



Marj GINGER
From Sicamous BC

She's renewing acquaintances

By BRUCE STAPLEY
Marj GINGER sat surrounded by four friends and relatives on Saturday amid the bustle of the Claremont Sesquicentennial celebrations.
"It's been about 15 years since we've all been together," she offered. It has been a week of renewing old acquaintances for the one-time Claremont resident who now resides in Sicamous, British Columbia.
Marj had been presented with a gift acknowledging her being the person who had come the furthest

for the Claremont Homecoming, which was a part of the weekend's celebrations.
"I was born in Claremont about a mile east of the four corners in 1915," she states. "I lived here until 1935. When I went into training to become a nurse."
Marj claims that she is able to return to her old hometown about once every two or three years. And she shakes her head at how property values have escalated, and at the overall rate of change.
"It's been developed so much," she maintains. "There's just not

so many open spaces."
Marj remembers the day when a trip to Toronto was a two-day proposition, and how the social life of her youth consisted mainly of skating, sleigh rides, and garden parties.
"We used to put on plays in the Baptist Church, and at school," she recalls. "Al and Bert Harvey attended the high school here, and they were always involved in the productions. They both went on to have careers in radio."
She also remembers working at the old canning factory in her

youth, which was located where the railway station now stands. "We would can tomatoes and pumpkins," she recalls.
The Claremont School was divided into a high school and a public school back then, she says. Today, the high school, which occupied the upstairs of the present school, is no more.
And while Marj is firmly entrenched in her British Columbia home, she still enjoys coming back to visit. "A lot of my friends are still here," she maintains.

The old homestead is no more, but she says that, overall, she is pleased with the Claremont of 1988. "They've cleaned it up, and smartened it up," she claims.
Marj has been staying with her sister, Elizabeth Fryer (Ward), who lives in Norland. She'll return to B.C. this weekend (June 19).
But not before taking in the highlights of the 150th birthday of the hamlet in which she grew up. "I've really enjoyed the celebrations," she enthused. "The parade was very nice."




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