HISTORY OF ALVIN

Pitt Lake, BC
V0M 1C0

ALVIN THOMAS PATTERSON

Born in Parrsboro, Nova Scotia July 4, 1965 and settled in Alvin in 1901 as a logging contractor and farmer. Died July 20, 1942 in New Westminster.

ALVIN POST OFFICE

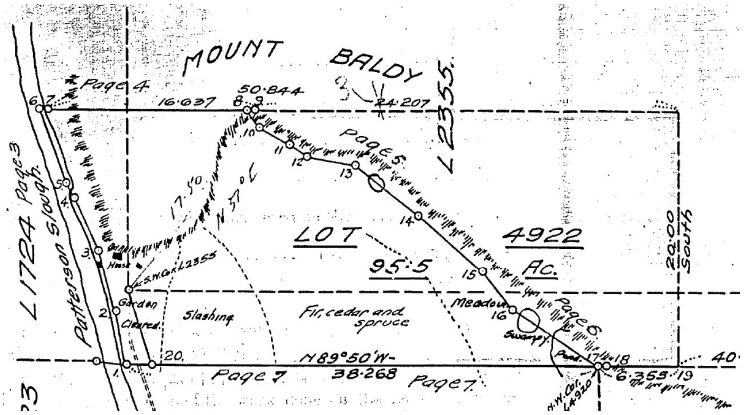
Opened October 1915 on L3174, G.S. Ward as Postmaster, closed March 1955 and relocated and reopened December 1955 4 miles upriver on L2573.

POPULATION OF ALVIN

Alvin had at least 200 people logging and farming in the area. Most of the community had left by the early 1960's.

SURVEY NOTES

NW 1 (DL 1723): No houses/farms
NW 2 (DL 2043): No houses/farms
NW 3 (DL 3162): No houses/farms
NW 4 (DL 3168): J Kennedy's House
NW 5 (DL 3173): House Noted, Crabapple Orchard
NW 6 (DL 4920): Garden and Clearing
NW 7 (DL 4922): House, Chicken House, Cleared Garden



ABOUT ALVIN

Post Office, Settlement & Farming

The upper Pitt Lake area was settled in the early 1900's, with about 40 people homesteading the area around Alvin. Wrigley's British Columbia Directory in 1922 described Alvin as "a post office and settlement in Dewdney Provincial Electoral District, reached by steamboat on Pitt Lake, and distant 28 miles from Coquitlam, on the CPR, the nearest railway and telegraph point.

Local industries: Lumbering, farming and mining. Some 800 acres were thrown open for settlement.

Of the 22 people listed in the 1922 directory, most participated in the local industries in multiple ways. 14 were loggers, 15 were farmers, only 1 was a miner, and 2 were Dominion administrative men.

Alvin, which was first identified in the BC Gazetteer as a post office in 1930, originally existed around the north end of Pitt Lake. BC Forest Products moved the town to 4 miles above the head of Pitt Lake in 1955, with the BC Gazetteer showing an altered application showing the move on June 4, 1959. The post office would reopen in December of that year, and remain open until at least 1982.

The town had a school, a town hall, a swimming pool, tennis court and a hotel. After the residents of Alvin moved away (by the early 1960's), the valley became primarily a logging operation, with employees residing in houses or bunk houses provided by the company. Mail, groceries and other necessities were brought up by boat 3 times a week. Only a few cabin owners remained in the area.

In the 1980's, Fletcher Challenge bulldozed the town, with JS Jones Timber (now Teal-Jones) taking over the remaining logging operations in 1993.

Sources:
Wrigley's British Columbia Directory
BC Geographical Names: Alvin
Pitt River Lodge History
Letter: M.J Boland to J.G Byth, Sept 19, 1968 - Pitt Meadows Museum
Wikipedia: Alvin, BC

ALVIN

a post office and settlement in Dewdney Provincial Electoral District, in Upper Pitt Valley, reached by steamboat on Pitt Lake, and distant 28 miles from Coquitlam, on the C.P.R., the nearest railway and telegraph point. Dominion Government hatchery here. Local industries: Lumbering, farming and mining. Population 40. Some 800 acres have been thrown open for settlement.

Armstrong W H general store and postmaster
Chisholm Geo logging
Cox Marcus farming mining
Davidson A G farming
Davidson A L farming
Dom Govt Hatchery (Pitt Lake) J McIsaac in charge
Eck John mixed farming
Eck Peter mixed farming
Gardiner F W farming
Haagenson Edw mixed farming
Haagenson Ole mixed farming
Kitsall Dave logging
McCauley Geo farming
McIsaac John in charge Pitt Lake Hatchery
McIsaac Malcolm farming
Patterson Alvin T farming logging
Peters Chas R farming logging
Peters Thos J farming logging
Pitt Lake Hatchery J McIsaac in ch
Reid I A farming
Ryan Thos logging
Swanson G logging
Thompson E farming
Truelove Wm farming logging
Uphoff W C logging

Amar Point, on the west side of Bute Inlet.
Amazon Creek, runs from Victoria Lake into Alice Lake, in Rupert District, Vancouver Island.

Wrigley's British Columbia Directory 1922

In the early 1900's Alvin was BC's first sockeye salmon hatchery operated by the Corder Family until the 1930's.

The Upper Pitt River still today is known as one of the top fishing rivers in Canada.