



Ethel Narcissa Shook

(1884-1979)

Ethel Shook was born in southern England. Educated at a boarding school, she trained as a classical violinist and at age 19 immigrated to Canada where she travelled across the country performing at CPR hotels.

In 1908, she married Marlon Frank Shook and they settled on Hatzic Island where they purchased 200 acres to start a farm. "The fact that I had never before lived in the country, and was entirely ignorant of all pertaining to Canadian farm life, added to my interest" she wrote.

Working in partnership with her husband to make their dreams come true, Ethel endured many hardships to establish *Island Fruit Farms* as "the largest of any individual small fruit grower in the Dominion."

In addition to assisting with the management and boarding of female berry pickers that eventually grew to 600, she had six children to whom she shared her spirit of adventure and instilled her belief that "Life is a schoolhouse."

Following the death of her husband in 1942, Ethel moved to Vancouver Island where she spent her remaining years as she always had by "living life to the fullest"

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