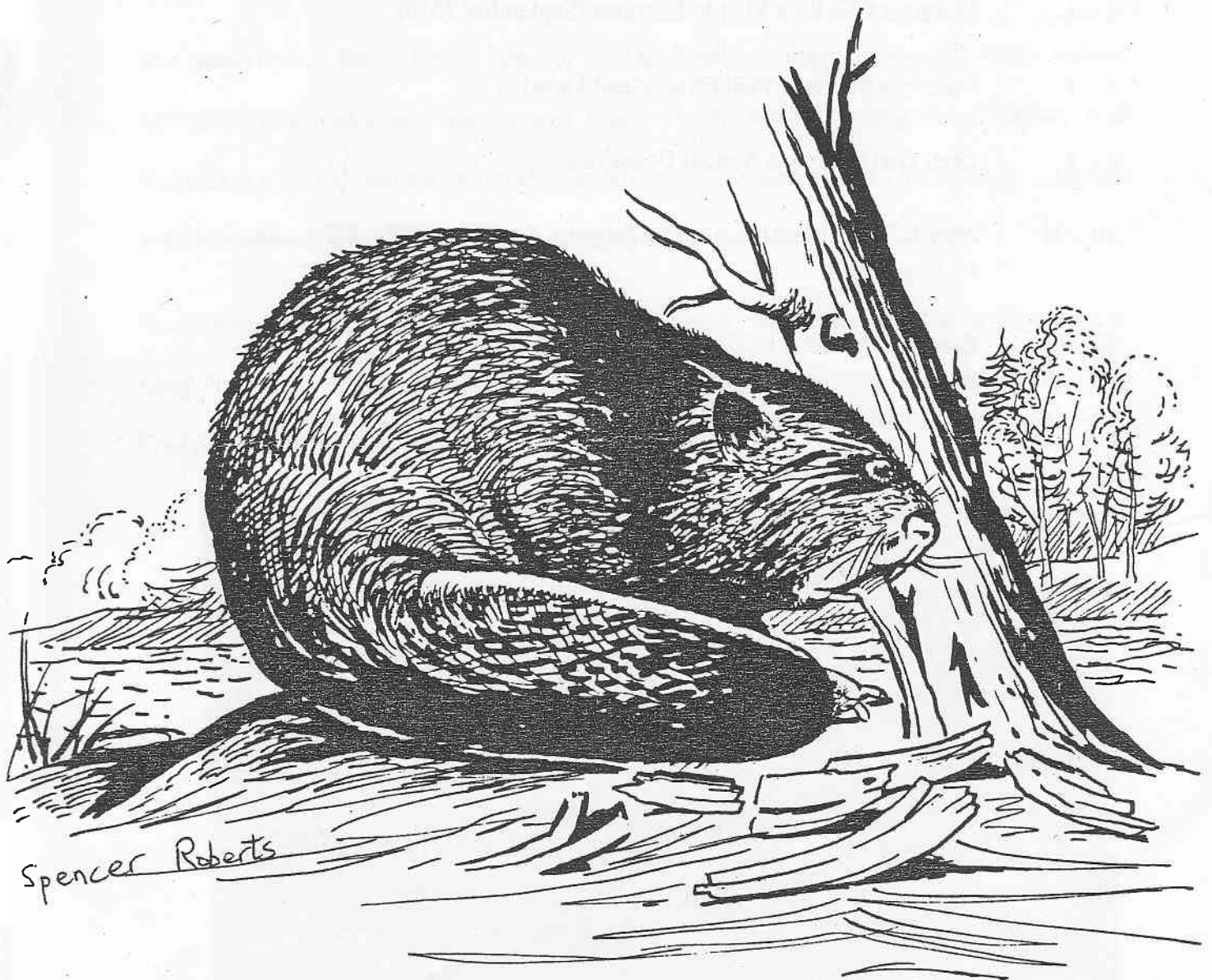


THE GREY OWL SOCIETY

Bulletin No. 29



Edited by Betty Taylor

Hastings. December 2010

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Apologies for the late delivery of Bulletin 29! Many excuses... cancellation of
AGM/Dinner... dreadful weather... [REDACTED]

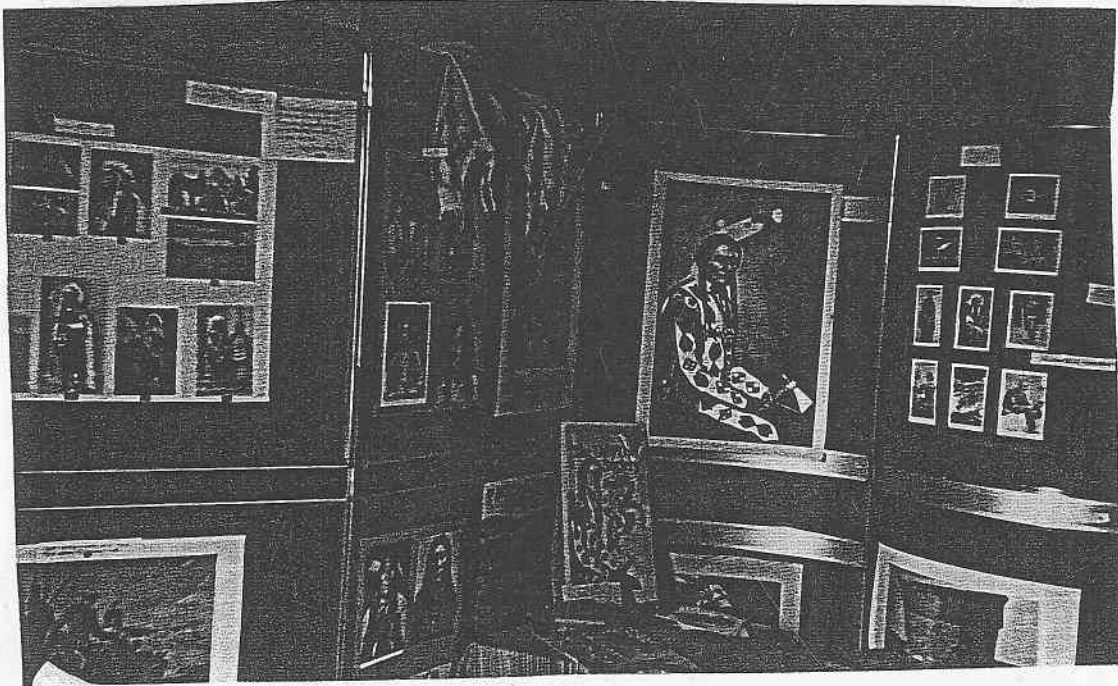
B.T.

36 St. Mary's Terrace, Hastings

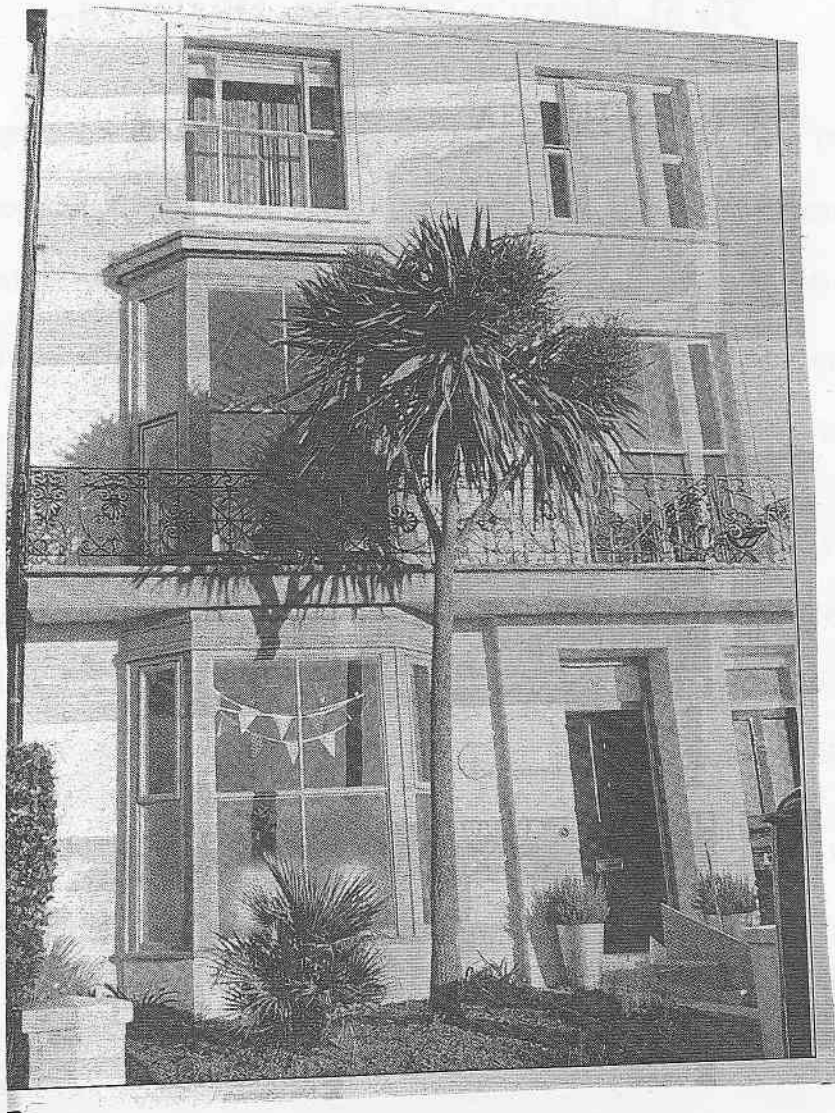
Archie Belaney's old home is up for sale! The photos on the following page show 36 St. Mary's Terrace, Hastings where Archie lived from 1895 – 1899 and where he kept his menageries in the attic! The plaque was unveiled in August 1981 and the Society held its first exhibition there from 6th – 14th August, 1983 with the kind consent of the owner at the time, Mrs. Portwood – full details are in Bulletin 2:21-23.

The majority of the exhibits came from the Taylor Collection together with various interesting documents from our present President, Ian West and long time member, Will Kelleher. The exhibition was manned every afternoon by members of The St. Mary's Terrace Preservation Society and the G.O.S. was very grateful to them.

Some seventy people visited the exhibition which was a considerable number in those days as Grey Owl had a much lower profile then in Hastings than now. The founding of The Grey Owl Society in 1982 brought G.O. much more into focus.



First Grey Owl Society exhibition held in August 1983



36 St. Mary's Terrace, Hastings which is on the market for just under £400,000. (It would be interesting to know what it sold for in 1899)! The local agents, John Bray & Sons, describe it as a '19th century Classic home... Views to Channel'. The Hastings & St. Leonards Observer (December 3, 2010) refer to this 'Elegant 19th century home' adding "Grey Owl (alias Archie Belaney), pioneer conservationist of Canadian Indian culture, lived here for several years".

Margaret Charko's Visit to Hastings

Margaret Charko, with her daughter Janice, made a fleeting visit to Hastings from 9th – 11th September and we were very pleased to see them both.

Margaret wrote to us earlier in the year with the very sad news that her husband, Ron, had died in March at the age of 92. Ron had a long and active career in the RCAF and “flew 35 missions in a Lancaster Bomber during WWII”. They had hoped to make a visit over here together but that was not to be but we were extremely pleased to see Margaret here again.

Member, Henrietta Smyth, took Margaret and Janice up to Hastings Museum on the morning of the 10th and they were able to spend a couple of hours or so in the Grey Owl Gallery. The new curator, Cathy Walling, was pleased to meet Margaret and spend time with her and Margaret passed on to the Museum her own ‘private’ photograph album which makes a most interesting addition to the Museum’s archives.

There was then time for a relaxing lunch at [redacted] with a few Committee members and local member Margaret Wolley, who had lived for some years in Canada and who hadn’t met Margaret before. Victoria Williams – who had met Margaret of course on her previous visit to Hastings and the Museum – was able to come and spend an hour or so with us in between Meetings!

Everyone commented on how alert and youthful Margaret looked – hard to believe she is 92! The Society is very fortunate to have this personal ‘link’ with Grey Owl because as most members will know, Margaret spent the summer of 1936 up at the cabin, Beaver Lodge, acting as Secretary and typing G.O.’s last book, Tales of an Empty Cabin. Of course, Margaret was then Margaret Winters and her brother Stan also helped out doing general work in and around the cabin. (For further details with photos, see the Grey Owl Society’s 21st Anniversary Special Edition, 2002:6-8).

It was a memorable day and I know that Margaret and Janice thoroughly enjoyed it too. (The next morning they were off again – to Belfast – and they wrote a card a few days later to say “we are in awe of the beauty of Ireland”).



The last photo of Margaret with her late husband, Ron and son, Ron Jnr, taken Christmas Day, 2009.



Visit of Margaret Charko (centre) with Curator of Hastings Museum, Cathy Walling (left) and G.O.S. Committee member, Henrietta Smyth – September, 2010 (see previous page)



Margaret Charko with daughter, Janice, in the Grey Owl Gallery at Hastings Museum. September 2010.

(Photos kindly supplied by Henrietta Smyth)

Society's Summer Visit ("Rhino Slide Show")

Our summer get-together for local members was once again kindly hosted by Bill and Margaret Van Draat at their lovely home, . On 20th August, after a week of unsettled weather, we were blessed with a beautiful sunny day and about twenty-two members gathered for a delicious buffet lunch served in the Barn. There was plenty of time for strolling through the garden, filled as usual with colourful plants and shrubs – including some of the largest Agapanthus I'd ever seen! There was also plenty of time for talk and catching up with the news and we were pleased to welcome two 'new' members, Dave Goodwin and Norma Horsefield.

We were very fortunate that Margaret's daughter, Berry White, had only recently returned from her work in Africa with the rhino (see Bulletin 23:16 outlining Berry's work with the Sumatran Rhino and the Society's donation) and so a most interesting talk and 'slide' show followed the lunch. In Berry's writing... 'It was wonderful to have a chance to show some pictures of the two rhino translocations I have been working on during the past 9 months... The first of the two translocations started in a snowy Czech republic last November, at Dvur Kralove Zoo. (This campaign/project was the subject of the programme Return of the Rhino: A Last Chance to See Special, shown on BBC 2 at 8 pm on 31 October, 2010. Stephen Fry introduced it and Berry was involved in a number of excerpts). I spent a month crate-training 4 Northern White Rhino in preparation for their flight to Kenya which took place on 20th December '09. Only 8 Northern White Rhinos are known to exist in the world today, all being held in Zoos. These 4, the only ones of a suitable breeding age with the exception of one, were all born in captivity and the last hope to save the species of the second largest land mammal on the planet. Both a challenge and enormous privilege to travel with and care for, on a day-to-day basis, these precious individuals. After a successful journey I spent the next 4 months in Kenya gradually settling the rhinos in and ultimately releasing them into a huge 700 acre Sanctuary in the breath-taking Ol Pejeta Conservancy situated at the foot of Mount Kenya. What a pleasure to see them make the transition from a life bound to limited space and concrete and bars in the zoo, spending nights indoors, to living free in the bush under stormy skies NEVER to be shut in again... I started work on the second translocation at the end of April flying from Kenya to South Africa working with 5 black rhinos that we had flown to the Serengeti in Tanzania on 21st May. This was a wild to wild translocation so the rhinos were considerably more lively and excitable. Black Rhinos can also be extremely nervous, volatile and unpredictable but at the same time incredibly affectionate and dote love and attention which few people would ever get to see. They are browsers and require high amounts of branches each day along with the cleaning out, love and general spoiling needed to make

Summer Visit cont...

their lives as happy as possible. The Serengeti, once home to thousands of rhinos, currently has less than 30 due to poaching of their horns. As South Africa has done so well with the breeding of rhinos, these 5 are the first of an ongoing project to take 32 black rhinos from South Africa to the Serengeti, over the next 5 years. We released our 5 Black Rhinos early August into the Serengeti and they are doing well and are constantly monitored by armed guards and we hope to take another 5 in the spring 2011”.

There was discussion in 2004 at our Committee Meeting, as to whether a ‘Rhino Project’ was appropriate for The Grey Owl Society; we were all in accordance with the comment made by the late Derek Norcross who was of the firm opinion that “Grey Owl would most definitely have had sympathies with this cause”.

In this respect, Berry’s last comments are very appropriate : “Whilst working in Tanzania I worked alongside South African Field rangers who had worked in South Africa for the Wilderness Leadership Schools whose symbol is a leaf inspired by the book produced by Lovat Dickson as “A Tribute to Grey Owl THE GREEN LEAF”. This made a fascinating story and see Bulletin 25:24-25 for an outline on “A Grey Owl Discovery in Eastern and Southern Africa”.

Very sincere thanks were made to Bill and Margaret (and Berry) for yet another lovely event at . I know that everyone thoroughly enjoyed the occasion.

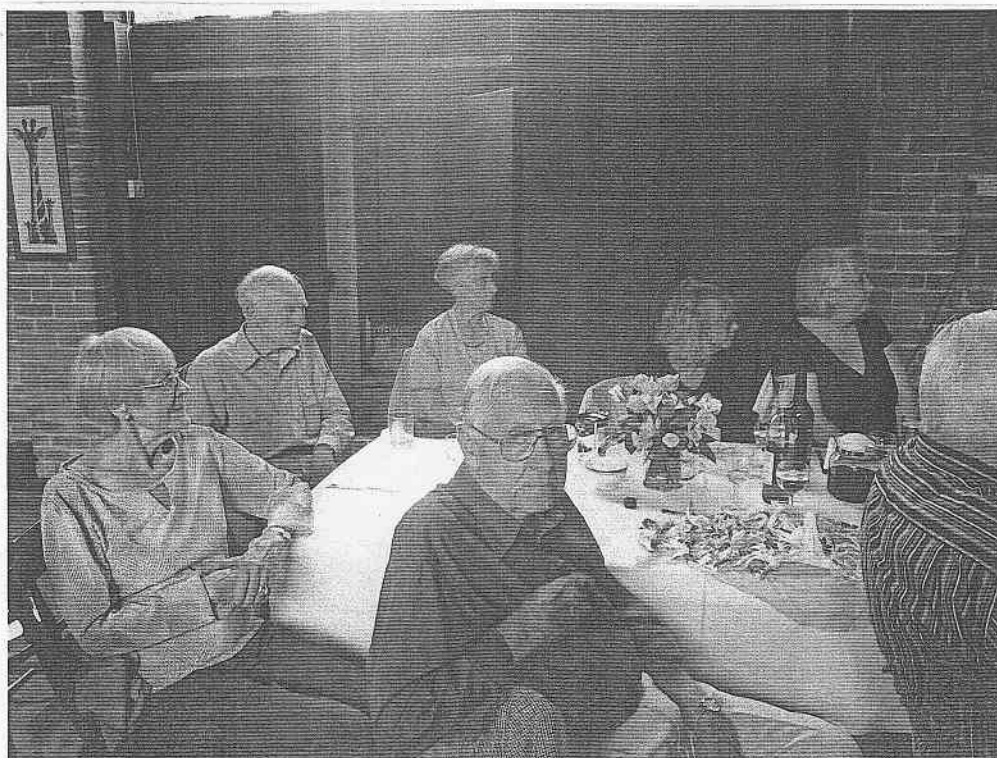


Lunch in the Barn at – including ‘new’ Members, Dave Goodwin and Norma Horsefield – hosted by Bill and Margaret Van Draat. Photo, courtesy Michael Plumbe.

Summer Visit cont...



Above : Bill and Margaret Van Draat who hosted the summer get-together
at their beautiful home,



Members engrossed in Berry's film-talk. President of the Society, Ian West, in centre.

(Photos taken by member, Michael Plumbe)

Grey Owl Society's Annual Donation (1)

At the Committee Meeting held on 22nd April (see p.24), the annual Donation was discussed and it was decided to support the Bohemia Walled Garden Association in Hastings. This 'Walled Garden' is situated in the middle of Summerfields Woods not far from the town centre and near Hastings Museum. The garden has been neglected for a number of years so there is an immense amount of work to do – all of which is done by volunteers. Summerfields Wood has a LNR (Local Nature Reserve) status and the plan is to enhance the area in many different ways including the planting of appropriate shrubs, flowers and vegetables to attract 'bees, moths, butterflies, etc.'

As a project in Hastings had not been supported by the GOS for a few years, and as the site was close to the Museum (with the Grey Owl Gallery), a cheque was sent to The Secretary for £200. It is hoped that a visit to the garden will be arranged next spring for local members; in thanking the Society for our 'generous donation', the Secretary Susan Thomson said 'be assured that we will spend the money carefully to advance our horticultural project', adding 'I look forward to showing you the delights of the walled garden and the surrounding woodland'. The Hastings Observer for 13 August 2010 referred to this 'historic walled garden' adding 'much progress has been made'.



Photo of the garden from an article written by Tony May and published in the magazine HASTINGS TOWN for April 2010 (pp. 24-26).

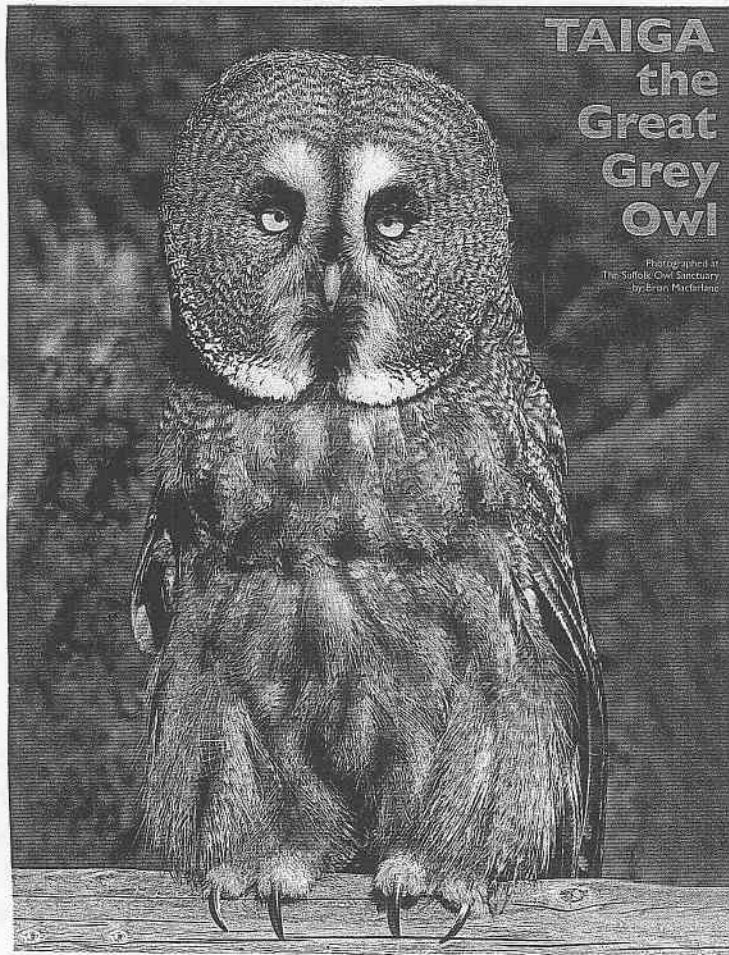
Grey Owl Society's Annual Donation (2)

At the Committee Meeting held on 22nd April, a decision was made to send a donation to the Bohemia Walled Garden Association (see p.8).

At the same time the point was made that we could still support another project and Committee members were asked to consider other causes.

Eventually, a decision was made to support the Suffolk Owl Sanctuary based near Stowmarket in Suffolk and a cheque for £200 was sent to them in September. In our accompanying letter, we outlined a little about Grey Owl and the Society, adding "We have supported projects connected with beavers, water voles, grizzly bears amongst numerous others – owls seem rather appropriate!".

In their acknowledgement, they thanked us 'so much' for our donation adding "please thank everyone for their support. We are reliant on donations such as yours to help us continue our varied conservation and rescue work". They also enclosed a large photo of 'our Great Grey Owl 'Taiga', who is two years old!



For an outline on the name 'Grey Owl', including reference to the 'rare, very large Great Grey Owl', (see Bulletin 28:29)

NEW INFORMATION ABOUT ARCHIE BELANEY AS A HOSPITALIZED CANADIAN SOLDIER

DON SMITH

(In Bulletin 28:4-5, we printed a new photo of Grey Owl on crutches that had been sent to the Society by Don Smith together with a copy of the cover of *The Men of the Last Frontier* that had been inscribed by Grey Owl and given in 1936 to the nurse who had helped him after his foot injury in 1916.

Don could not attend the Grey Owl Dinner/A.G.M. in December 2009 but sent some notes that he hoped member, Barry Johnson, would read out on his behalf. Unfortunately, these arrived too late to be used, so extracts from the notes are printed below):

“In my book¹, there is a reference to a letter that Grey Owl wrote to an English nurse, “Miss Nurse”, who cared for him at the King George Hospital on Stamford Street in London, after he returned from the Front in 1916 with a foot wound. Over thirty years ago I tried to locate more about “Miss Nurse”, without success. From a 1938 newspaper story after Grey Owl’s death, I learned that “Miss Nurse’s” married name was, “Mrs. C. R. Parsons”. She lived in 1938 in Henley-on-Arden, Warwickshire.

On p.66 of my book, I reprinted G.O.’s “letter” that he had sent to the woman known in 1938 as “Mrs. C.R. Parsons” (G.O. had sent it to her upon his return to Northern Canada). The letter, which is included in his last book Tales of an Empty Cabin, is written as an “Indian”. It is in terrible English – quite funny when one knows that the “Indian” author was actually English born!

Now, thanks to David Bain, a schoolteacher in Ontario, and an avid canoeist and reader of G.O.’s books, we now know much more about “Miss Nurse”. In his article, “Miss Nurse and Private Belaney. A tale from the life of Grey Owl”, published in the magazine KANAWA in the summer 2009 issue, David recounts how he purchased on eBay, in 2006, an autographed copy of G.O.’s The Men of the Last Frontier².

On the title page of his purchase stands clearly inscribed this message: “To Miss Nurse Souvenir of the Old, Unforgotten Days. Sincerely Grey Owl Wa-sha-quon-asin Your Friend – The Injun”. Within the inscription, in the centre, is pasted a photo of a man on crutches.³

When Dave contacted me, I immediately identified the wounded soldier in uniform as Archie Belaney. Dave also sent me a copy of the letter, in “Indian”, that was glued into the inside front cover. The letter with Ojibwe words is not fully comprehensible to the two fluent speakers I showed it to, but it does indicate that Archie Belaney, the future Grey Owl, knew some of the Ojibwe language. No doubt, he wrote it, in 1916?, or once he arrived back in Canada in 1917 or 1918, to shore up his claim to a North American Indian identity.

With the invaluable help of several individuals, in particular, Barry Johnson of the Grey Owl Society, additional details about Mrs. C. R. Parsons have come to light, from census, birth and death records, and wills. We know now that the maiden name of “Miss Nurse”, was Joan Allday. She was born in 1898 and died in 1978. At the time of her marriage in 1920 she lived at Silhill House, Solihull, in northwest Warwickshire, very close to Birmingham. The Parsons’ married life was spent mainly in the Henley-on-Arden district.

Thanks to David Bain⁴, we now know of a striking photo of Archie Belaney as a young man. It is one

cont...

of the earliest to survive. Moreover, thanks to his eBay purchase, researchers have identified "Miss Nurse" as a young 18-year old woman from the Birmingham area, Joan Allday. Why did Archie Belaney, then 28, strive so to convince the young English nurse that he was a North American Indian?"

Don Smith

November 23, 2009

Footnotes

1. From the Land of Shadows: The Making of Grey Owl. Western Producer Prairie Books, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. 1990. Reproduced in paperback in 1991. Reprinted by Greystone Books (Douglas & McIntyre Publishing Group, Vancouver/Toronto & University of Washington Press, Seattle) in 1999.
2. Don sent a copy of this article for the Society's archives and a copy can be sent to anyone interested.
3. Reproduced in Bulletin 28:5.
4. Not 'Barn' as written in Bulletin 28:4. David Bain teaches English and Canadian history in Waterloo, Ontario. He was introduced to the writings of Grey Owl at an early age by his mother.



Don Smith sent in the above on December 30th last, adding "Bl..."

Generous Man (Ahxsi-tapina) : Essays in Memory of Colin Taylor, Plains Indian Ethnologist

This book is a series of essays written by 'prominent anthropologists & ethnologists... linked with Colin Taylor's lifelong work. The authors of this book represent a kind of "Who's Who" of American anthropology... gathered to honour a great scholar and his heritage'. The essays range from titles such as 'Composition and Iconography in Painted Plains Indian Shirts' to 'Myth and Material Culture Among the James Bay Cree' and 'Visitors to the Blackfoot Prior to 1860'. There are also some 'lighter' chapters and for the Bulletin, I quote from two:

Ian West : Out West with Colin : pp.127-131. Ian writes of many trips through the American West with Colin, the first being in 1969, and writes of their trip in 1986 when "we met up with Don Smith and Hugh and Pauline Dempsey. Colin had first met Don in the mid 1970s when he was researching the life of Archibald Stansfeld Belaney. Don was eventually to publish his biography, "From the Land of Shadows: The making of Grey Owl" in 1990. Colin, in the meantime, had founded and become Hon. Secretary of The Grey Owl Society (1982)..."

Fraser Pakes : "Stealing the Culture – with Sensitivity?" The Indian Hobbyist at the Powwow : pp. 169-181. Fraser's essay refers to Colin's paper "The Indian Hobbyist Movement in Europe" written for the Handbook of North American Indians:History of Indian-White Relations. Vol.4. Published by the Smithsonian Institution Press in 1988:562-569, then in his Appendix:Non-hobbyist White powwow participants, Fraser refers to Grey Owl, in his section on 'imposters' adding that "two of the most famous figures, contemporaries of one another, were Long Lance and Grey Owl... Archie Belaney, aka Grey Owl... an environmentalist and conservationist by inclination, rose to fame through his colourful lifestyle and the lecture tours he subsequently gave. His books were read by a whole generation of Indian hobbyists", Fraser concludes "Both men in their impersonations did affect the issues of their time and were more widely known and more influential than many full blood Indian leaders of the 1920s and '30s. History has been kind to both of them in retrospect..."

Generous Man... edited by Arni Brownstone and Hugh Dempsey.

Tatanka Press, Wyk auf Foehr, Germany. 2008. ISBN 978-3-89510-125-0

"As friends and colleagues, the authors pay tribute to Colin's great contribution to the study of Indian culture and to his immense humanity which touched us all" (Eds.)

THE MISSISSAGI RIVER

("Following Grey Owl's Paddle!")

This is the second part of member Brad Ryder's canoe trip. The first section appeared in Bulletin 27:20-22 and we are pleased to include this slightly shortened/edited second part.

To do the canoe trip from Spanish Chutes to Aubrey Lake, my canoeing partner Jean and I arranged for an outfitting service to shuttle us to Spanish Chutes... We arrived there about 6.30 p.m., and did our first portage (500 metres) into Spanish Lake where we made camp for the night on the tip of an island. The next morning we portaged 150 metres from Spanish Lake into Bardney Lake and then the 430 metre portage known as the height of land into Sulfer Lake. We signed the register at the end of the portage (see Fig.1) and headed across Sulfer Lake to the next portage trail. Sulfer Lake is a small but pretty lake with good fishing so we stopped here for lunch and caught some fish before continuing on to do the 200 metre portage to Surprise Lake, then a brutal 1000 metre overgrown portage to Circle Lake then a 90 metre boggy portage into a small unnamed lake and a second 90 metre portage from there to Mississagi Lake where we camped for the night. The next day we headed south through the narrows on Mississagi Lake into Upper Green Lake where we stopped at a campsite where the trail is located that leads to the Fire Tower. From the top of the Fire Tower is an incredible view of all the surrounding lakes and forest. It made me think of GREY OWL back in his days of fire ranging in the area, spending hours in these towers watching over the land. This Tower had been built in 1957. I am not sure if it was built to replace an old Fire Tower in the same location that was used in GREY OWL'S fire ranging days. ¹

On the trail back to our campsite it was starting to get dark and we spotted a pile of fresh bear scat, so we picked up the pace and had a brisk walk back to camp! In the morning we did the 90 metre portage from Upper Green Lake to Kashbogama Lake and a 300 metre portage into Shanguish Lake. Kashbogama and Shankuish are both very nice lakes and I wish I could have spent some time exploring them before doing the 30 metre portage into Cisnit Lake. After setting up camp we caught some fish for supper. The next day was very rainy but we decided to push on and make our way to GREY OWL'S cabin (Ranger Headquarters) on Sask Lake. We continued on to Upper Bark Lake we passed by an outpost cabin where two American fishermen were waiting to get picked up by float plane! After chatting with them we headed on to the entrance of the 500 metre portage, a pretty little frying-pan shaped lake with a boggy entrance. After completing that, we were only a 100 metre portage away from GREY OWL'S cabin. The last portage ends in a daisy-scattered meadow with the cabin in the centre and smaller cabins on each side (see Fig.2). GREY OWL had signed his name on the inside wall of the cabin back in 1912-1914 but the cabin is now privately owned and is all locked and boarded up (see Fig.3). The cabin is rough but is still in fair shape considering its age and neglect. It would be nice to see it preserved and restored and perhaps considered a historical landmark. We took a few more pictures of the cabin before heading into the Mississagi River.² All the while we were on Bark Lake we never saw anybody at the cabins or on the lake. Heading down the Mississagi we ran several swift sections. There are many rapids on this route, some we could run, some we had to portage... early evening we approached Hell's Gate. We could hear the booming of the water falls off in the distance. It sounded like somebody beating on a huge bass drum. We set up camp by Hell's Gate portage and got a fire going – then picked some wild blueberries for morning pancakes.

Cont....

The next morning we head out to travel the 680 metre Hell's Gate portage. In the middle of the portage is a trail that goes to the edge of the falls at Hell's Gate. GREY OWL described this spot in Tales of an Empty Cabin : "There is a marvellously picturesque cataract, running through a chasm in a series of chutes and sudden drops, that is worth the trouble of going off the portage to see. This spot is known as Hell's Gate". We hike the trail and take some pictures of this breathtaking spectacle of nature. [Brad goes on to describe more portages, trails blocked with blown down trees and a section where the river twists and turns before finding a deserted campsite past Rouelle Landing]. It seems that this river is seldom travelled, we have seen 4 beavers, 17 beaver houses and 2 bears on the logging road on the way to Spanish Chutes. In the morning we head up to a wetland known as the majestic marsh. The marsh is known for its wide variety of bird life and we see many ducks as we travel through. [After heading on to Rocky Island Lake in very rough and windy conditions, Brad and Jean reach their last campsite]. The next day is calm and we travel through the rest of Rocky Island Lake... into Aubrey Lake. Aubrey Lake is a very scenic lake with high cliffs. We spot 2 bald eagles soaring above the cliffs. We head down to the end of Aubrey Lake where the outfitter has parked my truck and drive to Aubrey Falls (Fig.4) to hike the trail to see and photograph the Falls before heading home!

Brad Ryder
Blenheim, Ontario

Footnotes

1. For further references to G.O's fire ranging experiences, see Don Smith's FROM THE LAND OF SHADOWS, 1990 : Chapter 7:67. Western Producer Prairie Books, Saskatoon.

2. ditto above for further references to the cabin

In his accompanying letter, Brad writes 'The trip was nice even though it rained everyday but one while we were up there. The highlights of our trip were visiting GREY OWL'S CABIN on Bark Lake, seeing Hell's Gate and running rapids.' There were many photos and maps included with the article and they are now in the archives. Interested members can contact me:

B.T.

(See following two pages for photos).

2009				2009			
Date	Name / Nom	City / Ville	No. in Party / Nbre dans le groupe	Date	Name / Nom	City / Ville	No. in Party / Nbre dans le groupe
July 22	TON WALKER	R AUSIMEN	1	July 22	Brad Ryder	Shrewsbury ONT	2
July 22	ALLI SUNDIN	DEG RIVA NY	1	July 22	Jean Cawthorne	Union ONT	2
July 22	PAUL KERNIG	WALKER	1				
July 22	Neil White	Waltham ONT	1				
July 22	JOHN McKinn	Waltham ONT	1				
July 22	GERRY GERDEMA	WALKER	1				
July 22	Simon, Paul, Ian, Claire	Kiddminster U.K.	4				
HAPPY NEW YEAR							
FIRST THROUGH							
MAY 24	DOM McVICAR	COLLINGWOOD	1				
Rece ktree	NTJ isepewee						
Grey Owl	Bristol UK						
BISO (WAP)	2001						
WV PT!							

Fig.1 (above). The register at the end of the portage to Sulfer Lake, with Brad and Jean's signatures. The previous page shows a visitor from 'Bristol, U.K.'

Fig.2 (below). Grey Owl's cabin in North-West Ontario. G.O.'s signature is on the inside wall from when he stayed there 1912-1914. Brad described the cabin as 'rough but still in fair shape'.





Fig.3 (above). The cabin shown in Fig. 2 “now privately owned and all locked and boarded up!”

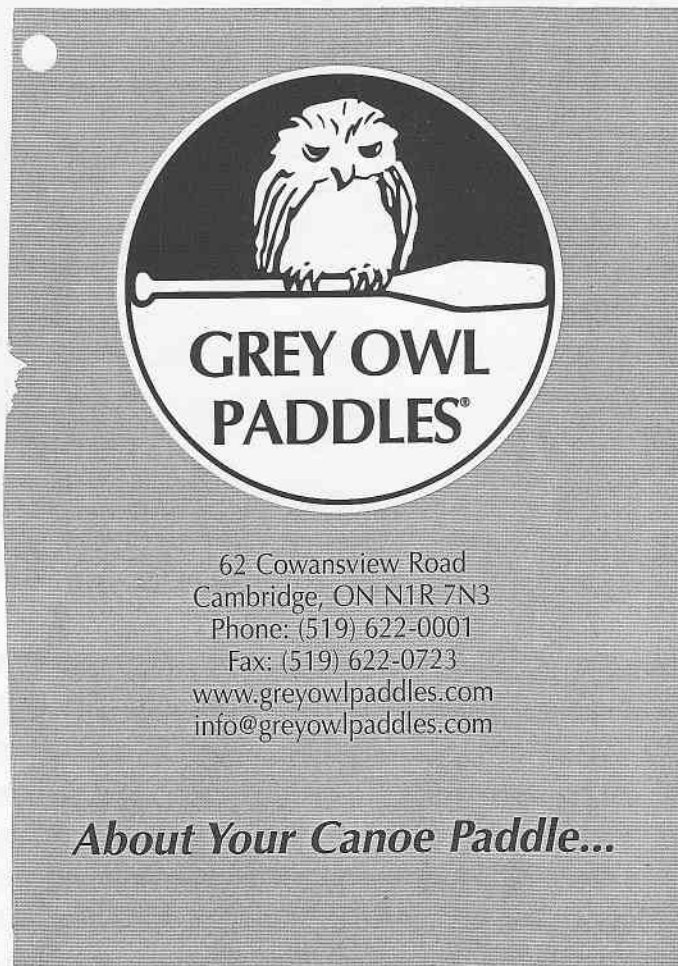
Fig.4 (below). Aubrey Falls, the end of the trip!



DONATIONS TO THE GREY OWL SOCIETY

We are very grateful to the following members for their donations – Cathy Carpenter, Margaret Charko, Phil Chester, Gabriel Fritzen, John Gregg, Richard and Wendy Johnston, Dorell Taylor, Tom Watrous, Margaret Wolley, Tony and Anne Wharton and especially Jenny Phiri. Many thanks also to the members who kindly add extra to their sub cheques! In addition, our thanks go to Peter Ingram for organizing and collecting donations for the Society at David Bryn Oliver's funeral (see p.24). We are sure that Bryn would have approved of this gesture and a thank you letter for the cheque for £100 was sent to Peter.

John Gregg has again sent an interesting package. (i) a copy of The Old Farmer's Almanac for 2010 which John describes as 'the foremost of the American almanacs'. On p.121 under April 13th : "Thomas Jefferson born 1743 : Conservationist Archie "Grey Owl" Belaney died 1938." This is 'The Original Farmer's Almanac' founded in 1792 and I found the entry on G.O. fascinating! (ii) A copy of Just Passing Through : The People and the Places North of Matachewan by Frank Holley. Privately published (1977) and updated (1982). There are a couple of paragraphs on G.O. and Anahareo, described as 'Grey Owl's beautiful Indian wife' (p.39). John sent us a xerox copy of the page in 2008 (Bull.27:9) but it is good to have the book itself in the archives.



(iii) the above tag Grey Owl Paddles, John writes 'The tag is from one of the paddles I bought in North Bay... they are good paddles and most appropriate for my company to use. I don't like them using/abusing my hand-made paddles. I think the paddle manufacturer was thinking of the bird, not the man, but the name might be of interest anyway'.

Donations to the Society cont...

Ralfe Whistler has kindly donated a copy of The Great Gray Owl: Phantom of the Northern Forest by Robert W. Nero. Published by The Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington in 1980. For a discussion on Archie Belaney adopting the name "Grey Owl", see last year's Bulletin (p.29). Ralfe included an amusing note: "Every Grey Owl Society should have a copy of this in its library!!". Ralfe also sent in another copy of the Grey Owl Cheese article (see last year's Bulletin, p.11). Ralfe also sent an article from the Weekend Telegraph for April 9th, 1988, entitled "Indian brave: Peter Lloyd salutes Grey Owl, 50 years after his death". Peter Lloyd's play about the life of Archie Belaney was performed at the old Red Lion Theatre, Islington, London, in 1986 (see Bull.5:5). (There is another copy in the archives).

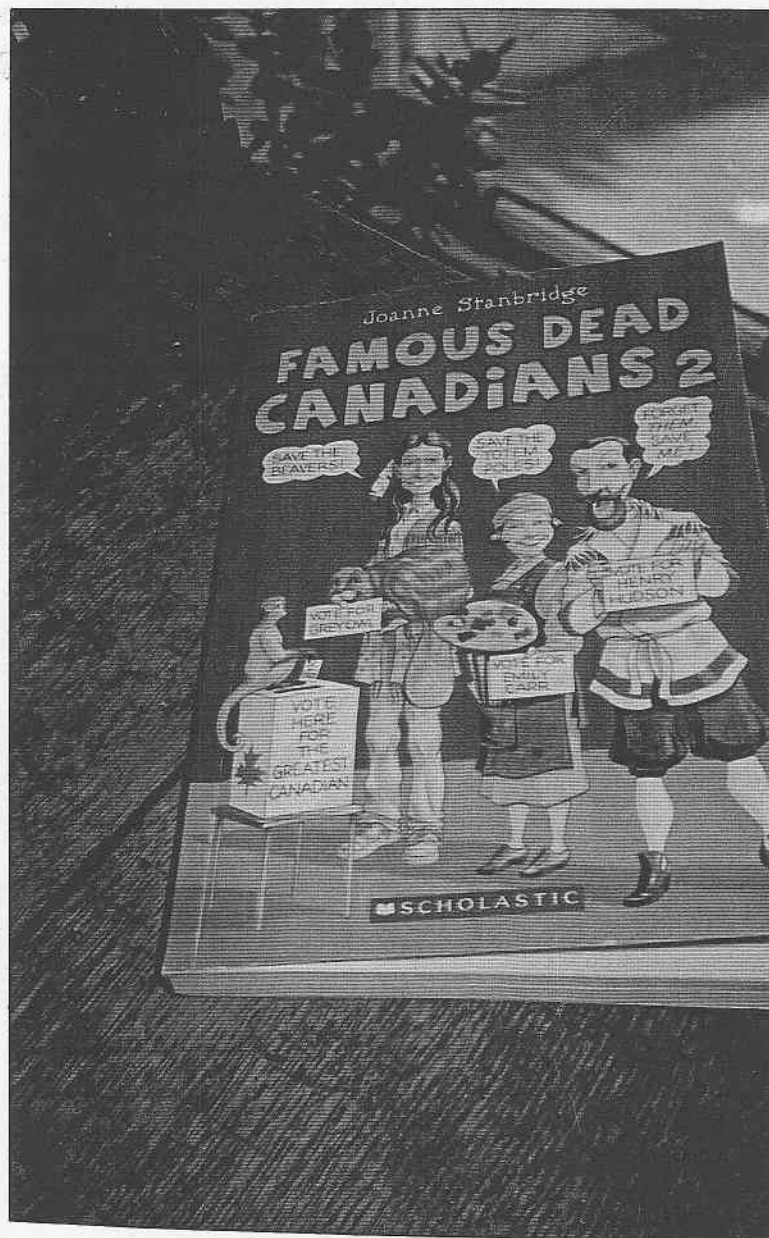
Don Smith has sent a copy of the front page of The Albert Daily Herald** for August 14, 1936. One of the columns has the heading Grey Owl Lionized, outlining G.O.'s return from an "Indian celebration at Carlton" where he was "taken into the councils of the 43 chiefs". The article goes on to say "The famous beaver protector, and author, was greatly touched by his reception". It is interesting to remember that the Indians believed G.O. to be one of them. It was an "epochal gathering" said G.O.

** not Alberta! Obviously referring to Prince Albert in Sask.

Don also sent a copy of an article from the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix for 24th September, 1936, entitled "Journeys 5,000 Miles to Visit Grey Owl in His Own Environment". This refers to Betty Somervell's visit to Beaver Lodge and the article concludes "Mrs. Somervell is confident that Grey Owl, his books and his lecture tour did more to make Britain Canada-conscious than any other single individual" (Don sent this article to us in 2006 but somehow it got overlooked)! Kristin Bonney of Llangollen, North Wales is an Hon. Member of the Society and the daughter of Betty Somervell. She made her own 'First Trip to Ajawaan' in 1990 (Bull.9:7).

Ian West has sent in an article published in The Daily Telegraph for January 19, 1998 : 'James Bond to star as Red Indian of Hastings' by Michael Fleet. Includes photos of G.O., Anahareo and Colin Taylor. (There are other copies in archives).

John Gregg (in addition to the previous page) also sent in a copy of the 'Special Anniversary Issue' of Canadian Geographic (December 2009). There is an article headed 'The WILD Life' by Brian Payton (pp.32-42) outlining how 'wildlife management principles and practices have evolved dramatically over the past century' and making reference to the trapping of beavers and the slaughtering of bison. The author makes reference to an emerging voice for conservation in the 1930s 'the voice of an English immigrant named Archibald Belaney'. He outlines Grey Owl's life, adding 'This imposter's commitment to preserving wildlife and reconsideration of our relationship with wilderness, one that directly challenged the concept of dominion', adding Grey Owl's words 'You belong to nature and not it to you' (p.36). The author again refers to G.O.'s philosophy on p.42 and it is good to have this issue for the archives which refers to G.O.'s lasting impact and influence, over seventy years after his death.



Richard and Wendy Johnston of Orillia have sent in an interesting book, Famous Dead Canadians 2 by Joanne Stanbridge. This paperback published in 2006 by Scholastic Canada Ltd., Toronto, includes amusing cartoon sketches by Bill Dickson. Section 4 is titled Archie Belaney (Grey Owl): A Cautionary Tale (pp. 39-51) Included is the well known photo of G.O. feeding the beaver kit (p.207). This is a 'potted version' of Archie's life, amusingly written.... 'Archie spent a lot of time getting into trouble'! The author concludes, 'In spite of the scandal, people still respected what Grey Owl stood for. Eight Canadian newspapers published editorials [after his death] but not one of them criticized him... Today he is remembered as a pioneer in protecting the environment. So is Pony'. (Good to have Grey Owl on the cover)!

SZARA SOWA

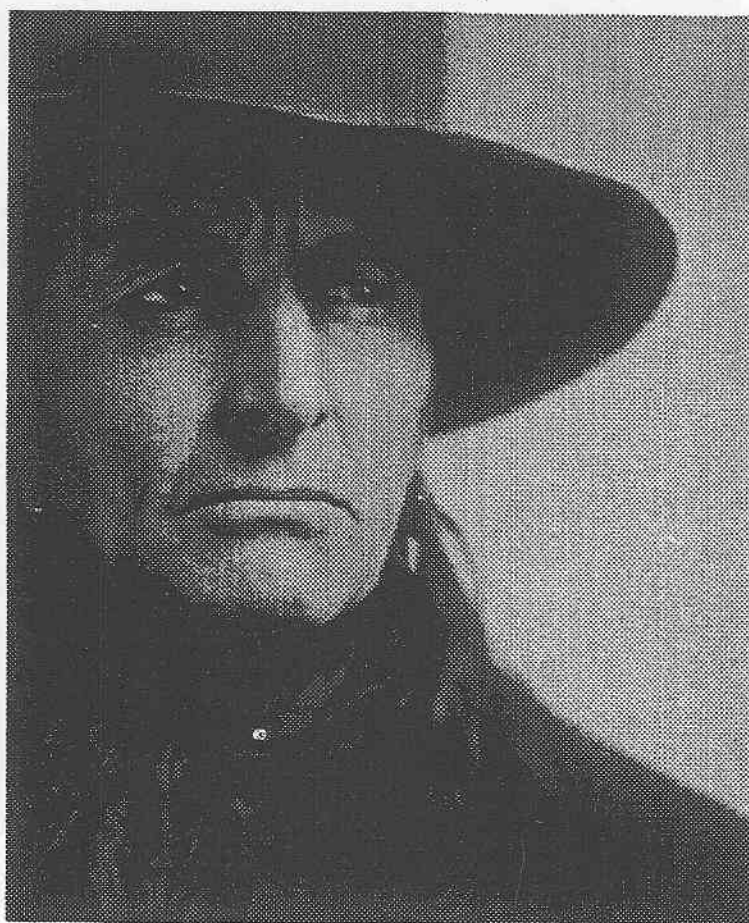
A Translation in Polish of Geoff Hutchinson's booklet

The Hastings Indian GREY OWL: The Incredible

Story of Archie Belaney (1888-1938).

SZARA SOWA

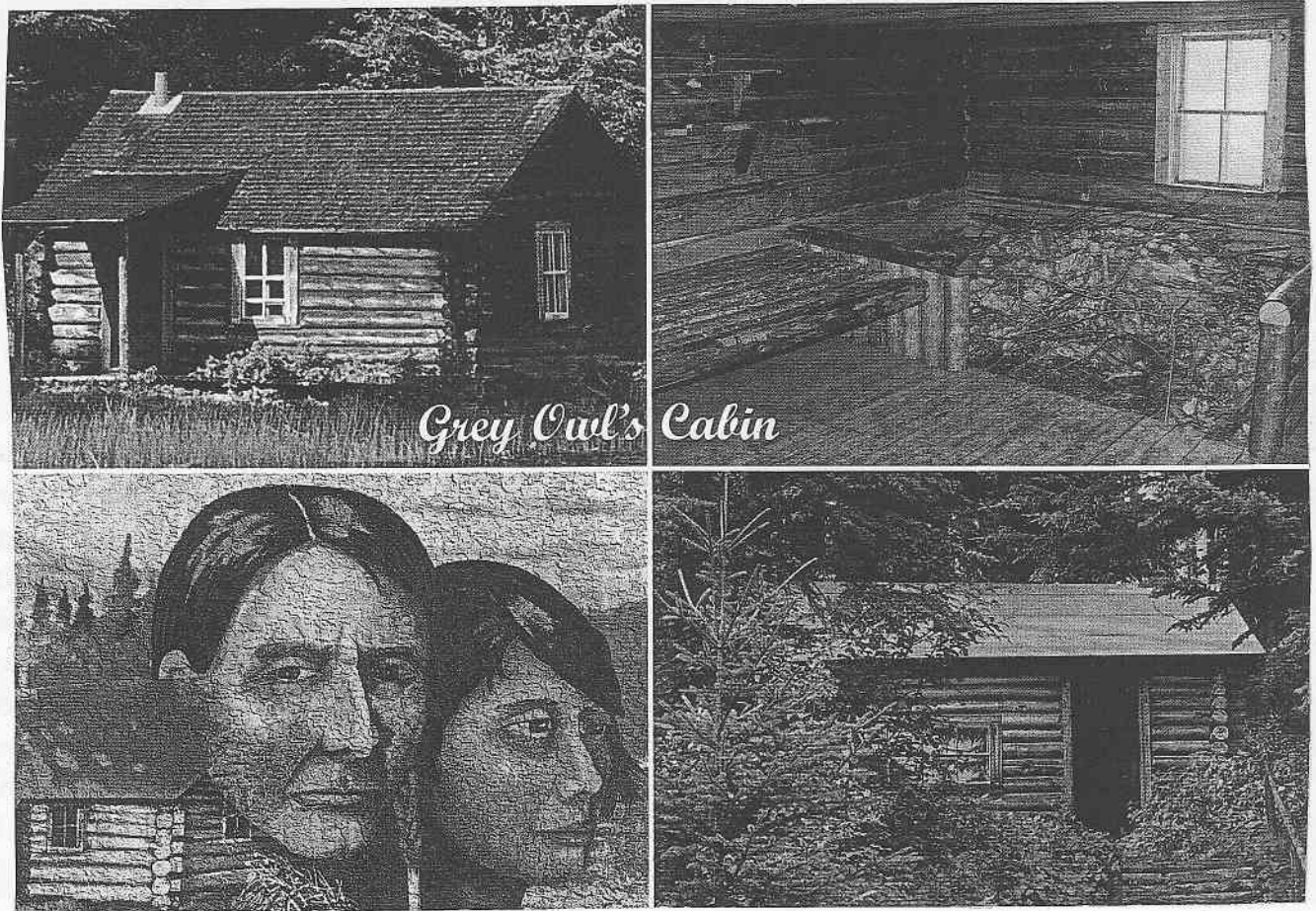
niezwykłe życie pewnego Anglika



The above is the cover in Polish of Geoff Hutchinson's booklet. Janusz Wencel from Czerwionka in Poland first contacted the Society in 2007 requesting permission to make a Polish translation. He wrote "I take a special interest in the so-called 'white Indians', such as Grey Owl". I contacted Geoff who was interested in the project and, of course, gave his permission. In sending the booklet, Janusz wrote "Szara Sowa" is a gift from me to you. Probably it is not the best translation you have ever received but... it is a great honor to be able to leave one at the Society". This is another interesting addition to the archives and we are very pleased to add it to our growing collection of foreign translations! (Geoff Hutchinson's booklet was published in 1985 (see Bulletin 4:10) and has been re-issued several times.

Donations to the Society cont...

Arthur Andrews, long time member of the G.O.S., generously gave a copy of Sir John Lavery by Kenneth McConkey, to the Taylors in 1993. This substantial book has now been added to the Society's archives. Published by Canongate Press, Edinburgh in 1993, there is reference with photo to Lavery's portrait of Grey Owl on pp. 194/196 with the words 'present whereabouts unknown'. There were some other mild inaccuracies and Arthur wrote to Mr. McConkey with the correct facts and told him that the painting is in the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa. It was painted in 1935 (according to the Gallery) and was given to them in 1959 as part of the Vincent Massey collection. For more details see Bulletin 13:21-22.



Ralfe Whistler sent us the above Post Card which had been sent to him by Canadian member, Dorell Taylor. Ralfe wrote 'Here is a post card I have not seen before'. The bottom left hand side is apparently a 'Mural of Grey Owl & Anahareo located in Prince Albert'. No other copy in the archives, so good to have. (Interesting note on the back of the card written by Dorell "The Friends of the Park is gradually getting back on its feet after the tragic death of their last manager. They have a new person now, Judy Murray, and she is doing an excellent job. The replica of Grey Owl's cabin has many visitors. There is also a second room dedicated to Grey Owl & Anahareao'. This is good news and we hope to make contact with Judy Murray in the New Year).

St. Helen's Park 50 Years On by Edward Preston. Betty Taylor has put a copy of this book into the Society's archives. Published by Literatours, St. Leonards-on-Sea this year, there is an illustrated section on G.O. Chapter 17, pp.63-66. The author describes G.O. as 'a most interesting and unusual character, who developed an international reputation as a naturalist and conservationist'. Archie spent much of his youth roaming with friends in St. Helen's Woods and Edward Preston writes "His association with St. Helen's Park is marked by a tree planted in 1988 – the centenary of his birth – by the Grey Owl Society, and by a plaque alongside, also provided by that society". The article includes eight photos, including one of the plaque.

Ralfe Whistler has also sent in an article Grey Owl Lectures At Metis from a journal/book which appears to be called METIS LORE and dated 1977. Apparently, Grey Owl gave "his first lectures at Metis (which is in Quebec) in the summer of 1929" which proved to be very successful. The lectures were probably held in 'The Ballroom' of the Seaside Hotel which apparently no longer exists, and were attended by 'hundreds of people'. Anahareo was with Grey Owl on these occasions and he was apparently extremely nervous. After one lecture and a steady round of applause, a British army colonel, Wilfred Bovey, spoke the words of appreciation, comparing the lecture 'to a poem'. A very interesting excerpt from this journal and we are pleased to have it for the archives as this is 'a first'! (See also Don Smith's From the Land of Shadows, pp. 86-87).

Don Smith has also donated an interesting 'new' edition of Pilgrims of the Wild. It is published by Voyageur Classics, 'Books That Explore Canada' and is edited with an Introduction by Michael Gnarowski. Gnarowski, the Series Editor writes 'The Dundurn Group presents the Voyageur Classics series, building on the tradition of exploration and rediscovery and bringing forward time-tested writing about the Canadian experience in all its varieties.....The series provides context and accessibility while breathing new life into these timeless Canadian masterpieces'. Gnarowski describes the story as "a quest that had grown out of a realization that the unbridled exploitation of nature for crass profit would spell disaster for humanity. In that sense, and viewed from today's experience and perspective, Grey Owl was stunningly prescient'. (Michael Gnarowski is professor emeritus at Carleton University, Ottawa). A good addition to the archives! (A great tribute that Pilgrims...is included in this 'Canadian masterpiece' series).

Don has also sent some other interesting material but this will be included in Bulletin 30 (because of the tardiness of this Bulletin)!



John Gregg sent the above cutting from the North Bay Nugget, which he says 'caught my eye'! What is interesting is that out of only ten portraits chosen for this display in Ottawa, one of them is Karsh's portrait of Grey Owl.

(Strictly, should have been included in the 2011 Bulletin, but due to the late production of the 2010 Bulletin, it has been included here – see "Contents" page)!

STOP PRESS

We are very pleased to welcome the following new member :

Stephen Faithfull of Roberstbridge, E.Sussex

David Bryn Oliver. We were saddened to learn that member David Bryn Oliver from Waterlooville, near Portsmouth, died in February. Bryn had been a member for over ten years and was a skilled wood-worker and archer and had made a canoe from marine ply. The finely carved plaque from English Oak of Grey Owl shown in Bulletin 23:26 is a good example of his work. Member Peter Ingram (a long time friend of Bryn) read an interesting and 'amusing' Farewell at Bryn's 'green' burial service, referring to his 'complex life' and quoted Grey Owl's words : 'Down the avenue of trees, I see a spot of sunlight – and I am trying to get there'. In addition to Bryn's 'topnotch' carving, reference was made to his 'flair for poetry and writing'. Peter summed the little service up : 'What could be more fitting than a final resting place under a yew tree – the very wood Bryn made his bows from'. A generous donation was sent to The Grey Owl Society. (Please see 'Donations' on p.17).

We are also saddened to announce the loss of two other members, who died during the year : Harry Garside of Eastbourne and Brian Horsefield of St. Leonards on Sea.

Committee Meeting. This was held at [redacted] on Thursday, 22nd April at 7 p.m. Apologies were received from several members due to illness, the weather and the 'ash cloud'! Betty Taylor reported the sad news that Margaret Charko's husband, Ron, had died in March (see p.3) Matters discussed : (i) The Society's Donation for 2010. It was decided to support the Bohemia Walled Garden Association (see p.8). (ii) Society's Summer Visit (see p.5-7). (iii) Any Other Business. Bill Van Draat and John Goodman hoped to erect the brass plaque on the Pett Preservation Trust bench in the near future (see Bulletin 27:19).

Hidden Sussex by Warden Swinfen & David Arscott. This BBC Radio Sussex Guide was published in 1984. It's easy to miss the small entry on Grey Owl as it's listed under Fairlight and not Hastings! There is reference to the Memorial Plaque in the Country Park and a concise but appreciative outline of GO's life on p.63. A copy has been added to the archives and an entry will be included in the next "Addendum of Books About or Including a Reference To Grey Owl" (see the Special Publication, 2002:34-42 and Bulletin 27:25-27. So far this brings the number of books to 132)!

Isle of Man. No deep connection with Grey Owl but an amusing anecdote! I spent a short break on the Isle of Man last April with an 'old' friend who is a 'new' member of the Grey Owl Society (Ann Woolgar). In a second-hand bookshop in a narrow back street of the small harbour town of Peel, the owner Martin Bosscher pointed out a small shelf of books on North American Indians (after our enquiry). I picked up Lovat Dickson's Wilderness Man (there were two other G.O. books there) and Mr. Bosscher said "Oh, he's not an Indian you know, he's an Englishman. I'd never heard of him...bought these books a few days ago!". "Yes", I replied, "he was born in Hastings". "Was he? Never heard of him"! "I live in Hastings actually and I'm Secretary of the Grey Owl Society". "A SOCIETY", he exclaimed, "but I'd

never heard of him"! "Oh, his books were translated into 26 languages" I replied, "and the last was in Japanese seven or eight years ago"**. "Gosh – I'd never HEARD of him...only had these a few days!" I then told him about Richard Attenborough's film with Pierce Brosnan..."never heard of it" (it obviously had not been shown on the Isle of Man!) I only outline this very amusing anecdote because it was such a coincidence. We had never been to the Isle of Man before... we were not in the capital, Douglas, but in a small harbour town... only by chance we wandered past the shop...and the owner had only bought the books a few days before. He was very interested in what we told him of G.O. and I guess he'll repeat the story to other customers!

** (I was wrong there – it was in 1987! Time flies!).

Geoff Hutchinson gave another of his talks on Grey Owl at St. Mary-in-the-Castle, Hastings, on 11 April. Described as a 'raconteur par excellence', Geoff is well known locally for bringing characters of the region, to life! The Rye and Battle Observer for April 9, in advertising the talk, added that "There has been a renewed interest in the former Hastings Grammar School boy as environmental issues have come to the fore over recent years", adding that 'Geoff is well-versed in his incredible life story'. (Geoff's booklet Grey Owl: The Incredible Story of Archie Belaney was privately published in 1985 with a Foreword by Stan Winters brother of Margaret Charko).

Margaret Wolley sent a small cutting from the Daily Telegraph for 26 May, 2010, about problems caused by beavers in some parts of Poland! One interesting statistic is that there are estimated to be 50,000 beavers living wild in Poland!

Ray Morley. Interesting comment from long-standing member, Ray, who wrote 'I first learnt about Grey Owl from an article in the Boy Scouts magazine given to me by a friend in 1936(?) which I followed up by buying Harper Cory's Grey Owl and the Beaver. Most of the other books by and about Grey Owl joined my collection...".

Saturday 24 July – Monday 30 August during normal opening hours. FREE

Relic - Guardians of the Museum

Are you ready to solve Agatha's challenges and become a guardian of the museum? Based on cbbc's popular children's programme and part of the BBC's A History of the World project, challenge quiz sheets are available from Museum Reception. Solve all the puzzles and get a special 'Guardians of the Museum' certificate!



A HISTORY OF THE WORLD



8

The above is from the Hastings Museum's brochure on 'Exhibitions & Events' for July – December 2010. Interesting to see that one of the pages in the Challenge Quiz Sheet is headed 'Memory Challenge' and starts 'Go upstairs and find the Grey Owl gallery'. Then there are five questions and you have to tick TRUE or FALSE! For example, 'Grey Owl's real name is James Anderson' and 'He went to Buckingham Palace and met Princess Elizabeth'. The other 'Challenges' were 'Physical' (from portraits in the Long Gallery); 'Discovery' (from the Upper Durbar Hall); 'Reasoning' in the Brassey Lobby' and 'Riddle' from the Twentieth Century Gallery. Good fun and pleased to see that the Grey Owl Gallery was included!

SKY Magazine for June 2010. Under the page 'We love nature' by Ben Fogle (p.80), there is mention of the 'Nature Show of the Month', a new documentary on grizzly bears. This new series 'Alone Among Grizzlies' refers to Richard Terry living in the 'remote wilds of Katmai National Park in Alaska, documenting grizzly bears our 'biggest land predators'. The reviewer adds 'This series sees Richard in the same area where the infamous 'Grizzly Man' Timothy Treadwell was mauled to death seven years ago'. The Society made a donation to Treadwell's work in 2002 (see Bull.21:12) and his death was reported in Bull. 23:24. Our donation went to the 'Grizzly People' project. We certainly hope that Richard Terry is aware of the dangers!

Stop Press cont...

Hastings Town magazine no.33 for October 2010 has an outline on the activities for Hastings Week (9-17 October). On p. 17 there is reference to the recently refurbished Hastings Museum, listing some of the galleries, including the Grey Owl displays.

Grey Owl Golf Tournament. Member, Audrey Brooke from Leeds, has again confirmed that the Tournament is still running at Clear Lake, Manitoba. It will reach its 50th Anniversary next year!

AGM/CHRISTMAS DINNER – 3rd December, 2009. The informal AGM and Christmas Dinner was held as usual at the Beauport Park Hotel (now named Bannatyne Spa Hotel). The Society was given the Quebec Room** as in previous years and twenty seven members sat down to a traditional Xmas menu (the plum pudding and brandy cream being a popular choice for dessert!). Many members commented on how attractive and ‘Christmasy’ the table looked with crackers and printed menus for THE GREY OWL SOCIETY. Our President, Ian West, opened the ‘meeting’ and Betty Taylor welcomed a new member, Mrs Ann Woolgar from Southwick, West Sussex. The apologies were then read out – rather more than usual because of ill health and the recent wet and windy weather – which deterred some members living at a distance. Betty Taylor made reference to the forest fires in Saskatchewan which came close to destroying Beaver Lodge – but which, thankfully, was saved (see Bulletin 28:22-23). Reference was also made to the first article in the Bulletin, written by local Military Historian, Peter Silk, concerning Archie Belaney’s time in the First World War which was supported by a ‘new’ photo of Archie with crutches, recently discovered and sent to us by our Vice-President, Professor Don Smith. Betty Taylor also said that she hoped to plan a ‘social evening’ for local members in January or February to watch part of the Ray Mears BBC2 programme Northern Wilderness. (In the programme there is a short episode filmed at Grey Owl’s Cabin. This was kindly sent to us by Cathy Carpenter from Little Clacton, Essex). Betty Taylor also thanked Michael Plumbe, in his absence, for all the good photos that he took at last year’s Dinner, many of which were enclosed in the relative Bulletins and some used in Bulletin 28. Attention was also drawn to the Archive Table which included a copy of Ray Mears Northern Wilderness. Bill Van Draat, gave the Treasurer’s Report, referring to the generosity of Jennifer Phiri and Margaret Charko and also to the small extras added by many members to their sub. cheques (this is greatly appreciated because postage charges have greatly increased over the years whilst, for the moment, the subscription remains unchanged). Bill also referred to the Society’s donation to the Temagami Community Foundation (see Bull.28:7). Bill finished, by tradition, with a very amusing anecdote! Henrietta Smyth ran the raffle (with two extra prizes generously donated by two members present) which made £60 for the Society’s funds.

The evening wound up about 11 p.m., after chatting and catching up with news. It was a pretty cold and windy evening when we left the hotel!

**See Bulletin 28:27 for history behind the Beauport Hotel.

Stop Press cont...

MAGAZIN FÜR AMERIKANISTIK. In two quarterly issues of this Magazine in 2003, there appears an article 'Die Indianersammlung im Museum von Hastings' by Colin and Betty Taylor. These articles cover in depth the ethnographic collections in Hastings Museum, with strong emphasis on Ted Blackmore, Clare Sheridan and Grey Owl. The emphasis on Grey Owl appears in the second issue, pp.5-8 and includes details of how Ted Blackmore (the Society's first President) and Chief Oskanonton (a Mohawk Indian) made the warbonnet that Grey Owl wore on his lecture tours. A copy is in the archives (the drawback for most of us is that it is only in German!). (Published and Edited by Dietmar Kuegler of Wyk auf Foehr, Germany).

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TWICE DAILY (MONDAYS EXCEPTED)
JULIUS HARRISON
AND THE FAMOUS HASTINGS
MUNICIPAL ORCHESTRA
Week-end Vocalist - - - LAURENCE HOLMES

To-morrow (Sunday) at 3 p.m.:
Grand BROADCAST CONCERT
The concert will be Broadcast in the National
programme from 8 p.m. to 9.55 p.m.
ADMISSION: 2/- & 1/6 reserved, 1/- & 6d. unreserved

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2nd. at 3 and 3 p.m.
CINEMA TRAVELOGUE
FIRST APPEARANCE IN HASTINGS OF
GREY OWL
WHO WILL PRESENT
PILGRIMS OF THE WIL
ILLUSTRATED WITH FILMS
Admission: 2/- & 1/6 reserved, 1/- & 6d. unreserved.
Special terms for Schools.



Grey Owl appeared on the stage at the White Rock Pavilion 2nd December 1935, ironically it is billed as "FIRST APPEARANCE IN HASTINGS".

In sending the above, Don Smith wrote 'I found this in my notes, must be from the Observer, late November 1935.'

(Very amusing caption!)