



# Hilda Joan England

(1910 - )

Hilda Joan England, the first physiotherapist in Mission, was born in the Village of Birchington, Kent in England.

Educated at private boarding schools, Joan was trained as a physiotherapist at Guy's Hospital (1928-1931) in London and during World War II she worked as an "auxiliary nurse" at hospitals in Margate and Leatherhead.

While volunteering at canteens, she met and subsequently married William Carlyle England who was in the Canadian army. In 1945, she and her first born child emigrated to Canada to re-join her husband and in 1946 they settled on 10 acres in Mission.

Due to a shortage of physiotherapists in the area, Joan went back to work in 1952, three years after the birth of their second child. Working for the Canadian Arthritic & Rheumatic Society, she operated clinics in Mission, Abbotsford and Maple Ridge. Her responsibilities included travelling throughout all three communities to visit patients who could not make it to the clinic for treatments.

In addition to balancing motherhood and work, she assisted her husband in establishing the first Christmas tree farm in Mission (1958) and became active in the community.

She joined the Mission Curling Club, Mission Bridge Club and a local social group for "War Brides" for whom she hosted the annual Christmas party in her home. She also became a member of the Hospital Auxiliary where she still volunteers today.

Since her retirement in the 1960's, she has enjoyed travelling extensively, pursuing her hobbies in gardening and sewing, and spending time with her greatest source of pride, her family.

**Copyright © 2002 by Mission District Historical Society**

*All rights reserved. No part of this work covered by copyright may be reproduced or used in any form or by any means without the prior written permission from the Mission District Historical Society.*

