together". It was Henry who sometimes walked with Archie out at Fairlight Glen, looking for snakes and other creatures that Archie kept in his menagerie in the attic. Henry also recalled that "playing Indians" was Archie's favourite occupation! (Sent for the Society's archives in 1994 by Don Smith. See Don's **From the Land of Shadows: The Making of Grey Owl**, Western Producer Prairie Books, Saskatchewan, 1990: pp. 16, 17 and 22).

HIGHWOODS, Little Common: Society's Visit – Sunday, 26th April

As members will know, the planned visit to **Highwoods** last Summer, had to be cancelled at the last minute (see Bull. 27:17-18). As anticipated, the visit was re-arranged for this year and on a glorious warm sunny day, a group of us met at the entrance to the woods at Little Common, (a few miles from Hastings) early in the afternoon on 26th April. We numbered about thirty of which twenty were members of the Society. Highwoods is a peaceful, green area of old woodland covering about eighty-seven acres and the Highwoods Society was founded in 1980 to maintain and preserve this beautiful stretch of countryside. Alan Malpass, the President and Guardian of the Society, guided us on a most interesting walk, pointing out notable flora such as Yellow Archangel, Dog's Mercury and Butcher's Broom amongst other numerable species. Alan brought the woodland "to life" by explaining the use of oval-trunked Hornbeam trees to showing the transformation of colour of a Bluebell to deep pink when dipped into an ant's nest – which can contain thousands of ants whose formic acid turns the colour of the petals! There was a mixture of trees – Oak, Hazel, Chestnut, Birch, Beech to name a few – and the dominant bird of the afternoon seemed to be the Chiffchaff! A rare sighting of a Hawfinch had recently been reported (probably attracted by the Hornbeams), but it kept its distance on Sunday afternoon! One of the worthwhile customs adopted by the Highwoods Society, is the posting of small commemorative plaques at intervals in the woods. Many local people make donations in remembrance of a late family member or friend who loved to walk in the woods. Highwoods was one of our projects last year chosen for a donation and **The Grey Owl Society** gave a cheque for £150 towards the preservation of this "Woodland Heritage" (see Bull. 27:14). The photo on the following page shows the Grey Owl Society's "plaque". At our committee meeting held on 26 March (see p. 30) we chose a combination of two of G.O's quotes which seemed appropriate:

"Kindness to animals is the hallmark of human advancement..."

"Remember you belong to Nature, not it to you".

Bill and Margaret Van Draat had invited us all back to their home for what can only be described as a "scrumptious tea – banquet" – smoked salmon, home-made scones, chocolate profiteroles and strawberry-raspberry cream meringues – to name some of the delights! To end the afternoon on the lawns of Bill and Margaret's delightful garden was perfect and we reiterate our thanks and appreciation to both of them.

B.T

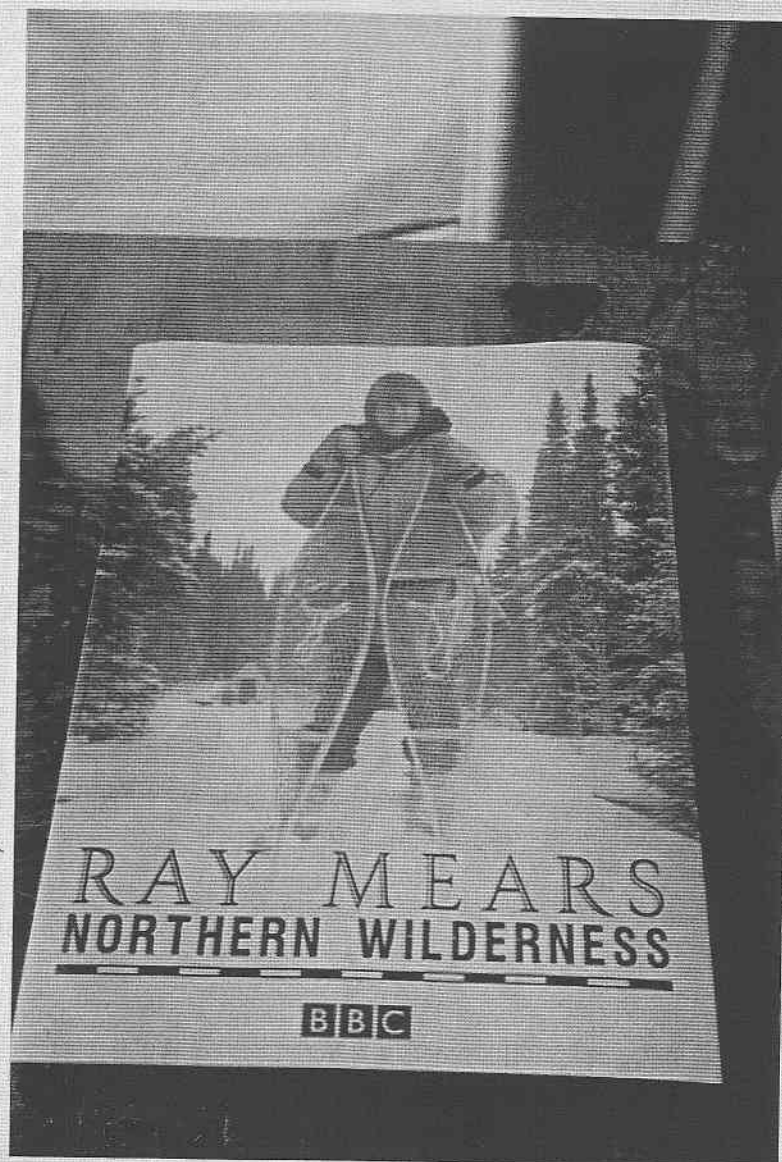


Left: The plaque to Grey Owl in **Highwoods** at Little Common, near Hastings. For “wording”, see previous page (apologies for poor photo)!

Below

Tea in the grounds of [redacted] Bexhill (courtesy of Bill and Margaret Van Draat).





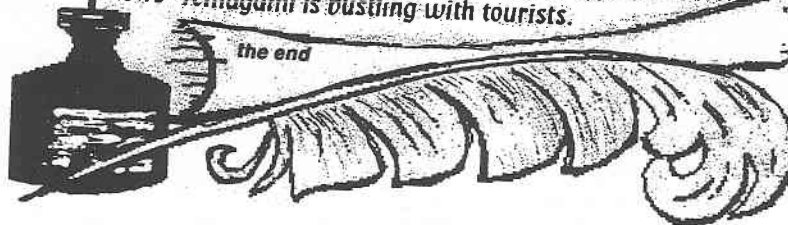
Northern Wilderness by Ray Mears, published by Hodder and Stoughton (2009) to coincide with the author's new series shown on BBC2 this Autumn. Although there is only a short piece on Grey Owl (p. 12), "an extraordinary man...and an early conservationist", Mears adds "I very much enjoyed seeing his remote cabin which remains much as he left it". There are illustrations of the approach and the cabin between pp. 20 – 21. In **The Observer** (Sunday, 13.09.09: 8 – 9), under the heading "Canada's Northern Wilderness", Mears refers to Samuel Hearne "one of the great unsung explorers (18th century) ever to emerge from Britain" and then refers to Grey Owl as "a much later but similarly pioneering figure". Mears, who greatly admires G.O., goes on to say that although in the past he had canoed many of the places known to him, this was his first visit to the cabin with its "old woodburning stove...Not many people make it there, especially in Winter, and it was incredibly peaceful". (A copy of **Northern Wilderness** and **The Observer** article are in the archives). The episode covering Mears' visit to the cabin was shown on BBC2 on Sunday, 25th October, at 8 p.m., with a 4 star rating (Very Good). The programme was repeated the following Tuesday and we hope to obtain a video for local members to watch (please see p. 24 for further details). For details of Mears' previous series **Ray Mears' Bushcraft** shown in 2005 when he talks with Margaret Charko about Grey Owl in the programme "Canoe Journey" (BBC2) see Bulletin 24:23, • Park Canada's detailed website: tinyurl.com/npvuwa

From Eva Guppy's Diary 1904-1940
submitted by Peggy Guppy

continued from June Talker

- 1924 George Guppy hauls in a 54 lb lake trout from Temagami Lake.
- 1924 Ted Guppy brings in The Iona.
- 1925 Willie Guppy lost in bush, body discovered on second day.
- 1925 The last of the full blooded Ojibways at Keewayden are Alex Baptise and sons.
- 1926 Guess Archie likes variety, his third try. He marries Gerty Bernard from Wabikon Camp. He married Constant Homes in 1917 and Angele Egwana in 1910.
- 1926 George Guppy goes to work at Borden Pictures.
- 1927 Archie Belaney visits Angele on Bear Island
- 1928 Bob Hope and Lucille Ball visit Bear Island.
- 1930 Joe La Flam takes tame wolf team to New York to exhibit in Sportsman Show.
- 1930 Bill Twain, Adam Commanda, Butch Turner, Alex Matias, John Katt Sr., Sonny Moore, Willie Friday, Gordon Turner, Stanley Roy, John Katt, and Bill Katt get their pictures taken for paper.
- 1937 George Fowler forms boys pipe band.
- 1937 Ted Guppy has his picture taken with actor Jimmy Stewart.
- 1940 Bill Cottrell and wife make their weekly visits to Bear Island where he calls off for square dance.
- 1940 Temagami is bustling with tourists.

the end



This extract from Eva Guppy's Diary was published in the **Temagami Talker** this Autumn. Archie stayed with the Guppy family during 1906-07 and Eva is possibly Bill Guppy's daughter. (See Don Smith's **From the Land of Shadows** (pp. 35 - 38). Sent for the archives by Richard and Wendy Johnston of Orillia, Ontario. (Richard adds in his letter "I'm not sure if Archie Belaney's visit to Angele on Bear Island (1927) trumps the (1928) visit of Bob Hope & Lucille Ball...")!

FIRES THREATEN BEAVER LODGE

Grey Owl's Cabin at risk

Park fires threaten Grey Owl cabin

BY JILL COLVIN

Fire crews worked yesterday to protect the historic home of Grey Owl — one of Canada's first conservationists — from forest fires burning in Saskatchewan's Prince Albert National Park.

The fires, 14 of which were still burning yesterday evening, were among 82 blazes in Saskatchewan and Alberta sparked by lightning strikes in the last few days.

Parks Canada staff installed a pump and sprinklers at Grey Owl's tiny log cabin on Aja-waan Lake on Sunday to protect it from flames that burned as close as one kilometre away.

As of last night, officials said that fires threatening the site had been contained.

"There is no foreseeable threat to Grey Owl's cabin," said Parks Canada spokesman Adam Pidwerbeski.

Twenty-five personnel and four helicopters were working to extinguish the remaining fires, burning in the northern, most remote areas of the park.

Grey Owl was one of Canada's first and best known conservationists.

Born Archibald Belaney in England, he came to Canada in 1906 to work as a beaver trapper. Stunned by the destruction he saw, he began writing about the importance of protecting our natural resources.

He eventually adopted the native name Grey Owl and became well-known as an advocate for conservation.

According to Colleen Gerwing, an interpreter at the park, not even Belaney's wife knew the truth that he had no native blood.

In 1930, Grey Owl was hired by what was then the Dominion Park Service to bring attention to several new parks in Saskatchewan. He settled in Prince Albert National Park with his Ojibwa wife, Angele Egwuna, daughter, and pet beavers in 1931.

About 1,300 people still travel to visit the site each year, Mr. Pidwerbeski said.

With a report from
The Canadian Press

SASKATCHEWAN

Forest fires threaten Grey Owl's log cabin

Crews were working yesterday to protect the historic log cabin of Grey Owl — one of Canada's first conservationists — from forest fires in Prince Albert National Park. The fires were among more than 80 new blazes in Saskatchewan and Alberta sparked by lightning strikes in the last few days.

Grey Owl was an Englishman named Archibald Belaney, who came to Canada in 1906 and adopted a native identity. He became well-known the world over as a writer and guide.

From the Star's wire services

Toronto Globe & Mail.

16 June 2009

Toronto Star.

June 2009

We are grateful to Richard and Wendy Johnston, Don Smith and Tom Watrous, for sending these cuttings. It is interesting to re-read Major Wood's letter (included in Bull. 14: 22 – 23). Major Wood was Superintendent of Prince Albert National Park at the time of Grey Owl's death in 1938. At the time, he wrote to Lovat Dickson with details of events leading up to G.O.'s demise. He also gave a fair assessment of G.O., writing "...I care not whether he was an Englishman, Irishman, Scotsman or Negro. He was a great man with a great mind...He will be remembered for his efforts to educate the people to the disastrous effects of forest fires. His vivid comparison of a burnt-over area with an area covered with waving trees is one that no thinking person could ever forget..."

(See also next page)

Grey Owl's cabin under fire watch

BY JASON WARICK, SASKATCHEWAN NEWS NETWORK JUNE 16, 2009

Sprinklers have been installed near Grey Owl's cabin in Prince Albert National Park to protect it from a forest fire, one of dozens of blazes sparked in the province in the past two days.

The number of forest fires burning in the province has shot up due to hot, dry conditions and a series of lightning strikes, say officials.

"We have a lot of wildfires burning," said Adam Pidwerbeski, fire information officer for Prince Albert National Park.

Although a number of fires are burning in the park, they are confined mostly to the remote northern sections, Pidwerbeski said. The national park is located 200 kilometres north of Saskatoon.

The cabin of Grey Owl, named for the British conservationist who adopted a traditional lifestyle and lived there with his family and two beavers, is not under any immediate danger, Pidwerbeski said. A fire was burning about one kilometre away and didn't appear to threaten it, but sprinklers were placed around the cabin as a precaution, he said.

Several remote campgrounds are also closed temporarily, including Peace Point, Blade Bone and Bagwa, but the main areas of the park remain open to the public, he said. No smoke is visible in the park townsite of Waskesiu, he said.

Park officials recognize fire can have a place in the life cycle of a forest, but human safety and protection of important park landmarks takes priority, Pidwerbeski said.

In addition to the fires burning in the park, workers were battling a total of 44 other forest fires across the province as of Monday afternoon. That's "quite a jump" from 10 fires last weekend, said Val Nicholson, spokesperson for the Ministry of Environment.

Three of those fires are not yet under control. One of those is on the west border of Prince Albert National Park and covers an area of more than 100 hectares. Another blaze between the communities of Green Lake and Big River is also larger than 100 hectares, she said.

jwarick@sp.canwest.com

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The above has been sent for the archives by Don Smith – see also previous page.

Members' and Friends' Correspondence

Ray Morley (who joined the Society in 1988 and who is now 85 years old) wrote that at the previous exhibition of **Karsh's** work at The National Portrait Gallery, London, his portrait of Grey Owl was "very prominent" (see last year's Bulletin: p. 29 when the centenary exhibition did not include G.O.). Ray goes on to say "...It's now 70 years ago that I sat in my Grandmother's Living Room and heard on the 1 p.m. news that Grey Owl had passed on. It was a great shock". It is very interesting to hear these reminiscences from our older members!

Mrs. Joan Fowler of Outwell, Cambs., contacted the Society in February, offering us three books from her late Husband's collection (see p. 16), adding "My Husband was a Spiritualist and was very close to Grey Owl through meditation...I have three books about Grey Owl which Richard collected and also a copy of a picture of Grey Owl which stands in our meditation room,". In thanking Mrs. Fowler for getting in touch with The Grey Owl Society, I mentioned that I remembered meeting her and her Husband at the Wisbech & Fenland Museum in the Autumn of 1994. Colin gave a lecture at the time which coincided with The Grey Owl Exhibition being held (curated by our late member, David Devenish and supported by the Society – see Bulletin 13:3). Outwell is on the outskirts of Wisbech.

Margaret Charko wrote in July about the forest fires threatening Grey Owl's cabin (see pp. 22-23). "...one came so close they were afraid of losing the cabin and because it is close to the lake they were able to put a pump in the lake and have a sprinkling system over the cabin...The rains came finally and put the fires out up there. They said they sometimes have 3000 people register each Summer up there. So very popular yet. It was in the main newspapers". (It seems very fortunate that the end result was a happy one!).

Cathy Carpenter wrote and enclosed details of **Ray Mears' Northern Wilderness** (see p. 20). Cathy wrote "I quite enjoy programs of that type so I decided to tape it...It dealt with the usual beautiful scenery, the snow of course at sometimes 35 below zero...then came the more interesting part, the animals and on to the beavers. We were shown the way they build their dams and how they protect themselves in Winter...and then a lovely surprise. We were taken into Grey Owl's cabin and shown around it while Ray Mears told the story of the Man who was born in Hastings in England but chose to live the life of an Indian...the vital work that he did in saving the beavers, the many books that he wrote and while he spoke many pictures of Grey Owl were shown, one in full Indian bonnet. As the credits rolled afterwards the name of Margaret Charko came up...". We are extremely grateful to Cathy for offering to send us a tape of the programme (as I was away in France at the time and knew I would miss it)! We will arrange a get-together at _____ for local members, early in 2010! (Well in her 80s, Cathy is one of our most energetic and enthusiastic members (see p. 29)!

Kristin Gleeson wrote that the book **Recollecting Women** (for which she has written a chapter on Anahareo) "hasn't been published yet", adding that a copy will, of course, be sent for the Society's archives. Kristin is also still researching her biography on Anahareo and added that she was "very grateful to Don's help in putting me in contact with so many people". (See outline of last year's AGM/Dinner on pp. 27 - 28).

STOP PRESS

We are very pleased to welcome the following new members:

Brian and Norma Horsefield, St. Leonards-on-Sea
Wilfred and Moira Pickard, Hastings (re-joined)
Gordon Trewinnard and Christine Pickard, Hastings and London (re-joined)
Ann Woolgar, Southwick, W. Sussex

(It is interesting to note that the Society was formed in April 1982, with six founder members. By November 2009, two hundred and sixty-two people had joined the Society although, of course, many were no longer members for various reasons. The biggest surge in membership was between 1998 – 2001 when Sir Richard Attenborough's film GREY OWL (starring Pierce Brosnan) received international media attention. As discussed at the Committee Meeting in May 2004 – see Bull. 23:25 – it was decided NOT to advertise the G.O.S., the idea being that the genuinely interested would track us down, through Hastings Information Centre or the Central Library or Hastings Museum!

Nick Mills (1954 – 2008). We reported the sad news of Nick's passing, in last year's Bulletin. We later received a copy of the Obituary published in **The Daily Telegraph** for November 26, outlining Nick's varied and successful career with mention that he was the "beaver adviser on Richard Attenborough's film **Grey Owl**". (Given for the archives by member, Adrian Barak).

Blacklands Church, Hastings. Christmas Market 2008. At the request of members Rodney and Margaret Turner, we mounted a **Grey Owl Display** at last year's Christmas Market at Blacklands Church. By coincidence, it was 120 years almost to the day, after Archibald Stansfeld Belaney was baptised in Christchurch, Blacklands! The table display attracted quite a lot of interest and we were pleased to receive two new members – Brian and Norma Horsefield.

The Art Fund Members' Guide. 2009. (Registered Charity No. 209174). This Guide lists all the Museums and Galleries in Britain with Art Funded works in their collections. Hastings Museum is listed on p. 27 and is described as "a glorious mixture of the exotic and the local...". Amongst the Museum's treasures, is added "Native American exhibits linked to the conservationist Grey Owl...".


Grey Owl Golf Tournament, Manitoba. This is still receiving a lot of publicity in the Winnipeg press as it nears its 50th anniversary (started in 1961). This is played at the Clear Lake Golf Course and the headline in the Winnipeg Sun (Sports Pullout) is **Grey Owl still a hoot**. (Thanks again to member, Audrey Brooke for the cutting)!

ADNEWS (Hastings). January 28, 2009. **The Unusual Names Commemoration Society** (yes – based in Hastings) wants to plaque houses in the town where people with "unusual" names have lived – suggestions Mary Gobbles, Mary Suet Copley, Farty Gladwish, Thankful Butler" Their spokesman, David Kent, suggests these names would attract more tourists and "create huge interest" adding "I cannot imagine many people making special trips to Hastings to look at plaques commemorating Grey Owl, Robert Tressell or Dante Gabriel Rossetti"!! David Kent would be amazed how many visitors come to Hastings – from many countries – to follow the Grey Owl trail – and I'm sure the Rossetti trail too. (Also printed in the Hastings and St. Leonards Observer, January 23rd).

Hastings and St Leonards Observer, Friday, December 31, 2004 7

Please write to The Editor, Hastings Observer, Woods House, Telford Road, St Leonards TN38 9LZ. Or e-mail: observer@trbeckett.co.uk

Two remarkable local figures



I WAS most interested to read (Observer, Dec 17) of Mavis Spencer Roberts' biography of her husband Arthur, and particularly that you should have printed a picture of one of his portraits of Grey Owl.

In September 1988, to celebrate the centenary of Grey Owl, Arthur Spencer Roberts was the guest of honour at the unveiling of a plaque and the planting of a tree at William Parker School, of which I was then Headmaster. At the time he presented to the school his sketch of Grey Owl which we displayed in pride of place in the school hall until, tragically, it was destroyed in the fire of 1993. Grey Owl had been a pupil at the school, then the Hastings Grammar School, back in the early years of last century.

At that time Archie Belaney was remembered as a boy who brought ferrets and various other creatures to school in his clothing. As a young man he disappeared, 'went native' in Canada, resurfaced as Grey Owl, and acquired an international reputation in the 1930s as a writer and lecturer on the environment and particularly as an authority on the life of the North American beaver. Thank you for reminding your readers of Arthur and Archie, two remarkable local figures.

ROGER MITCHELL
St Helen's Road

As many members will know, Arthur Spencer Roberts was the Society's first Vice-President. For an outline of the plaque unveiling at William Parker School (formerly Hastings Grammar School which Archie attended), see Bulletin 7:5-6. The beaver on the cover of all the Bulletins was, of course, drawn by Arthur. For an outline of the biography by Mavis, see Bulletin 24:18. (Thanks to Rodney Turner for sending in this cutting for the archives – it had somehow been overlooked in 2004).

The English Westerners' Society. This Society is highly respected and is now in its 54th year and produces quarterly journals called "The Tally Sheet". In its latest issue (Vol.54. No.3:p.18) there is an article entitled **The American West is Alive and Well – in Hastings, Sussex!** There are references to Grey Owl, Edward H. Blackmore (our first President) and Colin Taylor (founder of the G.O.S.). Included are photos and a small map of Hastings Museum and some of the cabinets displaying North American Indian artefacts.

Daily Mirror, February 22, 1974. A small article "Owl of the Remove" with two photos of Archie/Grey Owl. "The Greatest literary hoax of the century...the cultured grammar school boy from Hastings...". This piece was printed to coincide with the publication of Lovat Dickson's **Wilderness Man**. This article, found recently in a book, is new for the archives!

STOP PRESS cont...

AGM/CHRISTMAS DINNER: 4 December, 2008

The informal AGM and Christmas Dinner was held as usual at the Beauport Park Hotel (now known as Bannatyne's Beauport Park Hotel & Health Club). This hotel was originally built as a family home in 1763 by the "first civil governor of Quebec", General James Murray and the Canadian connection was the reason behind the decision to hold the AGM/Dinner there. We are fortunate that the Quebec Room, where the Dinner is held, has remained in the traditional style and has not been modernised! Thirty-five members sat down to the traditional Xmas menu. We were particularly pleased that our Vice-President, Professor Don Smith, came over from Calgary for this our 21st Dinner at The Beauport (the last time Don joined us was several years ago), and he reminded us that this was the 120th anniversary of Archie's birth! The Secretary then read out the "Apologies" and then welcomed Dr. Kristin Gleeson who had flown in from County Cork in Ireland and also our new members, Brian and Jan Lewis from Worthing, Brenda Wilson and David Brown from Hastings and Anne Ainslie from Battle. Bill Van Draat gave the Treasurer's Report – funds still healthy even after our two donations totalling £400 for 2008 – and, as usual, gave special thanks to both Margaret Charko and Jennifer Phiri for their extremely generous donations. We then asked Kristin to talk about her research on Anahareo and her chapter for the book "Recollecting Women" (see p. 24). Don was very supportive and enthusiastic about Kristin's research, saying that not enough importance has been attached to Anahareo's character and influence. There was quite a lively cross-table debate when Don suggested that things had gone rather quiet on the "Grey Owl front" over the last couple of years or so; Brian and Jan Lewis agreed (see their article in last year's Bulletin, pp. 3-5). There were a number of interesting and new items on the Archive Table (and we had added a copy of Don Smith's biography **From The Land of Shadows: The Making of Grey Owl** for the benefit of our more recent members). Margaret Turner ran the raffle which made £28 for the funds, after which the evening wound up as we chatted and got up-to-date on members' news. The whole evening was well documented by member, Michael Plumbe, who took many photos with his digital camera (as some of you will find with your Bulletin)! This was much appreciated as last year appeared to be the only year when no-one recorded the event! It was pretty cold when we left the hotel!



Don Smith and Betty Taylor at the AGM/Christmas Dinner.
Photo by member, Michael Plumbe (also see following page).

STOP PRESS cont...



Tina Andrews, Don Smith and Kristin Gleeson outlining her research on Anahareo, at the AGM/Dinner (see previous page).



Ian West, President of the Society, with his Wife Irene (at the AGM), (see previous page).

Both photos kindly supplied by member, Michael Plumbe

Hastings Beautiful Town by Oliver Tookey (see "Donations" p. 10).

The chapter on **Grey Owl** commences with a translation of Wa-sha-quon-asin as "Great Horned One". This is incorrect, of course, but the translation has always caused confusion and so I refreshed my memory by re-reading Don's comments in "Shadows".* In the Spring of 1931, G.O. was using "Wa-shee-quon-asier but by the end of that year the name had been changed to "Washaquonasin", then "Wa-sha-quon-asin". Don continues that the Ojibwa word "washaquonasie" (note the "e" on the end not an "n") refers to the "screech owl (*Otus asio*), many of which are greyish in colour". Don continues that "in calling himself Grey Owl, he thus identified himself with this very common, small owl, and not with the rare, very large Great Grey Owl". Don goes into a lot of detail including another translation as "shining beak of the owl" or a "white beak owl". Eventually, Grey Owl translated the name into English as "He Who Walks By Night". In essence, this is the name most of us know and use. * (For further discussion, see the definitive biography **From the Land of Shadows: The Making of Grey Owl** by Donald B. Smith. Western Producer Prairie Books, Saskatoon, Sask. 1990).

Films. There were repeats during the year of the following films:

(i) **Grey Owl** – Richard Attenborough's film. Shown 10th July on ITV1 at 1.20 in the morning! 3-star rating. Our member, Cathy Carpenter from Little Clacton sent in the details. Cathy is one of our "older" members and plucky! She wrote in her letter "nice to see that it still rates being shown on a major channel, but at what a silly time!! I will sit up to watch it as, although I have it on Video, my hearing is not too good nowadays but seeing it on ITV I have the advantage of subtitles. So off to bed as Dawn breaks" see also p.24. (ii) **Grizzly Man**. The Radio Times listed it as Andrew Collins's FILM OF THE WEEK (March 2009). Also shown in August. The life and tragic death of Timothy Treadwell amongst the grizzly bears. The Society made a donation to his work in 2002 (see Bull. 21:12. See also Bull. 23:24 and Bull. 25:29). (Just noticed that it was also shown on 10 September on Channel 4 (5 star rating) "Poignant documentary").

The Times. Article Of Man and Beast. August 23, 2008! Written by John Sutherland "Animal Stories aren't just for children...". Several animal stories were quoted including "Bambi: A Life in the Woods", "The Wind in the Willows" and Jack London's "pioneer text...Call of the Wild". No mention of Grey Owl so I wrote to Mr. Sutherland last February drawing his attention to **Sajo and Her Beaver People**., adding that Compton Mackenzie described it as "...the best tale of its kind since "Black Beauty". I also mentioned the fact that it had been translated into 25 languages and was reprinted at least 26 times and often given as "school prizes". (No reply to date!).

Hastings Town. This local magazine which is issued monthly (which was first published about two years ago) has some interesting short articles with many illustrations. The October 2009 issue Number 21, includes mention of Hastings Museum and its "Hastings History Galleries" with reference to Grey Owl amongst others (p. 14).

STOP PRESS cont...

Committee Meeting. This was held at
The subjects discussed were:

on Thursday, 26 March at 6.30p.m.

The Society's Donation for 2009. There was a unanimous decision to make a donation to the Temagami Community Foundation in memory of Albert Lalonde (Grey Owl's and Angele's Grandson). See p. 7 for details.

Society's Spring/Summer Visit. It was decided to make Highwoods at Cooden, Bexhill, our destination as the visit planned for last year had to be cancelled. The wording of the plaque was also discussed and decided. See pp. 18 - 19.

Any Other Business. Member Audrey Brooke had suggested that perhaps the Society could produce a "pen" (we have produced badges, postcards etc. in the past). This was "put on hold" as we still have plenty of the latter in stock but a pen may be discussed in the future.

The stand-by cheque signatory was discussed and Ralfe Whistler kindly agreed to replace the late Derek Norcross. This has now been finalized with our Treasurer, Bill Van Draat and the Bank.

AGM/Christmas Dinner. Please make a note in your Diary now:

THURSDAY, 2ND DECEMBER, 2010

The Meeting closed about 8.30 p.m., and the usual buffet-type supper was served – and much discussion continued!

Rye Museum Association

IN BRIEF

Owl talk

RYE Museum Association holds its next talk at the East Street building on Tuesday March 10 at 7.30pm when local historian Geoff Hutchinson tells the incredible story of the Hastings man who became Grey Owl. Light refreshments will be available and admission is £2.50 for non-members, £1.50 for members.

Cutting from the Rye and Battle Observer for February 20th, sent to us by Ralfe Whistler. The talk was, apparently, very well supported.

Geoff is an experienced lecturer and has written several booklets on local "celebrities" including **The Hastings Indian GREY OWL: The Incredible Story of Archie Belaney 1888-1938**. First published in 1985, it has been reprinted several times. (Foreword by Stan Winters – Brother of Margaret Charko).

Millennium Chronicle of Hastings 1066-2000. This mural was painted by the artist **Ron Nicola** and comprises 9 Panels. It was displayed for some time at the Cinque Ports Hotel, Hastings until the Hotel "changed hands". It is now in the artist's home. In The Hastings & St. Leonards Observer for January 23, 2009, the local M.P., Michael Foster, said "This is a wonderful painting full of local interest. I am keen to see it remain in Hastings". There are many individuals and historic events included in the mural, including **Grey Owl** on Panel 7. Margaret Richardson who runs **Arts in Health Care** has kindly sent the Society an extract from the booklet published by the artist which outlines his work (pp. 28-30 cover Panel 7 and Grey Owl). The artist is still seeking a new home for the mural! (See also p.15)