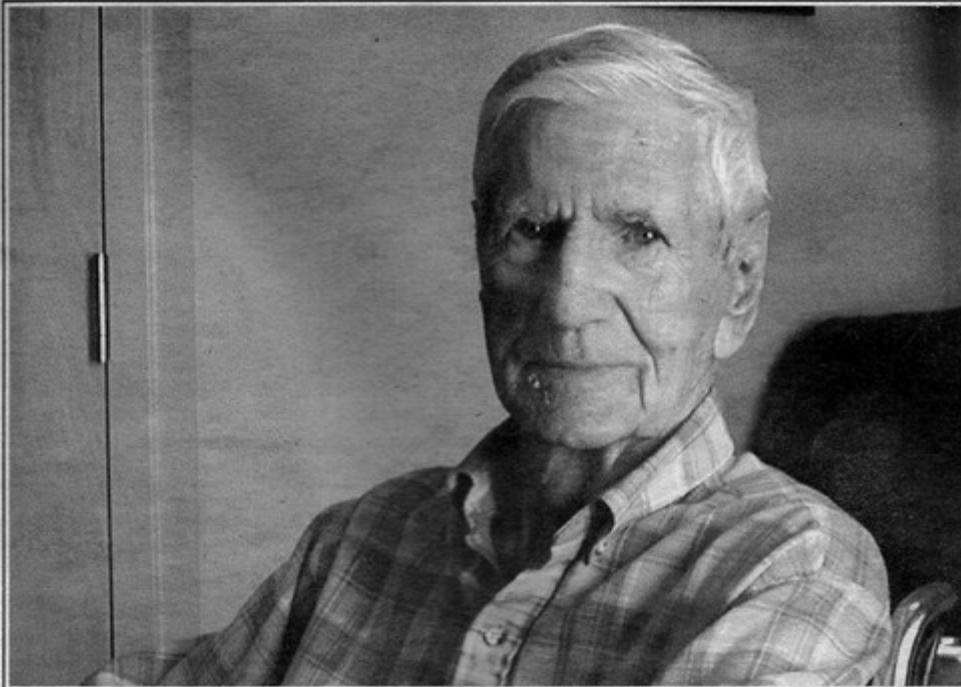


**Obituary of Ed Cook, Son of
Granite Creek Pioneer, Foxcrowle Percival Cook**

The Similkameen Newsleader February 14, 2006

Pioneer passes at 93



Edward Henry Cook passed away Tuesday, February 7th at Ridgewood Lodge.

*Family
arrived
here in
1870s*

Ed Cook, the son of pioneers to the Nicola and Similkameen Valleys and one of the few persons who could claim to have been born at Granite Creek, BC, died Tuesday, February 7th, 2006 at Ridgewood Lodge in Princeton. He was 93.

His mother, Emma Woodward, was a year old when her parents, Henry and Rachel Woodward, packed up their nine children and moved from Ontario to British Columbia in the 1870s. She was a

teenager when she met Foxcrowle Percival Cook, who had arrived in Vancouver from England in the 1880s. He was looking for opportunities in 1885 when he heard that gold had been discovered in Granite Creek and he opened his first store there.

When they married in 1892, she was 19, he was 31.

Edward Henry Cook was born at home in Granite Creek on August 7, 1912, and his father was so pleased he gave the attending doctor \$100.00! He now had a son to carry on the family name; Ed's five older siblings were all girls.

After F. P. Cook died in 1917, Emma Cook moved with her two youngest children, Agnes and Edward, to Grand Forks and then Princeton, to be closer to Adeline, the oldest daughter. Edward took most of his schooling in Princeton, finishing it in Kelowna.

F. P. was a Victorian gentleman who had strong feelings about the rights and responsibilities of persons born into those circumstances and he brought up his family that way so, when it came time to take up adult responsibilities, Edward assumed management of one of the family stores, although he would have preferred to work on the G. P. Myren Ranch at the north end of the Otter Valley, in which F. P. Cook had had an interest.

He was managing the store in Coalmont when he met Jean Don. They were married in Vancouver in 1938. When Canada went to war against Germany, the coal mine at Blakeburn closed down and with it

went a great deal of the Cook store's business, so Edward and Jean closed the store and moved to Vancouver in 1940, where he worked for the BC Electric Company.

A few months later, he accepted the invitation of Perley Russell, manager of the Cook store in Princeton, and moved back to Princeton to work in the family store because Perley was almost ready to retire and return to New Brunswick.

For the next twenty years, Ed ran the store and took part in town activities: He was a member of the Masonic Lodge but he also joined the Rotary Club and took his turn on the hospital board and was, in fact, chair of the board when the present hospital opened. One of the stunts he took part in was taking the Welby Stage to Vancouver in 1958 as part of BC's Centennial Celebrations: Jack Munsie, then



Edward Cook, 93, sits beside a rose descended from one his mother had grown at Granite Creek in the early 1900s.

President of the Board of Trade, rode in style inside the coach; Pat Wright drove it with Ed Cook as guard and Harold Allison and Harry Elias as outriders.

Ed's desire to work on a ranch had never left him and he bought the Thynne Lake Ranch in the Otter Valley, north of Tulameen. It wasn't the old Myren place, but it was right next door. Ed and Jean moved there in 1963 and spent the next decade on the ranch, before retiring to Princeton. That retirement didn't last long; Jean wanted him out from under her feet so he took a job reading meters for Princeton Light and Power, which lasted until ill health slowed him down.

Ed was a patriotic son of BC and he liked nothing better than driving around the province, just checking out the roads and seeing what was going on. He seemed to remember every road he had ever driven. His memory for BC's geography was exceptional.

In later years he developed an obsession with water: he felt the United States was taking too much Canadian water and he thought more should be kept at home, behind an extensive series of dams.

Edward Cook was predeceased by his wife Jean in 2000. He is survived by his sons Barrie (Kathrine) and Dennis (Bonnie), grandchildren Jordie, Tony, Kelly, Tracy and Denise; and great-grandchildren Linsie, Deseree, Clint, Derek, Cache, Lauren and Ethan. By his request, there will be no funeral.