

VOICE

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SPECIAL "LILLE D'EASUM" ISSUE

Here are the tributes to Lille which came in too late to be included in our last issue. Perhaps that was good, for it gave us a chance to do a Special Issue in honour of a most special person.

Here is a list of Lille's published works.

Here is a good recipe of hers, a cheerful way to remember her!

And here is a poem which deserves repeated reading and much pondering: it is hoped that it will help spur us along the trail Lille blazed.

First, some of the tributes:-

LILLE D'EASUM (1899 - 1980)

- by Freda Handford

In 1968-1970 there appeared a prestigious publication, edited and printed in England - History of the Twentieth Century (1900 - 1970). There was a long chapter on nuclear power. I quote: "The peaceful application of nuclear energy since 1945 has been brilliant and extensive" - "a launching of an Atoms for Peace project (was) started by President Eisenhower in the 1950s - (compared to coal-fuelled power plants) nuclear power stations occupy much less land, require no fuel storage areas - (are) architecturally neat - they do not pollute the atmosphere."

The only reference to the perilous nature of this technology is in a chapter, "The Environment Crisis", a brief paragraph and a short footnote about radioactive wastes. The propaganda had begun.

Becoming aware of fundamental criticism of nuclear energy, in 1970 Lille wrote "The Hazards of the Peaceful Atom", a brief distributed by the Voice of Women despite furious criticism by some members.

Its publication sparked off the beginning of the opposition to nuclear power development in Canada, according to Gordon Edwards, co-founder with Dr. Fred Knelman of the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility, Montreal, 1975.

Lille was mainly responsible for establishing the Vancouver branch of the C.C.N.R., doing the drudgery job of collecting fees and donations - helping to plan its activities.

For many years Lille had striven to give practical help to those persecuted by civilized governments in this century while most of us were merely sorry for them - refugees - everywhere - from the Spanish

Civil War - Arabs from the Middle East - American draft dodgers and deserters here in Canada - young people working in the difficult environmental field against vested interests.

Although Lille was often involved in preparation for and attendance at conferences and public hearings, was continually writing briefs and letters, having correspondents everywhere to whom she sent information, she always had time for people. She had the happy faculty of attracting youth to join her in the struggle for a better world.

Some of us, her personal friends, were well aware she was taxing her frail body to the limit of its endurance. Though deeply shocked by her sudden death we were not surprised.

The first letter I wrote against war was published in the Illustrated London News, February 1966: "The celebrated English wit and writer, Sidney Smith (1771 - 1845) said early in the last century before there came upon us the horrors of total war: 'There is more of misery inflicted upon mankind by one year of war than by all the civil peculations and oppressions of a century. Yet it is a state into which the mass of mankind rush with the greatest avidity, hailing official murderers in scarlet, gold and cock's feathers, as the greatest and most glorious of human creatures. It is the business of every wise and good man to set himself against this passion for military glory which seems to be the most fruitful source of human misery.'

"But Sir Arthur Bryant in his article on the British Army, appearing in the Illustrated London News, November 27, 1965, wrote: 'Yet though the visual appeal of the army is largely a thing of the past (no scarlet, gold or cock's feathers!) its appeal to the spirit and the heart remains what it has always been; for at his highest the soldier spends his life in acquiring and practicing virtues which render a man a selfless and heroic, instead of a selfish and ignoble, being.'

"Now in our mid century we desperately need the highest moral courage and patient intelligence to solve the appalling problems facing all mankind due to this misguided glorification of physical courage."

We were honored by having as a fellow member, a comrade, a friend, one who had this high moral courage, this patient intelligence and also complete dedication to the fight against the accumulating horrors of our perilous times - Lille d'Easum.

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British Columbia and the rest of the world lost a great friend when Lille d'Easum died on August 13. She never retired from her thorough research, powerful writing, clear speaking and patient organizing for peace. Right through the eighth decade of her life and beyond she worked for a non-nuclear world which could remain habitable for future as well as present generations of people and other living things.

The same day her death was announced the Sun reported that the so-called "seven year moratorium" against uranium exploration and mining was in critical condition after less than seven months since it was proclaimed through a provincial order-in-council.

"An amendment to the Mines Act - quietly slipped on to the order papers by Energy Minister Bob McClelland earlier this week - appears to give the chief mining inspector the right to allow the opening of a mine despite the moratorium." (Vancouver Sun, August 14).

This inconspicuous trick by the Energy Minister suggests that

the main purpose of the moratorium was not to stop uranium mining, but to put an end to public hearings of the evidence against it. By terminating the hearings of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into health and environmental aspects of uranium mining when they were less than half finished, the government closed the door on many experts preparing to explain why uranium mining was unhealthy, uneconomic, unnecessary and unwise.

The most significant witnesses and the most compelling evidence against uranium mining had not yet been heard or cross-examined when Premier Bill Bennett abruptly ended the hearings on February 27. Beginning in September the Commission had planned community hearings throughout the province wherever people worried about the great risks, high costs and dubious benefits of mining uranium in their watersheds. These public hearings were entirely cancelled.

Lille d'Easum's death puts a heavy responsibility on other concerned citizens to carry on her work. However, the memory of her life will inspire all of us from age nine to ninety-nine to continue her struggle against the threat of nuclear war and nuclear power - all the way from the front end of the nuclear fuel chain, uranium exploration, mining and milling, to the rear end, coping with enormous waste that remains radioactive and dangerous for thousands of years.

As Lille d'Easum so wisely advised us from her many years of experience, "the government isn't going to stop it, the multinationals aren't going to stop it... the people have to stop it."

- Walter Taylor,
South Okanagan Environmental Coalition,
Penticton, B.C.

(Aug. 14 letter to the Vancouver Sun, not printed.)

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We heard about Lille with heavy hearts on our way to Grindstone Island the day after her death. I have since paid tribute to her before every speech or workshop that I give. She was very special to many of us here as no doubt she was to you.

I feel honoured to have known such a wonderful woman - to hear the young people talk of her is most gratifying.... We feel her loss terribly.

...My best regards to you dear VOW friends out in B.C. In a sense Lille was my "glue" to you there. Whenever I was coming out, she gave me such a royal reception I felt like a special guest. She had that way of welcoming us that was so warm. We'll miss her very much and we must try to keep up the contacts without her "glue" - although it won't ever be the same.

...I knew how weak and tired she'd been feeling those last couple of years, and how she pushed on despite her weakness...

Peace, and love,
- Dorothy Rosenberg,
Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility
Montreal.

(excerpts from a letter)

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OUR ENEMY

a poem composed for the Washington Actions
of the Coalition for a Non-Nuclear World

For the first time in all history

All history has a common enemy

Against which everything human must now unite -

The good and the bad,

Those who believe in reason and those who do not believe in reason,

Those who believe in freedom and those who do not believe in freedom,

The exploited and the exploiter,

The poor and the rich,

The radical and the conservative,

The atheist and the believer,

The humanist and the anti-humanist,

The unselfish and the selfish,

The saint and the sinner,

Joy and pain,

Happiness and misery,

Health and sickness,

God and the devil,

Life and death.

But how can life and death have a common enemy?

Is not death itself the worst of all common enemies?

What have we found that is worse than death,

Against which both death and life must Now Unite?

It is that which can kill the living thing in such a way

That the passage from death to further life is blocked.

What we before called death released the elements of life

In forms that could produce new life.

The dance of life had a silent partner called death,

And the dance could go on.

Our nuclear enemy can remove the silent partner and stop the dance.

It can kill the cell of life, kill life-renewing death.

Transform this green and growing planet into a thing forever sterile.

Our nuclear enemy is not only a reactor that produces plutonium

It is an economic system that seeks profit from reactors.

It is a political system that makes nuclear war possible.

It is an arms race that multiplies nuclear weapons.

It is a foreign policy that threatens to use them first.
 It is education that does not teach the truth about the common enemy.
 It is religion that does not denounce the common enemy by name.
 It is ignorance that can be overcome.
 We can overcome it.
 We united will defeat this common enemy.

- John Somerville,
 President, American Section,
 Union of American and Japanese Professionals
 Against Nuclear Omnicide.

Reprinted from the U.S. Farm News for July, 1980.

NOTE: Dr. John Somerville is Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, University of New York. One of his books, "The Philosophy of Peace", has an introduction by Albert Einstein.

He is also the author of the article "NUCLEAR OMNICIDE: It Is Now Everyone's Responsibility to Prevent the Holocaust", a P.E.F. reprint now available from Mary Cox, R.R. 1, Fanny Bay, B.C., VOR 1W0 (see B.C. Voice, Vol. 15 No. 2, Late Summer 1980, page 8).

We urge you to order some now: its clarity, punch, urgency and importance can hardly be over-estimated.

HIGHLIGHTS from the MINUTES
 (Exec. meeting Sep. 10)

- * Bank Balance: \$950.00 approx.
- * Membership: total 146 to date.
- * Membership Booklet: to be ready for the AGM in October.
- * MONETARY MOTIONS carried:-
 - * \$60.00 to Rec. Sec., for past and projected (Sep.) mailings.
 - * \$100.00 to Cox, reimbursement Newsletter expenses, Vol. 15 No. 2.
 - * \$400.00 voted, if needed, for additional expense assistance for Nat'l AGM delegates.
- * Announcement: Mary Thomson in hospital: card to be sent.
- * Delegates to Nat'l AGM & Lobby: Deeno Birmingham, Alice Coppard, Eileen Kenwood. (And Claire Perry, later. - Ed.)
- * Literature: Jim Lawson Publications discussed, re Soonoo Engineer's paper.
- * Annual Meeting: sample brochure presented by Dorcas Blair. Theme "Means of Preserving Life on Earth", emphasis on urgency.

ARROWS for Action!

→ In the B.C. Voice, Arrows mean Things You Can DO

(Many will remember this from the AGM at Irono Aphoria last Fall)

Thoughts after Lille's death

Dear sister so diligently searching
beneath sleep as well as waking
beneath our troubled cities, tattered forests
in the under-passages of the world's conscience
delicately and forever seeking the root
the dread secret
buried somewhere below Hiroshima, My Lai,
Dachau, the heart of Chile

Where is that root?
Who will speak?

Did you who loved all helpless ones on man's earth
and especially all that burrow and strive
find warmth there?
Did the crickets, Lille,
sing to you of hope?

On your knees in that stubborn earth
you became your work
became our work, became ourselves
giving and giving
long ago earning this reprieve.

Lille's LIBRARY -- of which most items are available from the Voice of
Women Literature Committee, R.R. 1 Fanny Bay, B. C. VOR.1W0

- 1. CCNR flyer, well put together with quotes (just a bit dated now) 1¢
- 2. Hazards of the Peaceful Atom. 1970. Published by VOW as Jim
Lawson Memorial Fund. 7 pp. 25¢
- 3. Excerpts from Pickering Annual Report: 1972. A summary of
"significant events." Sheet (2 sides) 2¢
- 4. Anti-Nuclear Movements. 1975. A partial summary of world-
wide anti-nuclear efforts. Sheet (2 sides). 2¢
- 5. Energy to Produce Energy. 1975. N-power as energy waster.
Sheet (2 sides). 2¢
- 6. Nuclear Power; Danger: Radiation. 1976. Published by SPEC
and VOW. 50 pp. with references. \$1.00
- 7. Some Opinions on Nuclear Power. 1976. Selected quotes
from eminent sources. 2 sheets (4 sides). 5¢
- 8. Uranium: its risks are great; leave it in the ground. 1977.
Vancouver Sun reprint. Sheet (2 long sides). 3¢
- 9. The perils of low-level radiation. 1978. Vancouver Sun
reprint. Sheet (2 long sides). 3¢
- 10. The Candu Safety Myth. 1977-8. Sheet (2 sides) 2¢
- 11. Will Low-level Ionizing Radiation Bring an End to Life on
Earth? 1978. 2 pp. (3 sides) 3¢

LILLE D'EASUN'S DELICIOUS CASSEROLE

- Cook together... 1 peeled and cut-up Danish squash (small)
- 1/2 cut-up onion
- Add..... 1 can mushroom soup
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 cup grated carrot
- 1/2 lb. raw fresh mushrooms
- cut-up red and green pepper (optional)
- Top with..... fine breadcrumbs and melted butter
- Bake..... for 35 minutes at 325°F

(Many will remember this treat from the AGM at Ireneo Abbey's last Fall)

GET YOUR PEN

The CCNR (Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility, of which VOW is a member) since its founding in 1975 has appealed to three successive federal governments to hold a national public inquiry into Canada's nuclear industry.

This request has received the support of the Tories (who during their brief stay in power promised to hold such an enquiry), the New Democrats and even the Liberal Party's own Policy Committee. However, the Trudeau governments have steadfastly rejected the idea. On May 1, 1980 (Hansard pp 605 - 606) Trudeau again turned it down. These are his words: "...The time schedule for keeping our (nuclear) industry viable is very, very short. We are now in danger of seeing the Canadian (nuclear) industry become obsolete and lose its chance to sell in other countries of the world unless we make some quick decisions on some basic questions."

Canada's nuclear industry has been subsidized by several billion dollars of taxpayers' money. To deny taxpayers a chance to find out how their money has been used and afford them an opportunity to express their views is denying Canadians their basic democratic right of freedom of information and expression. We urge you to write Prime Minister Trudeau and Energy Minister Marc Lalonde, expressing your views on this very important matter.

No stamps required. Address: House of Commons, Ottawa, K1A 0A2. For the more energetic ones among you: letters to editors on the above issue to various papers can magnify the impact of your message immensely and may prompt others to also express their concerns on these issues.

- CCNR Newsletter, Kelowna, B.C.
Summer 1980

"I have this terrible feeling that somewhere out there is another accident waiting to happen."

- Carolyn Lewis,
member of the Kemeny Commission.

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(for non-members)

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--- Cheques payable to "Voice of Women" ---

Bright in the sad days following Lille d'Easum's death on August 13th, three remarks stand out in my mind - all made by Voice of Women friends: "We must all take our inspiration from her"; "Her great feeling for animals should not be left out (of the eulogies)"; and, perhaps the best possible summing up of Lille's whole life and work: "She lived for the future".

Unwavering in her dedication, Lille wasted nothing of herself, nothing of her life. Her tremendous capacity for feeling was used to the utmost, her anger fuelling her work as much as did her love.

Neither diminutive size nor physical frailty were allowed to impede her in the least, nor old age: small, frail, and a great deal older than most of her friends had ever suspected, Lille leaves us no excuse to quit fighting, hoping, building - until we drop.

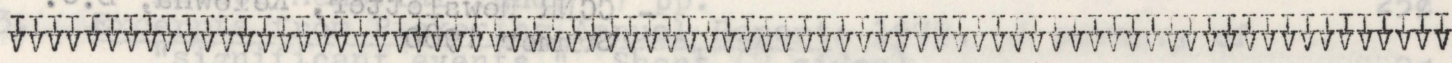
She does leave us hope, undying inspiration, a shining example.

She does leave us formidable mountains to scale, but a well-blazed trail to follow.

She does leave us shared tears and laughter, and happy memories, not the least of which is one of a youthful person, small and lithe (can she be over eighty?) and dressed in white slacks, running lightly down a Vancouver sidewalk on a summer night....

She does leave us her place in the green movement, the peace movement - and perhaps we can partly fill it, if we all work together?

- Deeno Birmingham



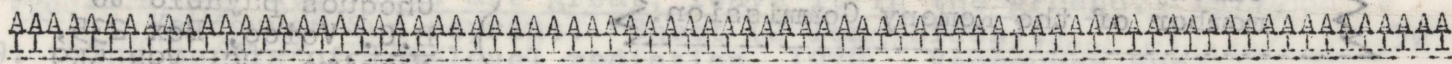
↘ Come one, come all! ↙

B.C. VOW ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7:00 p.m. Friday Oct. 10th - Noon Sunday Oct. 12th

at

EASTER SEAL CAMP, SQUAMISH



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