

Duncan was (p. 109) or was not (p. 52) dominating and authoritarian in his running of the village at Metlakatla.

In spite of such reservations there is no doubt that this book is an important contribution to the writing of British Columbia's history. Apart from the rather frequent use of bloc quotes it is written clearly and well, and the well-documented arguments demand the attention of all students of Indian-European contact on the northwest coast. One hopes, however, that historians will not consider that Duncan's career has now been covered and that it is not worth further investigation. There are some aspects not dealt with here that still demand attention, and it may well be that Duncan is such an enigmatic figure that only after several minds have been brought to bear on his career will we fully understand it. Duncan's psychological make-up accounts for much of what happened at Metlakatla. The work of Neil Gunson on the London Missionary Society missionaries in the South Pacific could well provide many clues for a deeper study of Duncan's personality. Then there is the history of his second venture at New Metlakatla on Annette Island, Alaska, which still awaits attention. Jean Usher has said an important, but hopefully not the last, word on William Duncan.

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ROBIN FISHER

*The Surrey Pioneers*, by Richard V. Whiteside. Vancouver: the author, 1974. Pp. x, 197; illus.; no price stated.

This exceptionally well-illustrated book is the product of a labour of love by the son of a pioneer Surrey family and a grant from the federal government's New Horizons programme. The photographs of pioneer homes, farms and businesses suggest that many early settlers earned a very good living from the forests and fields of Surrey, a municipality stretching from the United States border to the Fraser River, immediately south of New Westminster.

The brief, anecdotal sketches of ninety-three families who settled in Surrey before 1900 tend to be genealogical accounts. They do show that while Surrey was named after an English county and over a third of the heads of families included in the volume came from that country, many early settlers — including one native British Columbian — were Canadians by birth. In addition, there were a handful of pioneers from the United States, Sweden, Norway, Germany and Austria as well as from

Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The varied routes by which the early settlers reached Surrey from their home lands reveal a great diversity in experience. A few came directly but many spent some time in the United States or in eastern Canada, chiefly Ontario.

Since Mr. Whiteside makes no pretense of presenting a scholarly study or academic analysis, he does not tell us if he has attempted to compile a comprehensive list of Surrey's pioneers or has merely included those whose family photographs have survived. Thus the book is of little value to serious students of British Columbia history but it will appeal to its intended audience, the children and grandchildren of Surrey's pioneers.

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PATRICIA E. ROY

*Vancouver Ltd.*, by Donald Gutstein. Toronto: James Lorimer, 1975. Pp. 192; illus.; \$5.95.

Have you ever wondered what Vancouver's most important marriages were? Or why Clark Bentall lives in a house and works in an office building? Or whether or not you're one of the real people? Or how to tell the good guys from the bad guys? Donald Gutstein gives his answers to these and other questions in *Vancouver Ltd.*, James Lorimer & Company's \$5.95 contribution to urban scholarship.

*Vancouver Ltd.* tells us little of the city. It tells us plenty about Gutstein. He is guilty of ignoring the facts, of shoddy research, and of flights of dogmatic fancy. *Gutstein's Limitations* would perhaps have been a more accurate title.

As it stands, the book is a single-minded, self-centred bit of flim-flam in which Gutstein, using the royal "we", sets himself up as the arbitrator of tastes and the judge of all deeds that have shaped this city. If, as judge, Gutstein had presented a more balanced discussion of the city's development over the years, it might have been a worthwhile venture for both reader and writer alike.

Gutstein starts with the past and works his way into the present. He decries the opening up of provincial lands in the 1880s as "the most reckless give-away". He points out that "the CPR continued to clear land, grade the streets, and sell the lots". And one CPR employee had the gall to dream that Vancouver was "destined to become a great city in Canada". Gutstein is a proponent of the conspiracy theory of life and to him these are dastardly plots twisted to show that even from the begin-