

An Enjoyable Region

Rolling with the Punches

"DOMINION DAY SPORTS WERE GREATLY ENJOYED
Native Sons Provided Public with Varied Programme"

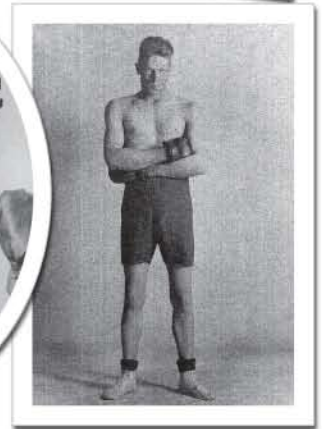
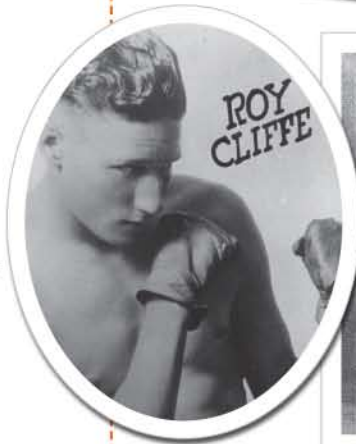
"Although the steady downpour on Tuesday afternoon kept the organizers of the Dominion Day sports very anxious up to the last minute the weather on Wednesday was perfect for the occasion... thanks to the Native Sons of Canada, Courtenay was en fete on Dominion Day and a programme of sports commencing at half past ten was successfully run off. The sports, juvenile and adult, the horse-racing and the baseball were held on the baseball grounds in the morning and afternoon and the boxing tournament in the evening at the stadium..."

Crowd Well Satisfied

At night the Courtenay stadium was well filled to see Roy Cliffe meet Young Peter Jackson, the colored boy. It was undoubtedly the stiffest fight Roy has ever been seen in here, and the preliminaries were the best ever staged in any boxing tournament in Courtenay..."

Excerpt from *The Comox Argus*, Thursday, July 2, 1925.

Right: Loggers' Sports on Dominion Day, late 1920s. The "stadium" was specially erected as a boxing ring for local fighter Roy Cliffe. It was located where the present Courtenay & District Memorial Outdoor Swimming Pool now stands in Lewis Park. Shubbs collection of CDM



Above Right: Roy Cliffe (1903 - 1992). As a professional boxer, Cliffe ranked fourth in the world and held the Canadian Light Heavyweight title for three years during the 1920s. In 1928, after sixty-four professional fights, Cliffe followed doctor's orders to take two years off to let his right hand heal and went to work on the family farm. He never returned to boxing.

Shubbs collection of CDM

Above Left: Roy Cliffe, 1920s.

Camera: District Press collection at CDM

Right: Viola McQuillan broad jumps on behalf of Courtenay High School at an inter school sports meet, c. 1942.

CDM 993.39.4

Below: Pole vaulting at Lewis Park, 1930s.

Photographer: J.B.W. d'Esteiro CDM 989.183.94

Right: Fair grounds atmosphere, late 1910s. CDM 2002.136.8

Below: Log rolling in pool at Lewis Park, Canada Day celebration. The pool officially opened July 1st, 1949.

Shubbs collection at CDM

Below Centre: Log bucking competition, 1920s.

CDM 2002.136.9



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The Call of Nature

“Most of the Bevan youngsters remember once or even twice when they were caught swimming in the nude and Bill was no exception. He was with a bunch of his pals skinny-dipping in the river when Myrtle Moore, Blanch Stevenson, Maida Webber and a few more girls came along. When they saw the boys’ clothes on the bank, they couldn’t resist the temptation and ran off with them. The boys however, didn’t fancy walking home unclad so ran out of the water after them. The girls were so shocked they dropped the clothes and never looked back.”

Excerpt from *Voices from Bevan*, Betty Annand. As told by Bill Gullett.

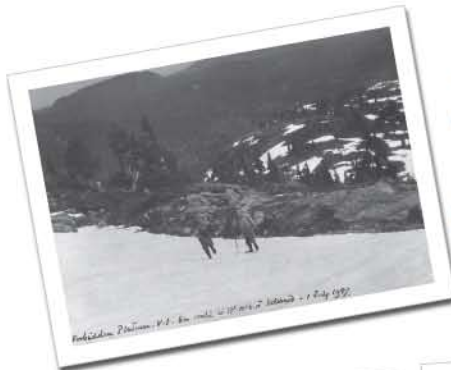
Right: Avid golfers. Various identified as the Comox Golf Club and Courtenay (now Sunnydale) Golf Club. CDM P315-203



Right: Comox golf course. CDM 992-334-21



Above: Sign near Koksalah (Duncan area), Vancouver Island, 1930s. Photographer: S.B.W. d'Esteve. CDM 989-183-82



Above: King Salmon Club weigh-in at Elk Hotel in Comox, likely 1930s. Photographer: S.B.W. d'Esteve. CDM 998-219-139

Left: Hikers en route to Mt. Albert Edward, July 1st, 1947. Photographer: S.B.W. d'Esteve. CDM 989-183-170

Bottom Left: At Moose Falls, Vancouver Island in August, 1939. Photographer: S.B.W. d'Esteve. CDM 998-219-228



Above: Trails from the past. Photographer: S.B.W. d'Esteve. CDM 998-219-323



Above: Ploughing for fairway on Comox golf course in April, 1924. Photographer: S.B.W. d'Esteve. CDM 998-219-296

Right: Skating on the frozen flooded ball field in Union Bay, c. 1946. Photo courtesy of Union Bay Historical Society. #436



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Building Team Spirit

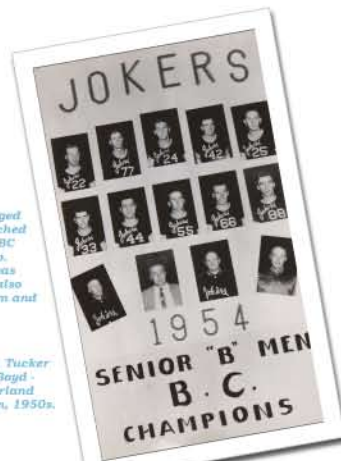
“In the evening Nell and I went down to watch the rugger game between the Dragon [H.M.S.] and Courtenay; as Courtenay was short, I had to change and play too. The evening was overcast and warm and I soon found out my form was deplorable. We had a fine game; and got beaten by two tries and one converted, 8 points. We did not score. Two or three of the Navy men were knocked out.

It was a very gentlemanly kind of game though; I think really very few of either side were in the best of training; the Navy got the ball out of the scrum better than we did... Ken Osler acted as Umpire; there were not many spectators... however it was quite enjoyable; there is quite a nice turf on the field now.”

Excerpt from July 10, 1931 diary entry of Geoff Capes.

Right: The 1954 Cumberland Jokers basketball team managed by J. Younger and coached by H. Watson won the BC Senior B championship. The core of the team was from Cumberland but also included former Tsolum and Courtenay players.
CDM 992.377.30

Below: Marvin Watson, Tucker Williams and Charlie Boyd - members of the Cumberland Jokers basketball team, 1950s.
CDM 992.377.31



Above Right: Playing the waiting game.
CDM 992.19.4

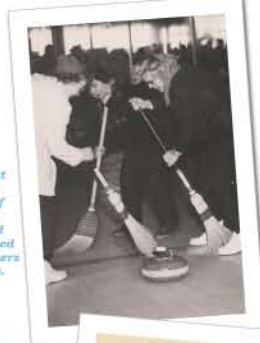
Right: Curling women: Inga McArthur, Ethel Bryant and Eileen Johnston.
Stables collection at CDM

Bottom Right: "The Beauties" won the Vancouver Island Intermediate Championships but lost out to the Vancouver "Heather Cubs" in the coast finals of 1944 with a score of 34 to 29. The team was coached by Bob Rickson and included Jack Hough, Junior Chairmen and Earl Woods as players.
Stables collection at CDM

Bottom: Tsolum Girls' Basketball Team - Island Champions in 1931 and B.C. Champions in 1932.
CDM 996.1.1

Right: Soccer team including Bob Harding, John Beadnell and members of the Osler family. Photographer: J.B.W. d'Estevy
CDM 998.219.138

Right: Fans enjoy a football (soccer) game at the Union Bay ball field, c. 1915.
Photo courtesy of the Union Bay Historical Society, #560-1



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The Great Outdoors

“We had altogether a very long and delightful walk on Wednesday, and I think that no colony can offer so great temptation to the agriculturist as this, and when the island is further explored I have no doubt that much more good and clear land will be found: the soil in the neighbourhood of the Courtney [sic] River is what I suppose would be called a rich sandy loam.

On Thursday morning I went out shooting alone in the woods, and there came upon what I have not previously met with in the colony, namely, clear forest without underwood: the effect was very fine, the enormous trunks rising to a great height without throwing out any branches, and then forming a thick canopy overhead...”

Excerpt from November 1, 1862 letter from *Vancouver Island Letters of Edmund Hope Verney, 1862-65*, edited by Allan Pritchard.

Right: John Brown and Jimmy Aston camping in the vicinity of Circle Lake, c. 1950. Stylistic collection of CDM



Right: George Hatley and Muriel Saunders fishing on Comox Lake in August, 1923. Photographer: S. B. W. d'Estevé. CDM 995.219.300



Above: Cumberland miners' annual picnic in Royston, c. 1900. CDM 984.170.1

Below: Unknown pioneer family with everyday necessities including axes and firearms. Stylistic collection of CDM



Bottom: Unknown group at beach picnic, c. 1900, CDM 989.143.9



Left: Williams Beach picnic, c.1907. Picnickers include members of the Smith, Williams, Blackburn and Cliffe families. CDM 980.87.1



Below: Picnic on Denman Island, August 27, 1930.

Denman Islanders hosted the Courtenay-Comox Board of Trade to thank them for their support in getting an official Denman Island Ferry. The inaugural run was August 7, 1930 and ferry service consisted of twice a day sailings. Denman Islanders treated their guests to a picnic, cricket match, swimming and, of course, free ferry rides. Photographer: C. W. Sillerton. CDM 974.121.1



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Mutual Improvement

“A society, one of the first of its kind to be organized in Courtenay was ‘The Comox District Temperance and Mutual Improvement Society’... It gave us another opportunity each week to cross the bridges and meet our friends in the Old Agricultural Hall. At all these meetings old and young participated, just as the whole family attended the dances held there...”

‘Physical Fitness’ evening was a chance to play with the punching bag, the rings and the very limited equipment we had. We were a healthy community with no thought of being anything else, we had no hypochondriacs. We never heard of tranquilizers, we didn’t know what an aspirin was, and weren’t we lucky not to have had a T.V. to tell us. Air pollution had not been thought of, neither had cars, at least not in Courtenay.”

Excerpt from *Wild Roses and Rail Fences*, Leila Carroll.
In reference to the early 1900s.

Right: Unidentified men but probably NOT members of the Comox District Temperance and Mutual Improvement Society, c. 1910.
Photographer: Walter Gage Sr. CDM 990-24-149

Below: Fred Hanumond and his horse, c. 1910.
Photographer: Walter Gage Sr. CDM 990-24-109



Below: The PEPs basketball team, 1931. Photo includes their sponsor, Len Picket, as well as members of the Seurle, Laver, Sutton, Leighton and Hames families among the players.
CDM 986-88-1



Right: Courtenay school children including the author of this panel's quote - Leila Carroll. Leila is the girl in the centre of the image wearing glasses and a white pinafore, c. 1905.
Photographer: Walter Gage Sr. CDM 990-24-147



Right: Members of the Courtenay tennis club, 1920s. The wooden court was located near 4th Street and Johnston Avenue.
Shuttle collection of CDM



Right: Women's grass hockey team pose with 2 unidentified males (no word on the gender of the dog), c. 1905.
Photographer: Walter Gage Sr. CDM 990-24-137



Below Right: Texada Island hockey players, c. 1910s. The Review newspaper of December 25, 1914 noted that "the first game of hockey ever played in Comox took place at Little River...between a team from Cumberland and the boys of this place."
CDM 985-74-10



Below: Grass hockey played on Duncan's field, Sandwick corner, c. 1905. Includes Isobel Urquhart, Birdie McPhee, Margaret Urquhart, Lucille Halliday, Fanny Pierce, Mary Milligan, Josephine Willemar and Laide Willemar.
Photographer: Walter Gage Sr. CDM 990-24-125



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Healthy Competition

“Probably the greatest weapon that the Bevan boys had was their fans. Ma Coates, who led this group of enthusiasts, was always the scorekeeper. She knew the game [of softball] backwards and never missed a chance to let you know it. Backed by several other local ladies, Ma made life tough for the opposition. There was only one way to counteract them and that was to give taunt for taunt. Just to grin at them or bow to them while going onto the field or coming off was effective. One or two of our players could take only so much before they lost their cool. Of course, this just meant extra razzing.”

Excerpt from *Voices from Bevan*, Betty Annand. As told by Nelson McInnis.

Right: Bill Marsden and Jorgen von Schilling at the Union Bay baseball field.
CDM 992 J77.32

Below: Earl Woods at school competition high jump, 1944. Earl was a star athlete who excelled in track and field, basketball and soccer.
CDM 993.39.5

Below Right: Horse race on Courtenay Fair day, 1913.
Photographer: B.S. Fern, Stubbs collection at CDM



Right: "Foot race", c. 1905. In the foreground is the Orangeman's Hall, next door is a private home and then the Courtenay Hotel. The Masonic Hall is on the right of the photo.
CDM 992.9.10



Right: Ladies Lawn Bowling Club, Cumberland, 1933. Note the shadow in the foreground is from the overhead night lights. The clubhouse was located near the intersection of Derwent Avenue and Sutton Road.
Stubbs collection at CDM

Bottom: Softball game at Courtenay High School.
CDM 993.191.3

Middle: Race on Courtenay Fair day, 1913.
Photographer: B.S. Fern, CDM 986.1.17



Right: Men's tug-of-war on Courtenay Fair day, 1913.
Photographer: B.S. Fern, Stubbs collection at CDM



Bottom Right: Women's tug-of-war on military sports day, May 24, 1916. Members of the 102nd Battalion cheer on the competitors.
Photographer: Walter Gage Sr. CDM 972.53.18

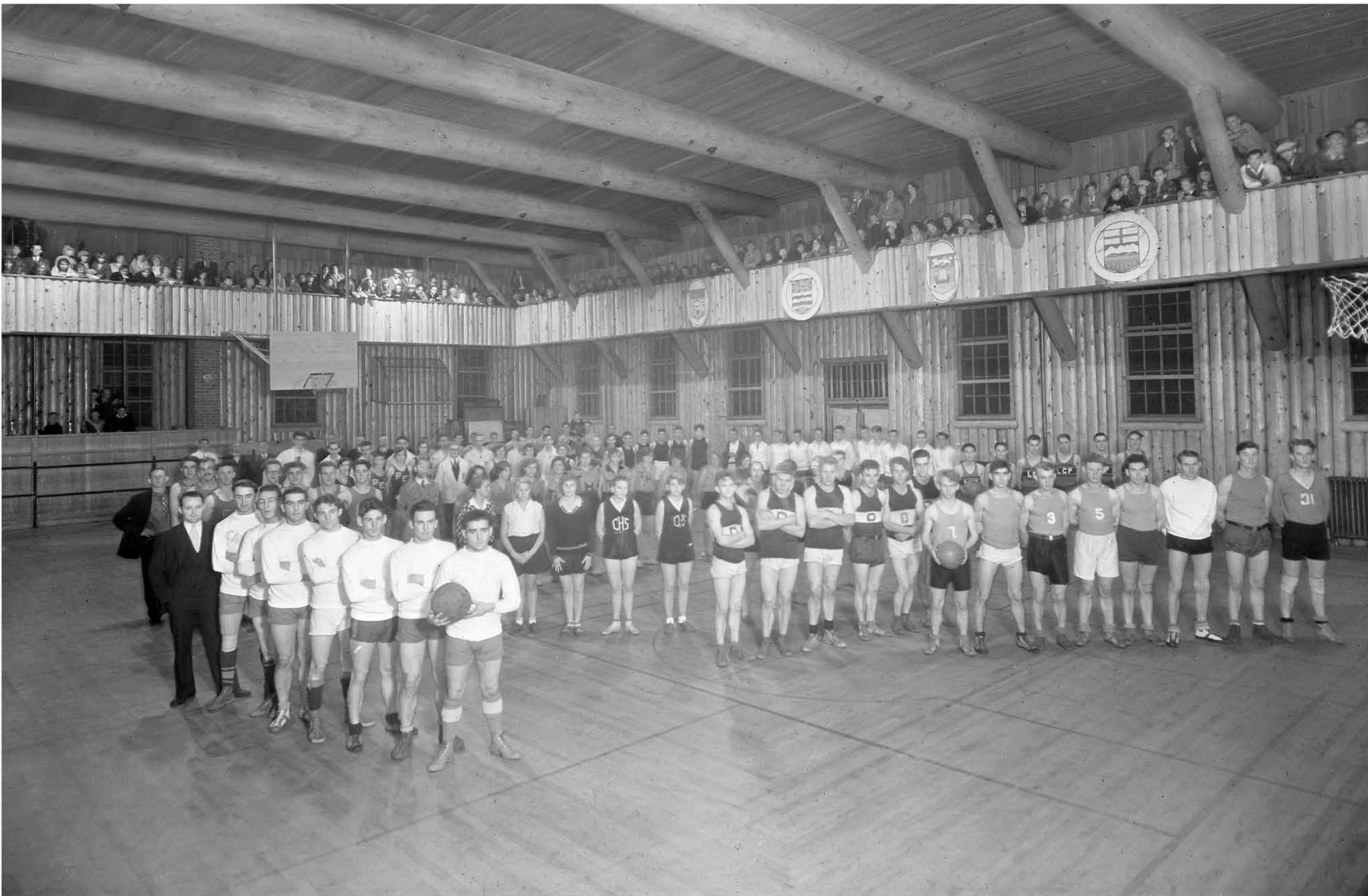




Toyo Maeda (catcher) and Mr. Motomochi (batter), c. 1920s.

Photographer is likely Taki Matsubuchi.

Photo from the Cumberland Museum & Archives, C140-170



Basketball league gathered at Native Sons Hall, Courtenay, 1931.

The Comox District Free Press of October 6, 1931 reported that "the athletes played four games during the evening, and all this was offered to the sport starved populace at 25 cents, friends, a quartah of a dollah."

Photographer: C.W. Sillence. Sillence collection at CDM

Photo has been digitally altered.