

EARLY DAYS AT PEASE LAKE

Bob McMinn

The first dwelling at Pease Lake was a log cabin (see photo on right) built for Duncan Ross and his family around 1910.



Duncan Ross

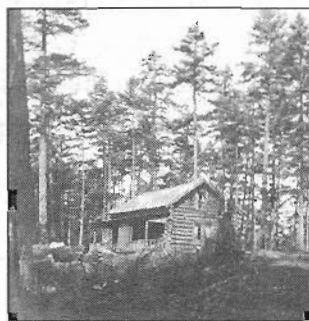
Duncan Ross, who was born in Ontario, the son of immigrants from the Scottish Highlands, came west in the 1890's to seek his fortune. While teaching school in Vic West, he decided to buy 160 acres of virgin Douglas-fir and cedar around Pease Lake in the Saanich Highlands, as the area

was then known. He left Victoria shortly afterwards to improve his financial status in the booming mining town of Greenwood in the B.C. interior. There he met and married "Birdie" Thompson who came from Nova Scotia via Spokane, Washington. Building the Grand Trunk Pacific (now CN) near New Hazelton, B.C. was another venture which helped Duncan Ross accumulate enough assets by 1910 to return to Victoria in comfort. Back in Victoria, he built a home for his wife and three daughters on Rockland Avenue and started the "Ross Ranch" at Pease Lake. By 1913 the original cabin had been expanded to include a kitchen on one side and a beautiful room with French doors and a fine stone fireplace on the other. At first a winding road from Langford was the only connection to Victoria. The new Ross-Durrance Road from Durrance Station was under construction by 1918 when Mary Ella Ross, now widowed, and two of her daughters came to enjoy living year round in the woods beside Pease Lake. (All photos courtesy of Robbins Family photo album)

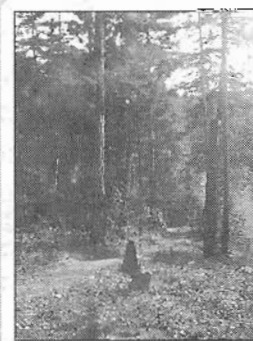


Mrs. Mary Ella ("Birdie") Ross

A Collection of Photographs



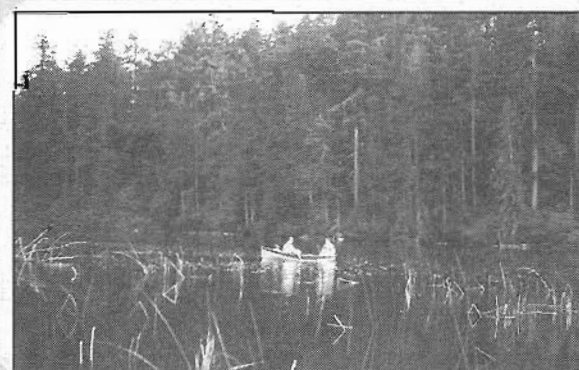
The first log cabin



Ross-Durrance Road near Pease Lake



Ross Family and Friends at the Ranch, 1913



Enjoying the Ranch Lake