

Memories of Woodlands covers the time period when Woodlands was a training school for mentally retarded children. As a former summer employee of Woodlands School in the 1970s, I found the reminiscences of the staff to be very accurate and enjoyable. The passages capture the feeling of the hospital as a personable and congenial place. In a very persuasive manner, Adolph has managed to show how staff and patients made the institution more than a mere custodial hospital. To outsiders — all those who have neither worked nor lived in such places — this knowledge may be somewhat of a revelation, as it is common to view such institutions as oppressive places of incarceration. Adolph has been extremely successful

in collecting a variety of remembrances about recreational/vocational programs such as the “work gangs” and seasonal events such as Christmas concerts, summer camp, and the annual carnival day parade on the grounds. This book evokes the hospital as a home for both staff and patients over the years.

Both books provide interesting reading. While *In the Context of Our Time* does not directly address the contexts that actively shaped the institutional care of the mentally ill and retarded in BC, it does contain a wealth of detail about the evolution of PHI and Woodlands School. *Memories of Woodlands* brings Woodlands to life in a very personal manner.

*I Have Lived Here Since the World Began:
An Illustrated History of Canada's Native People*

Arthur J. Ray.

Toronto: Lester, 1996. 398 pp. Illus., maps. \$45.00 cloth.

By Bruce Rigsby, *The University of Queensland*

AS I PREPARED MY REVIEW, a colleague e-mailed to say that she and her husband were going to Canada later in the year and to ask me if I could send them copies of my course reading lists on Canadian indigenous topics. I replied and recommended Skip Ray's new book as the first item they should read for orientation and background. It is unfortunate that there is no truly comparable single-volume Australian counterpart.

Ray criticizes the evolutionist, assimilationist, and salvage ethnography assumptions of past anthropological and historical work, and he

focuses on the creative, often future-orientated engagement of Native peoples first with the British and French colonizing powers and trading companies, then with self-governing colonies, and later with the provinces and federal government of Canada. He draws together extensive research on Native involvement in the fur trade across the country in pre- and post-Confederation times, in prairie buffalo hunting, in cattle-raising and farming, and in goldmining and the industrial salmon fishery of BC. He scripts a panoply of Native groups and players. Some (e.g., the Huron and the Beothuk) have left the stage; others

(e.g., the League Iroquois peoples, the Ojibwa, and the Cree) remain on stage; and some new actors (e.g., the Métis) came of age during the nineteenth century. We first hear Native voices through interpreters, then, in recent decades, they come to speak for themselves in a range of venues, not the least of which are the courts.

A prominent theme throughout is the struggle for the recognition of existing and continuing Native property rights in the land and its resources under indigenous law and custom, not as the creations and gifts of the sovereign Crown or parliaments and not at their whims. In the earliest period, the Crown negotiated treaties with near-equals, but, as the military balance changed and fortunes shifted, non-Native negotiators hardened, skimmed on their terms, and sought to appear to give substantial benefits but at cheap cost (e.g., the Robinson treaties of 1850, which addressed Ojibwa claims; the Douglas treaties of 1850-54 on Vancouver Island, which facilitated European settlement). Ironically, these have provided the basis for recognizing some continuing Native rights. The Calder Case (1973) opened the door for further court actions and instigated the federal claims process; a number of regional agreements (e.g., James Bay [1975], Inuvialuit [1984], Nunavut [1992], and Nisgha [1996]) have followed. The Baker Lake Case (1979) resulted in the recognition of common law Aboriginal possessory title but did not halt mining operations. The Delgamuukw action, brought by the Gitksan and Witsuwit'en hereditary chiefs, received an anomalous, reactionary decision in the BC Supreme Court in 1991. This decision was partially overturned by the BC Court of Appeal

in 1993 and will shortly be heard by the Supreme Court of Canada, trilateral negotiations amongst the Gitksan and Witsuwit'en, BC, and the federal government having led to nought. In the light of the Mabo No. 2 decision, where the High Court of Australia found in 1992 for common law recognition of continuing Native title based on indigenous law and custom (where not extinguished by the Crown or adverse acts), I expect that Delgamuukw will see the issue resolved in Canada. The tide will not be turned.

The book lives up to its subtitle as an illustrated history. There are sixteen pages of magnificent colour plates in four lots placed equidistant throughout the text. They include portraits of notable persons and groups, events and activities, photographs of artefacts, and contemporary Native art. There are dozens of black-and-white photographs of the same as well as reproductions of historic drawings and documents. There are five maps specially drawn for the text and five reproductions of historic maps and portions of maps. These coordinated illustrations enhance the attractive printed text and give the reader other views into what Native life was and is like.

The book is written for a general readership in clear, expressive prose uninterrupted by notes and conventional scholarly apparatus. There is a five-page bibliography of selected books, and a twenty-two-page index is a great aid to readers. This is a superbly presented and reasonably priced book. Its visual, tactile, and intellectual pleasures are many; it is a book to enjoy with one's eyes and hands, heart and mind. I salute the author for his considerable achievement.