



Brothers Dominic and Patrick Burns pose in a horse-drawn carriage in front of the Hollow Tree in Stanley Park. Pat built the largest meat-packing empire in the world, while Dominic oversaw the building of the Vancouver Block on Granville Street. Pat also purchased a huge wetland in the Municipality of Delta to graze beef cattle for meat production, but the area was unsuitable. It came to be known as Burns Bog.

## The Hollow Tree

by *Bernie Kilroe, Historian*

THERE WERE VERY FEW PLACES of sightseeing interest for visitors in Vancouver's early days, but a buggy drive around Stanley Park was a must for any adventurous globetrotter and no visitor could leave Stanley Park without having their photo taken beside the Big Hollow Tree. There were many famous local gentry that had photos taken. Here are some names from the upper ranks who visited us in Vancouver's early days: there was Rudyard Kipling in 1889 who also purchased land. He purchased two lots at the edge of town at Fraser Street and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue. In 1890, Japanese Embassy dignitaries had their photo taken by the Hollow Tree, and writer Mark Twain visited in 1895.

In 1901, their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, soon afterwards to be King George V and Queen Mary, visited Vancouver and also stopped at the "Big Hollow Tree." The royal party formed a complete circle by joining hands around the bottom of the 60-foot girth of the tree. Sir Wilfred Laurier, the eighth Prime Minister of Canada, was there with them.

Sir Donald Smith (Lord Strathcona) visited the Hollow Tree and had his photo taken many times. Smith is depicted in Canada's most famous picture of "Driving of the Last Spike." Some of the largest trees in Vancouver's old-growth forest were in the Gastown area and on the south slopes of False Creek and English Bay.

