

CONRAD KAIN

BY SHELAGH DEHART

Submitted by
Shelagh
Dehart's
grand
daughter,
Dusty Dehart
based on
interviews
done at
Columbia
House in
Invermere, in
2004 and
2009.



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Ninety-nine-year-old Shelagh Dehart, granddaughter of Shuswap Chief Pierre Kinbasket, remembers Conrad Kain well.

“I was a teenage girl when he came to visit my aunt Rosalie Kinbasket in Stoddard Creek (directly across the Rocky Mountain Trench from Wilmer).

Rose, as Kain called her, broke and trained wild horses and Conrad was one of her many customers. He had to have many horses, pack and saddle, that were sure-

footed and gentle.

Rose had to round up the wild horses, then came the training to the halter and bridle. This was a dangerous job and especially for Rose as she was a tiny woman but so quick and wiry. After the bridle training she would take the horse down to the sloughs and lead it in the mud where it is knee deep. Then she tries on the saddle blanket, the

saddle, tighten the cinch with the horse struggling all the while and mud flying everywhere.

Tightening the cinch was a dangerous job but she had a long handled wooden hook to catch the ring on the end of the cinch and then bring it under the horse's belly.



Circa 1913 Rosalee Kinbasket as a very young woman while she was attending Windermere school. She was a great horse woman, cattle woman, dog trainer, hunter, provider, and devoted and loving daughter of Chief Pierre Kinbasket. Notice she is wearing a weasel or ermine fur on her chest. This was a sign of the highest honour and bravery.

(below) the horse race track in front of Shuswap Village between 1890-1917, where Rosalee would race her horses.



Rose by this time is covered with mud and swearing a blue streak, what a sight. (If at this time any of the young ones were around they were instructed by Grandma Kinbasket to ask the lord for forgiveness for the swearing by Rose).

Rose in her buckskin skirt would finally get up on the saddle with the horse trying to buck in the deep mud and finally after a long period of time into shallow mud and then a stroll and exercise till Rose was satisfied it soon would be broken.

Shelagh recalls that Kain claimed Rose could teach his horses to "whistle" [snort]. He was always talking about horses, brands, horse

thieves, medicine, mountains and stupid climbers, etc.

If Rose was not at home, Kain then would visit Shelagh's parents Bill and Amelia Palmer. When lunch time would come around well here comes Conrad, always at lunch time!"

Shelagh also recalls: "His English was like a kid's. I was telling my mother that he said 'I was coming down the heel' instead of hill. When I was young I thought it was cute. He was always with his pipe smoking, with one leg over his knee. He was a man that seemed always alone but always happy. Very content. Conrad was a very nice man in every way."

“I am the granddaughter of the third hereditary chief of the Columbia Valley Shuswap people, Chief Pierre Kinbasket. The Indian meaning of the name Kinbasket is “reaching for the highest part of the sky”. In our Shuswap language, it was spelled T-Keynbasqet and pronounced different than Kinbasket of course. The white men could not pronounce it and so it became Kinbasket. My Grandmother was the wife of Chief Pierre, Mrs. Marion Kinbasket.

I am the daughter of Amelia Agnes Kinbasket and William Hobbs Palmer. Amelia was one of four daughters of Chief Pierre and Grandmother Marion. She was born at her parent’s farmhouse at Stoddart Creek, B.C. My father was born in Amherst, Nova Scotia. I was born at Stoddart Creek on April 1, 1910 in my parent’s farmhouse.”



**Shelagh
Palmer
Kinbasket
Dehart**
Eighteen
years old,
Stoddart
Creek, B.C.
1928