Ferries and Other Means of B.C. Water Transportation

British Columbia has countless waterways and many ferries, from the Lasqueti Island ferry which carries eighteen passengers to those from Vancouver and Victoria which carry hundreds of passengers, scores of cars and several buses on their thirty-mile, two-hour cruises.

Between May and September one may take an eight-day cruise from Vancouver aboard the *Princess Patricia,* stopping at Ketchikan, Wrangell, Skagway, Juneau, Glacier Bay and Tracy Arm (all in Alaska), Prince Rupert and Alert Bay (in B.C.).

The more adventuresome can sign up for guided excursions on twenty-eight-foot neoprene rafts that shoot the rapids in Big Creek Farewell Canyon, Big John Canyon, Bar Rapids and the Chishold Canyon.

The Indians

From around 3000 B.C. on, the Kwakiutl, Salish, Nootka, Haida, Bella Colla and Tsimshian lived on the Pacific coast in a land of perpetual plenty.
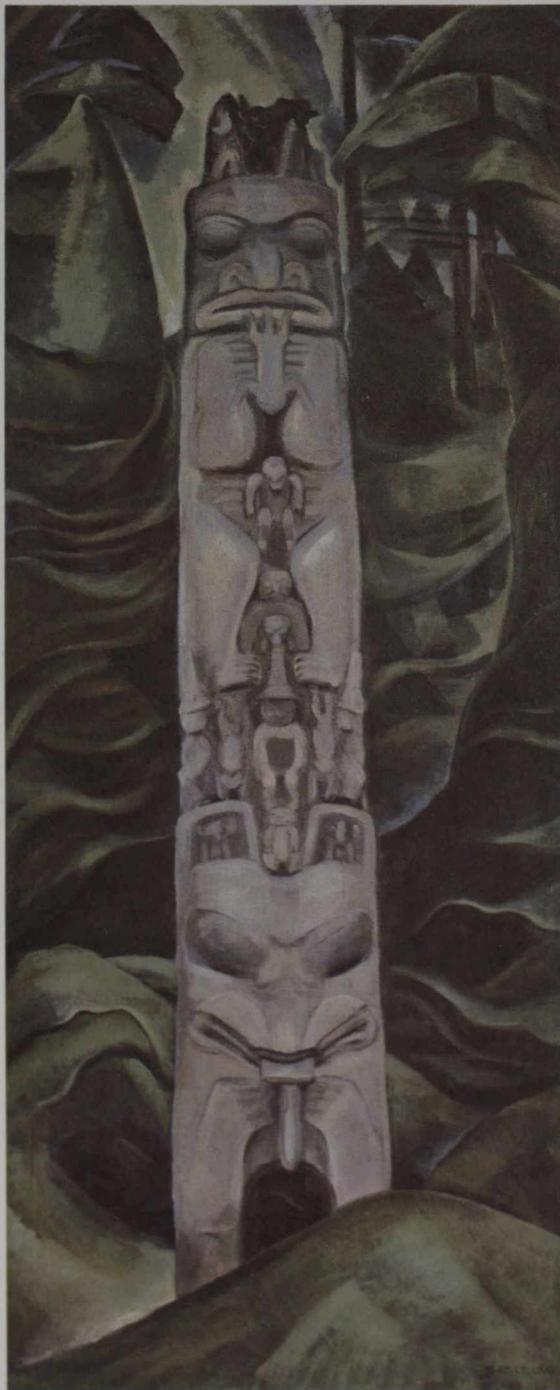
The golden age lasted from 1000 B.C. to about 1900 A.D. The sea yielded whale, porpoise, seal, sea lion, sea otter, herring, smelt, huge halibut and sturgeon, and the rivers teemed with spawning salmon seven times a year. The rain forests offered deer, moose, bear, fowl, mountain goat and bighorn sheep.

The Indians had handsome rectangular houses, sixty feet long and fifty feet wide, made of logs split into planks, grooved or notched and joined with pegs. The Nootka and Coast Salish had apartment houses, perhaps fifty feet wide and several hundred feet long, on ocean beaches above the high tide line. The northwestern Indians did not ride horses and they did not wear moccasins on their feet or feathers on their heads. If they resembled any other people it was the people of the Orient. A Haida in a conical hat of woven cedar bark fibres or in a Chilkat blanket, a fringed robe of mountain goat wool and bark fibre bearing the animal crest of its owner,might seem almost Chinese.

Haida Indians in 1878.

Totem and Forest *by Emily Carr, c. 1931.*
Oil on Canvas, 50 3/4" x 22", V.A.G.42.3.1