

THE DAILY PROVINCE, VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1939

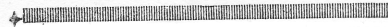


PREMIER'S LADY IN B.C.— Visiting in Vancouver is Mrs. W. Aberhart, as the guest of her two daughters, Mrs. J. M. Cooper and Mrs. C. A. MacNutt. Above is Mrs. Cooper, with Marilyn. Upper right, Mrs. Aberhart chats with Mrs. MacNutt. Right, she goes walking with the third generation; left to right, Beverley and Donna Marie MacNutt, Marilyn and Patricia Cooper.





—Photos by Alfred Krausee





Mrs. Aberhart---Homemaker---Believes Women Also Have Place In Politics

By MARGARET A. ECKER.

THIS is a drawing in black and white of a very charming lady who is spending Easter in Vancouver.

It is not an interview. Mrs. Aberhart will not give an interview. She doesn't like to answer questions, because the early days of the Aberhart administration brought her some sad experiences at the hands of reporters.

So this can only be a sketch of a very vivacious, white-haired lady, wife of one of Canada's

most famous politicians, whom I had the privilege of chatting with recently in the garden of a Kerrisdale home.

While the sun drifted across the lawn and danced on the daffodils, and an April-scented breeze brought pink bloom petals from the Japanese plum trees floating about us, Mrs. Aberhart played with her four girl-grandchildren and admitted her happiness at spending the Easter days with her two daughters and their families.

"I was the one that lost out when we moved from Calgary to Edmonton," she admitted regretfully. "I can't come to Vancouver so often. . . . to Vancouver"

MRS. ABERHART LIKES ALBERTA.

Chatting with Mrs. Aberhart is pleasant and is effortless. She likes to talk of gardens, where she put in a great deal of time before public life cut into her hobbies. And she likes to talk of Alberta. "It's the doorway to the North, the land of the future," she said. She likes to talk about dogs and horses and the heart-twisting beauty of the foothills.

She likes to talk about Edmonton. "It has so much natural beauty, with its ravines and rivers . . ." She likes to talk about Calgary, her former home. "It's remarkable for a smaller city . . . and the country around is so beautiful . . ."

But she won't talk about politics.

"I'm interested in politics," she admitted, "but I'm not all wrapped up in them. I have so many other things that keep me busy." It must be refreshing for Alberta's Premier to come home after a cyclonic day of Legislature to a companion, so merry, so refreshing, so cosmopolitan in interests and tastes. She confided: "He likes to relax when he comes home, to get his mind off things."

Premier Aberhart has not allowed public life to cut into his home life. "He always comes home for his lunch."

As she spoke of her girlhood in Galt, Ontario, Mrs. Cooper teasingly suggested that her mother had been "a social butterfly."

"Hardly so," laughed Mrs. Aberhart, "though I'm afraid I wasn't very interested in a career. But I do think that it's wonderful that the young women of today are doing so well in the business and professional world."

"STA-UP-TOP"
LE GANT*

WON'T
ROLL
OVER

WON'T
RIDE
UP



PREMIER'S WIFE HAS OLD WORLD CHARM.

However, the speaker herself is an excellent argument for the old regime when poise and grace were cultivated rather than aggressiveness.

"All my interest lies in young people," she went on. "I think the youth problem is our greatest problem. After all, our Canadian youth are our greatest asset, but the machine age seems to have deprived them of the niches in the world that are their birthright."

When her official duties are not too trying Mrs. Aberhart plays a bit of golf and reads "... not too much politics," she admitted. She is also a very enthusiastic member of the Women's Canadian Club.

Although she herself will not ride on the political carrousel, she said: "Women have their place in politics. I think they can play their part in public life and at the same time retain their charm and naturalness."

AUG 30 1960

A. BERTON.

*Mrs. Aberhart Observes 25-Year
Milestone From the Sidelines*



MRS. WILLIAM ABERHART
... "lady with winning smile"

This month marks a quarter century of Social Credit reign in Alberta and anniversary celebrations in various forms are the order of the day.

Participants, many of them pioneers in the movement which dates back to the early thirties, are recalling that warm night in August, 25 years ago, when they heard with amazement and incredulity, that the first Social Credit government in the world had been elected.

It was then such catchy locutions as: "Purchasing power in the hands of the consumer; continual flow of credit; the basic dividend; unearned increment; cultural heritage; bonafide citizen; price control; life blood of the state; just price and individual enterprize" were spoken, written and broadcast.

With nostalgia Social Crediters travelling down memory lane are repeating them; recalling the group meetings — the hard times when funds for the movement came in in nickles and dimes; "these were the dirty thirties" said one of the pioneers just last week.

PERSONALITY EMERGES

But whether they are dwelling upon the "A plus B Theorem" the BNA Act or the strides made through the years, a personality emerges from all discussions — that of the late Hon. Mr. Aberhart, who led them into that smashing victory on that August night in 1935.

He subsequently became the first Social Credit premier in the world and three years following his second victory, he died May, 1943, while visiting in Vancouver.

Quietly observing the milestone is his widow, Mrs. William Aberhart, now residing with her younger daughter, Mrs. Charles (Ola) MacNutt and Mr. McNutt, 419 Crescent Blvd. Mrs. Aberhart spends part of each year here and the balance with her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. J. Martin (Khona) Cooper, Half Moon Bay, B.C.

While Mrs. Aberhart is still interested in the movement she no longer takes an active part. Her chief role in formative days when her husband was not only guiding the économic reform but was carrying on the duties of principal of one of Alberta's largest high schools, Crescent Heights, and conducting a Bible school as well, was to look after his welfare, creating a healthy home atmosphere which made it possible for him to carry out the incredible schedule in which he was involved.

"CHARMING WIFE"

John A. Irving, professor of ethics and social philosophy, Victoria College, University of Toronto, in his book "The Social Credit Movement in Alberta" had this to say of the wife of the former premier: "Those who knew him (Mr. Aberhart) best declare that he could not have long survived such a schedule without the sympathetic understanding co-operation of his charming wife, the former Miss Jessie Flatt of Galt, Ont., whom he had married in 1902. Mrs. Aberhart, who was totally devoid of worldly ambition, devoted herself whole-heartedly to the welfare of her husband and two daughters."

Prof. Irving went on to point out her husband's friends and enemies were well aware of her strong and guiding presence behind the scenes.

During her years in Alberta's capital she participated in a full social life, attended sessions of the Legislature and Social Credit rallies. Nor did Mr. Aberhart possess all the organizing ability, for during the war years she became known for her successful teas and other events at which large sums of money were raised for the Red Cross.

When contacted by The Albertan at the weekend Mrs. Ab-

erhart, who has always been diffident on interviews, had no statement to make. She would rather talk about her six grandchildren than discuss politics, and in her usual charming manner.

"GRACIOUS HOSTESS"

The Vancouver Sun once said: "Mrs. Aberhart is stately, dignified and exudes old world charm." The Edmonton Journal wrote of her as "a gracious hostess" and the Social Credit Chronicle, the party organ, referred to her as "a lady with a winning smile" and eulogized her "ability to make friends with persons in all walks of life."

This was born out many years ago by a reporter who frequented the Sun Parlor of the Paliser Hotel to secure lists of "among those noticed" having tea. Sitting at the rendezvous table at which Mrs. Aberhart presided, were Mrs. J. J. O'Connor, provincial president of the Alberta Women's Liberal Association and Mrs. J. D. Petrie, president of the Calgary Women's Conservative Association.

Their friendship has stood the test of time—and politics—for a similar rendezvous usually takes place during Mrs. Aberhart's annual Calgary visits.



The widow of the man who founded Social Credit in Alberta and became its first premier in 1936, Mrs. William Aberhart, celebrated her birthday Tuesday with fanfare. She is flanked by two great-granddaughters, Stephanie 7, left, and Susan 9, children of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Alexander, who with their brother William, named after Mr. Aberhart, were on hand for the celebrations held in the hospital to which "granny" is confined. Mrs. Charles MacNutt, Mrs. Aberhart's younger daughter, arranged the party and provided the giant birthday cake which was shared with the patients who wheeled out en masse to join the fun and bestow birthday greetings on a popular fellow patient.

Photo by Randy Hill.

Mrs. Aberhart

Marks Birthday

By EVA REID

The gala party revolved around a slim, trim figure sitting tall in her wheelchair tapping a dainty slippered foot to the gay music wafting through the sun-lit reception rooms in which her fellow patients and her family had gathered to do her honor.

Like the June - scented breeze which brought an aura of freshly planted gardens, green grass and budding trees floating into the atmosphere, memories of yesteryear must have filled the mind and heart of this great grandmother.

Was she, the grand dame who for a decade occupied number two position in the province, thinking of other occasions when there were crowds — masses of people — music, gifts, good wishes, curtsies and handshaking? But all was not glamor. Could she have been dwelling on the occasions which brought heartache, tears, worry, routine and mundane duties?

At that moment it was hard to say but one thing was crystal clear—the years had not robbed her of the old world charm which has always been her trade mark, along with beautiful white hair, now rinsed in a delicate blue. Mrs. William Aberhart, widow of the world's first Social Credit premier, was born of an era when poise and grace were cultivated rather than aggressiveness.

So it was Tuesday evening on her birthday in the Sarcee Auxiliary Hospital, on the hill, that

she graciously received the good wishes from fellow patients in wheel chairs and mobile cots and beds, nurses, doctors, staff and entertainers.

Well schooled in controlling emotions through the long and stormy political career of her husband, Mrs. Aberhart was able to accept the warm tributes, the gifts, flowers, song dedications and the embraces of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, in queenly fashion. But she was deeply touched.

The dignity which surrounds Mrs. Aberhart is not conducive to prying into the milestones she has passed, though a few bold males ventured, in the hopes of satisfying their curiosity.

They know now she has reached the eventide but "God willing", she will enjoy more birthdays, perhaps even live to see her oldest great-granddaugh-

rt Marks Birthday

ter grow up. Susan, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Alexander, is nine and she sang, My Best to You, accompanied at the piano by her grandmother, Mrs. Charles MacNutt, the former Ola Aberhart.

Many of the patients had recalled the full, rich contralto voice possessed by Mrs. MacNutt who sang on the Back to the Bible Hour program over the Voice of the Prairies radio station, which was instituted by her father back in the late '20s. Premier Aberhart, who at his untimely death in 1943, had earned the reputation of Canada's most famous politician, was also a famous preacher and high school principal.

When Mrs. MacNutt, who arranged the birthday party program, sang harmony favorites with Mrs. Allen Barker and Mrs. Elmer Taylor, and Mrs. Florence Beaupre at the piano (all Rotary Anns) these patients told her how good it was to hear her sing again.

Then came Mr. Vincent Peluso, tenor in the Metropolitan Opera for 10 years now living in Calgary, to make most of the guests weep with his rendition of Danny Boy; Mrs. Barker with solos to soothe and Mike Soby with banjo, wit and humor to chase away pain, cares and depression.

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From under his pillow Mr. Mike Domoslai removed a mouthorgan and from his cot made sweet music with Mrs. Beaupre at the piano.

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admitted politics was never her cup of tea.

A sweeping Social Credit victory at the polls in 1935 thrust Mrs. Aberhart into a life of activity she never dreamed possible.

But whatever demands were made on this vivacious, fun-loving woman, her husband's welfare always came first. She knew well his tremendous capacity for hard work which often robbed him of sleep, and she was adamant on regular and substantial meals.

Yet, she had the reputation of being an excellent hostess, a tireless Red Cross worker and organizer during the war years and the most tastefully dressed chatelaine to grace a premier's residence.

Many of the difficult situations Mrs. Aberhart faced, as all politicians' wives have and must face, were relieved by her sense of humor and her ability to laugh. Even in ill health her large, violet eyes sparkle as she bursts into musical laughter over incidents which may involve her own actions.

Perhaps it is because of this happy faculty that Mrs. Aberhart will never grow old to her family, friends, fellow patients and to this reporter who has known her many, many years.

She is an excellent argument for the old regime when women were trained in the social graces rather than being fitted for the world of commerce, politics and the professions.



MRS. WILLIAM ABERHART
... in late 80s

Mrs. Aberhart Seriously Ill In Hospital

Mrs. William Aberhart, widow of the founder and first premier of the Social Credit party in Alberta, is seriously ill in Sarcee Auxiliary Hospital here.

Her daughter, Mrs. Charles McNutt, said Mrs. Aberhart, in her late 80s, has been in the Sarcee Hospital for approximately one year.

Details of the illness were not released.

Her husband's death which occurred while visiting in Vancouver, was a crushing blow from which Mrs. Aberhart really never recovered. From 1943 until her death she watched the movement from the sidelines, occasionally attending some of the anniversaries. Her time was taken up with her children and grandchildren at the homes of her son-in-law and daughters. Mr. and Mrs. (Khona) James Cooper and Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. (Ola) MacNutt and with whom she divided her time, the former in Half Moon Bay, B.C. and the latter in Calgary.

John A. Irving, professor of ethics and social philosophy, Victoria College, University of Toronto, in his book *The Social Credit Movement in Alberta* had this to say of the wife of the former premier: "Those who knew Mr. Aberhart best declare that he could not have survived such a schedule without the sympathetic understanding co-operation of his charming wife. . ."

"Mrs. Aberhart," he continued, "who was totally devoid of worldly ambition, devoted herself whole-heartedly to the welfare of her husband and two daughters."

Funeral services will be announced later.

Mrs. Aberhart Dies In Hospital Here

JAN 14 1936

Mrs. William Aberhart, 87, widow of the man who founded the Social Credit party in Alberta almost 50 years ago, died Thursday night in Calgary.

A family spokesman said she suffered a recurrence of an intestinal illness for which she had surgery in her late 70s. Mrs. Aberhart had been in Sarcee Auxiliary Hospital for more than a year.

The funeral will be in Grace Presbyterian Memorial Chapel, 15th Ave. and 9th St. S.W., Monday at 3:30 p.m. Dr. Murdo Nicolson, pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church, will officiate.

Remains will be sent to Vancouver for burial in the family plot of Forest Lawn Cemetery, where Mr. Aberhart is buried. Leyden's Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Aberhart, a former principal of Calgary's Crescent Heights High School, and an evangelist, became premier of Alberta in 1935. The party has continued in power since, under the leadership of E. C. Manning, a long-time associate of the Social Credit founder. Mr. Manning took over the premiership upon Mr. Aberhart's death in 1943.

Mrs. Aberhart is survived by two daughters, Mrs. James Cooper of Vancouver and Mrs. Charles MacNutt of Calgary.

Mrs. Aberhart was the former Miss Jessie Flatt, born in 1878 in ~~Calgary~~ ^{Barrie}, Ont. She and Mr. Aberhart were married there in 1902.

FOUNDED INSTITUTE

The couple came to Calgary about eight years later. Here Mr. Aberhart, principal of Crescent Heights High School in



MRS. ABERHART

... died late Thursday

northwest Calgary, founded the Prophetic Bible Institute.

Mr. Aberhart began spreading Social Credit political ideas, in addition to his educational and religious work. His efforts were crowned with success in 1935 when the party he founded swept the Alberta general elections and he became premier.

RED CROSS WORK

Mrs. Aberhart was known as an excellent hostess and tireless worker for the Red Cross. She was on the executive of the Women's Canadian Club here for about six years and was social convener for both Calgary YWCA and YMCA.

She was superintendent of the primary Sunday school department at Westbourne Baptist Church, and later held the same post at the Prophetic Bible Institute.

Those who attended the funeral services Monday afternoon in Grace Presbyterian Church for Mrs. William Aberhart, widow of the founder of the Social Credit movement in Alberta, came from all walks of life, representing church, state and the community.

Some of the original members of the first Social Credit groups formed in Calgary in 1933-34, were scattered through the congregation; former teachers and students at Crescent Heights High School where Mr. Aberhart was prin-

cipal; teachers and pastors who worked with the Aberharts in their gospel ministry at the Calgary Prophetic Bible Institute and its affiliated Baptist church; former club members with whom Mrs. Aberhart had worked prior to her life in the Alberta capital as the wife of the premier from 1936 to 1943; matron, nurses and staff at the Sarcee Auxiliary hospital where Mrs. Aberhart ended her days.

Premier Manning's wife represented her husband and sons Keith and Preston; Albert Ludwig, MLA, Calgary

east represented the government; Orvis Kennedy came from Edmonton to represent the Alberta Social Credit League of which he is president and Ian Smith, the Calgary Social Credit Area Council of which he is president.

Rev. Murdo Nicolson, pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church, centred his message on the words of Paul as recorded in 2nd Timothy 4:7-8. He noted the apostle, in his early Christian experience, had a "passionate resolve" to finish his course with joy and had achieved his purpose.

Jessie Aberhart

AB. Jan 14th, 66

Mrs. Aberhart dies quietly

The widow of the world's first Social Credit premier, Mrs. William Aberhart, died at 11:05 p.m. Thursday in the Sarcee Auxiliary Hospital, following a lengthy illness. She was in her late eighties.

Born Janet (Jessie) Flatt in Galt, Ont., she married William Aberhart a young school teacher, July 30, 1902. They came to Calgary in 1910, with their two daughters, Khona Louise and Ola Janet and soon became active in the community.

A Bible student in Ontario, Mr. Aberhart commenced to teach classes here while teaching high school in old Balmoral. At that time they were

See MRS. ABERHART, Page 10

Mrs. Aberhart, he said, had finished her course and achieved her purpose . . .” Those who knew her best can appreciate this to be true . . . In her service to her fellowmen, as a wife and helpmate to William Aberhart, as a mother of her children and as a leader in many functions in public life, she was inspired and directed by her Christian faith . . .” he said.

In conclusion Mr. Nicolson who at the outset stressed that life “was a precious gift from God” and when returned in service through Jesus Christ,

there were rewards. He read the words of Paul who in prison, with death at his elbow, had told of looking forward to the crown to be given him by the Righteous Judge.

Miss Mary Shortt, violinist, who had been associated with Mr. Aberhart in his Back to the Bible Hour broadcasts, played The Lord’s Prayer by Malotte and the congregational hymns included, O God Our Help in Ages Past and Onto The Hills Around. Mrs. Lawrence (Olive) Moon was at the console of the organ.

Leyden’s Funeral Home was

in charge. Remains were flown to Vancouver where committal services will be held at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday in Forest Lawn cemetery and at which members of the cabinet of the B.C. Social Credit government will pay their respects. Rev. Robert Stagg of Delbrook Baptist church will be in charge.

Mrs. Aberhart is survived by two daughters, Mrs. James Cooper, who will return to Vancouver Tuesday, and Mrs. Charles MacNutt, Calgary; four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Aberhart dies

Alberta

Jan. 14/66

members of Westbourne Baptist church where Mrs. Aberhart was primary Sunday School superintendent.

It was in 1918 her husband formed the Calgary Prophetic Bible Conference and out of which grew the Calgary Prophetic Bible Institute, 516 18 Ave. S.W. and subsequently the Baptist church where Mrs. Aberhart carried on supervising the primary Sunday School.

An active member of the Calgary Women's Canadian Club of which she was a charter member, she served on the executive for more than six years and was third vice-president. She was also social convener for this club for several years, filling the same office for numerous terms of both the YWCA and YMCA.

While Mrs. Aberhart never took an active part in the Social Credit movement, she did attend meetings, and assisted at socials. When the Social Credit party swept into victory in August 1935 and a victory rally was held in the Institute later, Mrs. Aberhart, seated on the platform, was presented with a bouquet of roses and asked to speak. "My husband does the speaking, my daughter Ola (Mrs. MacNutt) the singing and I do the listening," she replied simply amidst thunderous applause.

Noted for her "old word charm," beautiful white hair and her style consciousness, Mrs. Aberhart, like the character in Kipling's "IF" walked with kings and never lost the common touch. (She was the wife of the premier when the 1939 Royal Tour of the late King George VI and the Queen mother were in Edmonton.)

Nor did political affiliation concern her. This was born out by a story in The Alberta files which reported her in the Sun Room of the Palliser hotel having tea with Mrs. J. J. O'Connor, then provincial president of the Liberal Women's Association and the late Mrs. J. D. Petrie, president of the Calgary Women's Conservative Association.

During her years in Alberta's capital Mrs. Aberhart participated in a full social life, attended sessions of the legislature and Social Credit rallies.

Nor did Premier Aberhart who died in May 1943, have all the organizing ability, for during the war years she became known for forming groups, holding teas and benefit meetings at which large sums of money were raised for the Red Cross.



MRS ABERHART
... on last birthday

Her husband's death which occurred while visiting in Vancouver, was a crushing blow from which Mrs. Aberhart really never recovered. From 1943 until her death she watched the movement from the sidelines, occasionally attending some of the anniversaries. Her time was taken up with her children and grandchildren at the homes of her son-in-law and daughters. Mr. and Mrs. (Khona) James Cooper and Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. (Ola) MacNutt and with whom she divided her time, the former in Half Moon Bay, B.C. and the latter in Calgary.

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Aberhart mourners

Alberton January 18th, 1966

'from all walks'

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CITY OF CALGARY PROCLAMATION

Sunday, June 6th, 1965, has been set aside in the City of Calgary and designated "Citizens Decoration Day of Remembrance". On this day, in every Church in the City, a portion of the service will be devoted to the paying of tribute to those veterans who have passed on, and the saying of special prayers for those who still serve.

This day has been set aside to enable the civilian citizen to pay his respects to those who lost their lives in the service of the country by a visit to the graveside for the purpose of decorating various war memorials and the placing of floral decorations on the graves of veterans.

A brief wreath laying ceremony will take place at 1:00 o'clock p.m. on this day at the Cenotaph in Memorial Park, 4th Street S.W. between 12th and 13th Avenues. A representative of the City will place a wreath on behalf of the citizens. Any organization desiring to participate and place a wreath of their own are invited to do so.

All citizens are invited to attend this brief ceremony, visit the Fields of Honour in the cemeteries and place floral decorations either on the Crosses of Sacrifice, the graves of veterans, or the graves of loved ones. The graves of veterans in the City cemeteries will be marked with small flags.

GRANT MacEWAN
MAYOR

H. S. SALES
CITY CLERK



Many Attend Service For Mrs. Aberhart

Friends and associates from political and religious circles Monday attended the funeral of Mrs. William Aberhart, widow of the founder of the Social Credit party in the province and first Socred premier for Alberta.

Mr. Aberhart was also founder of the Back To The Bible Hour in Alberta.

Mrs. E. C. Manning, representing the province's premier, attended.

The funeral, at Grace Presbyterian Church, was attended by family friends, former teachers at Crescent Heights High School where Mr. Aberhart was a principal, and original members of the Calgary Prophetic Bible Institute ministry.

Albert Ludwig, MLA for Calgary East; Ian Smith, Calgary Social Credit Area Council president; members of the original Social Credit party and staff members from Sarcee Auxiliary Hospital, where Mrs. Aberhart spent her final years, also paid their respects.

One of the first participants in the Back To The Bible Hour, Miss Mary Shortt, a violinist, played Malotte's rendition of The Lord's Prayer.

Organist, Mrs. Lawrence Moon, played O God Our Help In Ages Past and Unto The Hills.

The service was conducted by Rev. Murdo Nicolson, pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church.

Palbearers were from Leyden's Funeral Home.

Following the grave-side service the body was flown to Vancouver. A service will be held there Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. where members of the B.C. Social Credit party will attend.

Rev. Robert Stagg of Delbrook Baptist Church will officiate.

Leyden's Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Herald Jan 18 1966