

Community Spirit

May Day celebrations, the Fruitvale Fair, and shooting matches began in 1911.



Annual May Sports Days were a highlight of the year. This photo shows men demonstrating their skills in using the axe. This picture was taken on May 24, 1911, by W.G. Barclay, an early professional photographer from Fruitvale. Sadly, the fire of 1939 destroyed his family's home, cameras, and negatives.



Men and boys have gathered after the Shooting Match of Christmas 1911.

Around 1911 the "Bayswater Boys" entered the scene. This group, comprised mostly of Remittance men from England, was remembered by all old-timers and spoken of with a mixture of amazement, amusement, and affection. To them they gave much credit for the reputation for sports which Fruitvale enjoyed, and they told tales of them in white flannels, playing cricket on the open space by the railway in front of the stores.

Promising Orchards

Fruitvale was widely advertised in the Nelson area and in Eastern Canada, particularly Ontario.

Many early settlers were keen to develop an orchard and were members of the Kootenay Orchard Association and the South Kootenay Farmers' Cooperative Association.

Unfortunately, late frosts damaged tree fruit crops, and Fruitvale's reality did not match its advertised promise.



Citizens of Fruitvale are shown here when a prosperous village was forming - circa 1911. This may have been one of Fruitvale's many May 24th celebrations.

