

Upcoast Summers, by Beth Hill. Ganges, B.C.: Horsdal and Schubart, 1985. Pp. xvi, 156. Illus.; paperback, \$9.95.

In the summer of 1938, at Stuart Island, then the centre for the fishermen of the upper Gulf of Georgia, the Johnstone Strait and the rapids area between, the present reviewer was introduced to a remarkable couple: she, a large handsome, ebullient Englishwoman, dressed in twin set and heavy, hand-woven tweed skirt; he, a small, weedy, quiet, chain-smoking and rather intense Anglo-Canadian, attired in a very old blue seaman's jersey and dungarees. Their boat, even among the variegated squadron that tied up at the Stuart Island store float, was as distinctive as they were: a low-lying, apparently unseaworthy gas boat with a strongly built teak superstructure and a somewhat incongruously tall funnel. These were the Barrows: Francis and Amy, and their boat the *Toketie* — and all the fishermen on that coast knew them as old friends. Every year they went up the Inside Passage from Saanich almost to Queen Charlotte Sound, and then back down again, stopping in at almost all the myriad little communities which at that time existed in shore settlements and float camps in every inlet. They were able to lead the sort of gypsy summer life that was the envy of all in the great company of fishermen, loggers, fish packers, government officials, policemen, storekeepers, homesteaders and casual Depression transients whom they met en route. Wanderers of independent means were rare on the coast in those Depression years, and not especially welcome, but the Barrows, by reason of their excellent manners, their hearty sharing in all the social events of the coast people and, above all, their persistent interest in all that went on in that now long-vanished society, were enthusiastically greeted annual fixtures.

Thus it is particularly fortunate that at least some of Francis Barrow's journals have been rescued from destruction and are now edited and published by Beth Hill. She has provided an attractive introduction and conclusion and highly informative bridging notes, but has allowed Barrow to speak very much for himself. She has also very sensibly arranged the excerpts in sequence as the *Toketie* proceeds up the coast, so that we can group together the successive annual impressions of each locality in turn.

Insofar as there was a purpose to these wanderings, it was to record Indian petroglyphs and other remains for the Provincial Museum and Dr. William Newcombe. Barrow's sketches of these petroglyphs are used as the chapter heads of the book. However, the archaeology was only a pretext for prolonged visits, nosing into all the unlikely corners of the

coast and making extended and risky trips up to the heads of Toba, Bute and Knight Inlet, always recording the fascinating range of characters: the Klein Brothers of Pender Harbour; the heroic, moving spirit of the Columbia Coast Mission, the Reverend John Antle; J. F. Macdonald of Princess Louisa Inlet; Ned Breeze and his wife of Marina Island; and the Stantons, Jim and Laurette, settled for a lifetime in the mountain fastness at the head of Knight Inlet, where the grizzlies grazed like cattle and playfully wrestled in the early morning stillness at their door. All these, and the impressions of that far-off vanished society are evoked by Barrow's journal and by Beth Hill's skilful interpolations. This is a wonderfully entertaining and moving book for all who loved the old society of the coast and mourn its passing.

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Tough Guy: Bill Bennett and the Taking of British Columbia, by Allan Garr. Toronto: Key Porter Books, 1985. Pp. 190.

This book is a journalist's account of the restraint program begun in B.C. in February 1982 and intensified with the legislative package presented in July 1983. It is a book about personalities and day by day events, not social and political forces or historical context. The focus is on Bill Bennett as the pivotal personality in the scenario of restraint, and the perspective is unabashedly partisan. Mr. Garr writes as an opponent of the restraint program and the neoconservative philosophy it embodies.

After a prologue which sets the tone of the book with a portrayal of the firings of a number of Human Rights personnel, the narrative begins with a sketchy account of W. A. C. Bennett and the Social Credit Party which preceded the leadership of William Bennett junior. This is followed by a brief description of Bennett junior's personal background and political career before restraint. For political history this is thin stuff, although the theme of continuity in political style is appropriate. As Garr observes, the threat of the "socialist hordes" as a rallying mechanism has been a mainstay for father and son. The other theme in these early chapters is pure pop-psychology: a father-son relationship which leaves the son "running from his father's shadow." Fortunately this theme plays little role in the rest of the story.

Garr's account of the beginnings of restraint in 1982 focuses on the marketing people. He accepts the claim by Patrick Kinsella, the chief