

SEPTEMBER

It's **September [calendar]**, at least for a few more days, and I thought I'd look back at past Septembers at the AMS.

The first September here, as you may know, was in 1915. Well, it wasn't here exactly; it was at 10th and Oak, where the **UBC campus** was originally. Just barely in September, because that year UBC offered its first classes on **September 30**. And there was no **Imagine Day**, no **First Week**, no **Welcome Back Barbecue**.

In fact, there was not even an **AMS**. For the only time in UBC's existence there was no AMS, a state of affairs that lasted only a couple of weeks, but still, I wonder how the administration felt with no student society to keep them in check. Here's the top UBC administrator from those days, **President Wesbrook**; you know him better now as a village or a mall [**Wesbrook Village, Wesbrook Mall**].

But the AMS was on the way; three students and a professor were busy working on our **first constitution**, which they took to a general meeting on October 15, and it was approved, and so that is the **birthday** of the AMS: we'll be 108 next month, just 15 days younger than the University. [**Picture of two 100-year-olds?**]

The three students, by the way, were **Sherwood Lett**, who became our first president; **J. E. Mulhern** (our second president); and **Evelyn Story**, who was on the first Student Council and went on to marry Sherwood Lett, thus becoming Evelyn Lett; she played a prominent role in University life for many years, as did her husband; and we've got them both on the wall here.

The professor was **Harry Logan**, who worked a lot with the students and went on to write the first history of UBC, called **Tuum Est**, after UBC's motto, which means either It's Yours or It's Up to You (there's dispute about that). And the motto was just invented by **President Wesbrook**, I believe. I mean, it's Latin, but it's not a traditional phrase going back to the Romans or anything like that; it was just the President's invention.

Which makes me think that what the AMS could use is a motto. Well, we have one on the website, or it used to be there: **We've Got Your Back**; now it seems to have been replaced by **student led, student focused, student first** – but maybe we need something punchier. I leave it to you.

Anyway, if you jump forward 100 years, for another September event, you can see the official **ribbon-cutting [book photo J.90]** for the opening of the Nest on September 9, 2015. There's some AMS dignitaries and UBC dignitaries and the architects.

The Nest actually opened for business a few months earlier, on June 1, 2015, though it wasn't completely finished then; these **Council Chambers**, the Michael Kingsmill Forum, they weren't ready yet, and Council kept meeting in the old student union building next door and one time in the Pit.

Speaking of **the old student union building**, or SUB as it was known, and which is now the **UBC Life Building**, it also opened in September. Not its official opening, but its actual opening, on September 26, 1968, so yesterday it would have been 55 years old.

It had a controversial opening: this being the 60's, there had to be a protest demonstration, and there was one right inside the SUB, **protesting the lack of a pub**. You may have heard that the Pit, then known as the Pit Pub, originated in the old SUB, and it did, but not right away. In fact, though the AMS had been planning the SUB for years and had sent out questionnaires asking students what they'd like to see in it, no one had thought to ask if they'd like a pub. No one thought of including a pub – perhaps because up till then the AMS was a dry organization. There were **rules in our Code** forbidding alcohol at AMS events, and one time three students got fined simply for showing up with alcohol on their breath.

But it was the 60's and students discovered alcohol and wanted a pub, and eventually got it, but not on Day One.

By the way, the name **Pit** may or may not have been suggested by **David Suzuki [F.28a]**, the well known environmentalist who at the time was a biology professor at UBC. He even wrote an article for the University's newspaper saying that **what the campus needed was a pub [F28.b]**. The AMS by this point was looking into getting a pub, and created a committee (which is what we do) and put Professor Suzuki on it. Another example of working with a professor.

But the Pit didn't actually open till November, so I'll save more information till then.

As to September, I could also mention the first appearance of the **Gallery Lounge [see my January presentation]**, back in 1979. I've told this story before, but we had an art gallery; well, we have an art gallery still, called the **Hatch**, and it had a big opening last night. Anyway, in the old days it was just called the Art Gallery, and it had been around since before the Old SUB opened, first appearing in the previous student union building, **Brock Hall** – yes, the Nest is the third student union building at UBC.

Anyway, there was an **Art Gallery** that began at Brock Hall and moved to the Old SUB. Then in 1979 someone had the idea of creating a lounge. We had the Pit Pub, but how about another drinking establishment? Well, let's try it out in the Art Gallery, so they did that for a week, and it was very successful, so they kept on having occasional weeks of

a lounge in the Art Gallery for a couple more years, until they decided to make it permanent and created something called the **Art Gallery Lounge**.

But wait a minute, said the art gallery people, this is not a good idea at all; all those people **drinking** and **smoking [see my January presentation]**; yes, you could smoke indoors in those days – anyway all the drink and smoke won't be good for the art; you've got to separate the two; send the lounge somewhere else.

But no, said the AMS leadership, the lounge is really successful; we'll send you somewhere else, and they did, so the **Art Gallery Lounge** became just the **Gallery Lounge**, and the rest is history.

And that maybe is where I'll stop, unless I have time to talk of the **Welcome Back Barbecue [H.21]**, which is a September fixture, with the most memorable one being the one back in 1987, when we had an up and coming **KD Lang [H.22]** performing, and the AMS Executive showed up with a **Trojan Horse [H.23]**, from which they promoted safe sex by tossing out condoms – Trojan condoms, of course, and then since there were so many people there, they decided to turn it into an AMS general meeting and amended our bylaws.

Those were the days, and that's about all for September.