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History NOW



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HSA Tribute to Grant MacEwan

by Max Foran



Jim Mackie, former HSA President presents Grant MacEwan with a certificate that proclaims Dr. MacEwan as Honorary President of the Society in 1992

On October 23, 2001, at Government House in Edmonton, Her Honour, Lois Hole, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, will launch a special edition of *Alberta History* that focuses entirely on the life and works of Western Canadian legend, Grant MacEwan. The issue features an Introduction by Alberta History Editor, Hugh Dempsey and three articles by historians Don Smith and Max Foran, and editor and writer, Lee Shedden. The issue is heavily illustrated and includes colour photographs that depict MacEwan at various stages in his long and multi-faceted career.

Hugh Dempsey knew Grant well and this shows in his Introduction which sets the stage for the articles to

HSA Pin

The Historical Society of Alberta pin is available.



You can pick it up from the office or mail your cheque or money order in the amount of \$5 plus \$.50 postage and handling to:

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follow. The three articles complement each other well. MacEwan's son-in-law, Max Foran, shows MacEwan as a paradoxical but ultimately consistent figure and tries to explain these inherent complexities. Using MacEwan's storytelling as a dominant theme, Don Smith eloquently places his subject's life in both a personal and historical context. Lee Shedden focuses entirely on MacEwan's books and takes the reader on an absorbing historiographical journey through MacEwan's prodigious literary output.

Those who knew and admired Grant MacEwan should find plenty to enjoy and think about in this exciting forthcoming publication.



Grant MacEwan enjoying a presentation moment with long time friend Betty Dahlie at his 90th Birthday celebration

The Historical Society of Alberta is a registered charitable organization.

Donations are gratefully received to help further the work of the Society which includes the publication of *Alberta History* and this newsletter, *History Now*. Donations are tax deductible and will be acknowledged in *History Now*, unless otherwise requested.

History Now is published quarterly. We welcome information about your upcoming or past events, activities, publications, etc. They should be in the hands of the editor prior to deadline.

Submission deadlines:

Mar 1 for Apr-Jun issue
Jun 1 for Jul-Sep issue
Sep 1 for Oct-Dec issue
Dec 1 for Jan-Mar issue

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Welcome to new members

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Thank You for Your Donation to the HSA and/or Chapter

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President's Report

I have been very busy during my first four months as your President. I visited three of the four chapters and will visit the fourth next week.

I visited Calgary and Edmonton Historic Weeks and commended the members of both chapters for their dedication and hard work, which have made these weeks so successful.

Our Society has continued to attract attention to the history and heritage of our province.

I thank all of our members whose volunteer efforts make our society the strong and vibrant organization that it is.

As all chapters begin the new year of programs and other activities, I look forward to a very interesting, profitable and enjoyable time.

We appreciate the support our patron, the Honourable Lois Hole, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, has given us. Her

by **Ron Williams**

Honour has honoured our society by hosting a reception to mark the first of the launches of the commemorative edition of *Alberta History* in honour of the late Dr. Grant MacEwan. This important event will take place in October.

The Society has been involved over a period of several months with the question of the Rosedale Power Plant in Edmonton. This is much more than a local Edmonton question—it is a provincial question. We have appeared before two government boards: the Energy and Utilities Board and the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation Board, on this question. Attached is the presentation which I made to the AHRF Board on August 28, 2001.

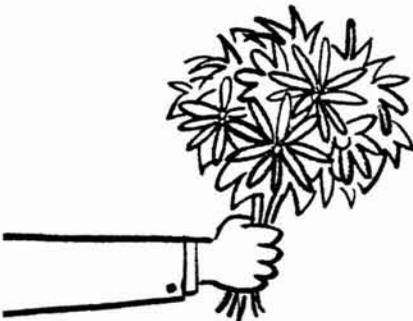
It sets out why this is an important question to the province and not just Edmonton.



I am encouraged by the great increase in public awareness and interest in heritage questions and the increase in government interest and apparent willingness to act. I am also thrilled by an increase in interest in our society. I have promised to visit Grande Prairie and Smoky Lake in this regard.

I give my thanks and best wishes to all our members and others in the heritage field.

Thank you, Ron Williams.



Thank You

The Historical Society of Alberta would like to thank:

Hugh Dempsey, Max Foran, Donald Smith, and Lee Shedden for their dedicated work to produce the very important Autumn 2001 issue of *Alberta History*, a lasting tribute to our first honorary President Dr. Grant MacEwan.

We would also like to thank the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation for the funding they provided to distribute and produce the issue.

A special thank you goes out to each member who made a donation in honour of Dr. MacEwan to bring this project forward to all Albertans.

Remembering Alex Mair

by Bruce Ibsen

The phone rang constantly on Monday, with the inevitable question, "Did you hear about Alex Mair?" After expressing mutual shock and sadness at this wonderful man's sudden passing, the conversation invariably turned to what a loss this would be to the local history scene. What an understatement! Alex was a quiet giant who touched everyone he met with his warmth, humour and style.

For the record Alex Mair was born in Edmonton in 1926 and lived here his whole life. Though he was interested in writing at an early age, his parents encouraged him to pursue a more reliable profession. Always respectful of them, Alex attended the University of Alberta, graduating with a degree in civil engineering in 1948. Soon after he found work with the City of Edmonton engineering department, but did not forget his interest in writing and began submitting articles to an assortment of magazines. Eventually the lure of writing drew him away from his engineering career.

In the late 1950's he began submitting articles to CBC Radio in Winnipeg and later started writing for the Southam Business Publications group in the early 1960's. Along with his continued work with CBC, Alex found time in 1967 to help organize and launch the Radio and Television Arts program at N.A.I.T. In 1978 he began writing a daily column for the Edmonton Journal and in the early 1980's started submitting weekly columns to Real Estate Weekly. Over the next twenty years he published hundreds of articles and several books including a history of the Edmonton Police Service and the very successful Gateway City. Alex was in the final stages of following up Gateway City with a second series of stories when he passed away.

Alex started coming into the City Archives in the 1980's and endeared himself to the staff almost immediately. He was warmly welcomed into our coffee sessions and took part in the lunchroom banter. No matter what we were discussing Alex always seemed able to

HSA Members News

toss a funny anecdote into the conversation, leaving us all in stitches. He had a remarkable way of lighting up a room with his manner and presence. I could always tell if Alex was in the Archives lunchroom by following the sound of laughter.

Through it all Alex enlivened Edmonton's history, providing colour and personality to our characters and events. People fortunate enough to hear him speak listened attentively while he lovingly retold the tales of our past. Those of us even more fortunate to have called him friend know the gaping hole his passing leaves, not only in our hearts but also in our city. I have a feeling that right about now St. Peter is chuckling over a story told to him by Alex as he passed through the gates into the great beyond.

Rest in peace my friend and thank you.

In Memory Herman De Jongh

Herman De Jongh, a longtime Edmonton and District Historical Society member passed away (March 1, 1914–July 18, 2001). He is survived by his wife Elly, a dedicated heritage advocate in Edmonton.

Herman, a doctor in his native Holland, migrated to Canada in 1959 and began to fulfill his desire to specialize in anaesthesiology.

He completed his residency at the University of Alberta and practised for 23 years in Edmonton hospitals and clinics before retiring in 1987.

Dr. De Jongh was a talented hobbyist and an avid gardener. He was an accomplished amateur violinist who played in chamber groups and with the Edmonton Philharmonic Orchestra. He is depicted on a painted mural in Old

Strathcona, showing him on a bandstand, violin in position and sporting a straw hat. His wife Elly is also in the mural which is located at the terminal of the Radial Railway Trolley.

There's Been A Hitch!

by Diana Sim
photographs by Roberta Ryckman



a delightful "grotto" made from the original house

On August 5, Marianne Fedori, Roberta Ryckman and Diana Sim attended the wedding of Harry Sanders and Kirsten Olson, at the farm of Kirsten's parents, near Cremona. Kirsten's grandparents came to the area in 1925. The original house was replaced by a new one in 1992—but its foundations were retained as a delightful "grotto". We left early enough so that we could do some exploring on the way.

One stop, which we can recommend, is the Bottrell General Store. This 100-year old store is a treasure trove of everything the traditional store used to be.

We arrived at the wedding site in lots of time (and by the way, for his critics, we should say that Harry was there early!) The weather was perfect, the garden at its best. With plenty of time to socialize, we explored before sitting in the garden, facing the gazebo, where the ceremony would take place. The gazebo was Mr. & Mrs. Olson's gift to each other for their 25th anniversary in 1986.

Harry's best man was his brother Barry, who with his wife and family had come from Australia for the occasion. Members of both families contributed in some way to the reception. Harry's niece and nephew blessed the bread and

wine—and of course no wedding these days would be complete without a couple of "roasts."

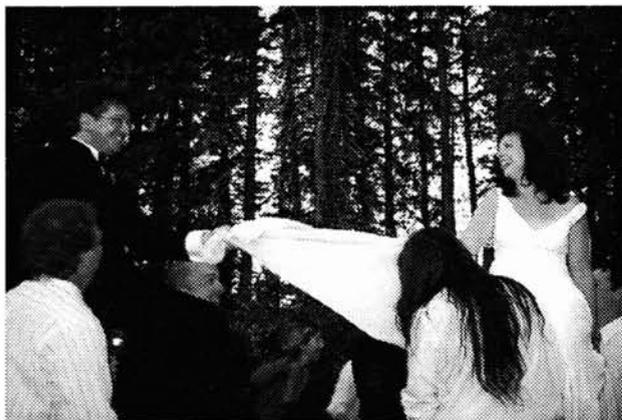
Kirsten looked beautiful in her elegant wedding dress, and had somehow found time, while planning all the details, to make her attendants' dresses.

The ceremony was performed by the Commissioner for Marriages, and incorporated both Jewish and Scandinavian customs. Harry and Kirsten were married using her Grandparents' rings. And Kirsten carried a blue and white handkerchief that her maternal great-grandmother, Anna Mattern, had given her daughter on her wedding day in 1925.

Following the ceremony, there was live musical entertainment and dancing. One dance we'd never seen before was a "Chair dance." The bride and groom each sat in a chair—then eight men

hoisted the chairs and "danced" the newly-weds.

It was a delightfully happy occasion, with enough mementos to warm the cockles of a historian's heart!

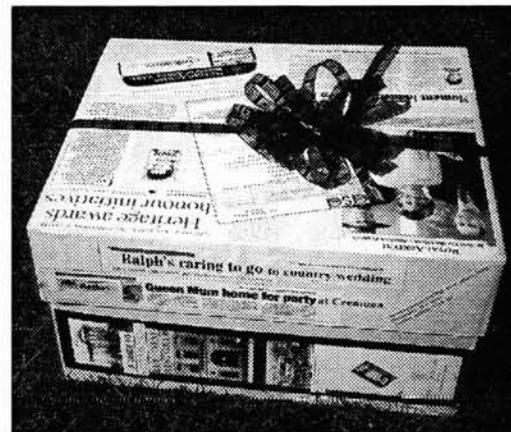


Eight men hoisted the chairs and "danced" the newly-weds

What's Black & White and read all over?

A: Roberta's gift to Kirsten and Harry.

Harry was thrilled with the trouble Roberta had taken with the personalized gift wrap. Roberta had found newspaper and magazine headlines which could be adapted to the occasion. You might see one item headed "Queen Mum attends country wedding," while others hint at world-famous people sending their wishes. To complete the package, the ribbon was discarded microfilm. That's a Wrap!



The Editor
History Now
Historical Society of Alberta

Gentlemen,

I read with interest about the new book *Polo the Galloping Game*.

I was privileged last September to watch a game of polo being played on one of the original grounds in Gilgit, Northern Pakistan. We all considered this a bonus to the trip. The field was half the width of a football field and a third as long. The ground was dusty and the grass clumpy. The spectators were kept off the field by a six-foot wire fence. There were six riders aside: the Army vs. the Police, as they were the only ones who had horses.

It was a fast moving game with no apparent rules. Opponents' horses were whacked, sidled and pulled. It seemed legitimate to pull riders, hold their arms, and take the reins, but it was so fast moving that no 'infringements' lasted much longer than the wink of an eye. The riders had helmets and dark coloured shirts. Just before halftime, a horse and rider were injured. The game stopped while there was a big discussion, with spectators rushing on to the field, arguing that the other side should also reduce its riders to five. However, after half an hour the game was renewed 5 vs. 6. When the 6 side scored, the other side galloped full tilt off the field and the game was over.

No one seemed disturbed, and the crowd filed peacefully away.

This summer my son, who lives near Alliston took me out to a Polo Game. The field was flat mown grass and the size of a football field. The players were dressed in immaculate white helmets and white jodhpurs, with bright coloured shirts for each team. Their horses shone with good care. What a contrast between the original game and this apparent 'gentlemen's' game.

Yours truly, Peter Hawker



Note: Letters to the Editor are always welcome. Bouquets or brickbats, both are a guide to what you like and dislike in your newsletter. Please send addressed To the Editor, *History Now*, c/o The Historical Society of Alberta, Box 4035, Station C, Calgary, AB T2T 5M9

Remembering Sheilagh S. Jameson

Remembering a past and significant member.

Sheilagh Jameson was a key supporter of the Historical Society of Alberta, a council member and one of our treasured annual award winners. She was a dedicated archivist at the Glenbow from 1958 to 1979. As Chief Archivist she acquired and catalogued many of the institution's important collections. As a daughter of a pioneering

Alberta ranching family she was especially concerned about preserving the record of ranching history in the west.

The Sheilagh W. Jameson Fund for Archival Funding was established at the Glenbow Archives to help finance the cataloguing of the new manuscripts, letters, diaries and photographs. If you wish to donate to this fund please send your contribution to:

The Glenbow Museum,
130 9th Avenue SE
T2G 0P3. (94043)
Phone: 403-268-4100.

e-mail: glenbow@glenbow.org,
web site: www.glenbow.org

Call for Proposals

“Unsettled Pasts: Reconceiving the West through Women’s History”

A Conference to be held at the University of Calgary, Calgary, AB, Canada, June 13–16, 2002.

We invite presentation proposals for a conference to reassess Western history from the perspectives of women and gender. Presentations are encouraged from a variety of interests: scholarly, creative, activist, and community. Tremendous energy and ferment in the field of Western women’s history over the past quarter century has recovered the experiences and stories of countless women. The 2005 centennial of the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan encourages us to reconsider Western histories through the lives of women. Western women’s history has been part of a larger movement that seeks to recover an inclusive past, one that increases understanding of the diverse peoples, of all races, cultures, ethnicities, religions, and classes, who built the West and forged its social relationships. This conference will provide an opportunity and a showcase for new research that, from diverse perspectives, can reconceive the teaching, writing, and interpretation of Western history. It is an opportunity, as well, to compare diverse regional, national, and social experiences, and consider their meanings.

A central goal of the conference is to create dialogue across borders, both social and geographic. These include the physical boundaries that separate the provinces, states and nations of the West, which we conceptualize broadly to include the Prairies, BC, the Pacific Northwest, the Canadian North, and the western states along the 49th parallel. We hope to encourage dialogue among generations of women’s historians, and among practitioners of women’s and gender history. We invite conversation across disciplinary and professional boundaries, and seek to bridge distances between the academy and community. We encourage discussions on political differences; differences of race, class, sexuality and social background; and generational differences that mark approaches to women’s history. Proposals are encouraged from diverse academic fields, from teachers, archivists, librarians, public historians, museum professionals, activists, and unaffiliated persons.

We invite proposals for individual papers, panels, and round table discussions. Proposals may focus on any time period and on any historical topic centred on women’s history in the West. We welcome proposals from persons at all career states, graduate student submissions are encouraged. Please send proposal of approximately 250 words and a one-page CV for each presenter, as well as an address, telephone number and e-mail address by **December 1, 2001**. Proposals should be sent to one of the conference co-organizers below:

Sarah A. Carter,
2nd Vice President
The Historical Society of Alberta
Department of History
University of Calgary
2500 University Drive NW
Calgary, AB T2N 1N4

Elizabeth Jameson
Imperial Oil and Lincoln McKay
Chair of American Studies
Department of History
University of Calgary
2500 University Drive NW
Calgary, AB T2N 1N4

Questions regarding this call for proposals may be sent to Patricia Roome, Mount Royal College, Calgary, AB at proome@mtroyal.ab.ca



We’d like to hear from you

I am interested in volunteering for the Historical Society of Alberta.

I am interested in:

- Events
- Fund Raising
- Membership
- Publicity

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

PC: _____

E-mail: _____

The skills I have to offer are:

Mail or E-mail to:

The Historical Society of Alberta
PO Box 4035, Station C,
Calgary, Alberta T2T 5M9
Phone: 403-261-3662
E-mail: hsa@cadvision.com

Did You Know?

From the HSA Annual General Meeting held on May 11, 1991:

“The first permanent office of The Historical Society of Alberta was at 618 Lancaster Building, 304 8th Avenue SW, Calgary, and the first full-time Executive Director was Christopher Jackson.”

HSA Presentation to the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation Board, August 28, 2001

by Ron Williams

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Board:

I am Ron Williams, President of The Historical Society of Alberta, (HSA) and this is Marianne Fedori, Past President.

The Historical Society of Alberta is grateful for the opportunity to make a representation to you today.

The Historical Society of Alberta is a province-wide organization created by an Act of the Provincial Legislature in 1907 to promote and preserve the history of Alberta. The Society has four chapters which are active in different parts of the province. One of these is the Edmonton & District Historical Society, which made a presentation a little earlier.

Both the Edmonton & District Historical Society and HSA have been involved in the Rossdale question from the early stages and made presentations.

The HSA supports the designation of the three structures—the Low Pressure Plant in its entirety, the Administration Building and the Pump House—as Provincial Historic Resources.

The Rossdale site is of unique historical importance in this province. The entire sweep of Alberta's history is focused in the North Saskatchewan River Valley, right from the nomadic hunters and gatherers who came here over 6,000 years ago, (before the time of the pyramids), to the fur traders and others associated with that era, to early agriculture and early industrial development.

The power plant is a unique part of that heritage, being an early industrial development that has continued for nearly a century.

It is very important that the Low Pressure Plant be preserved as it is a classic example of power plant

engineering of the inter war period. It was a great statement of optimism for the City of Edmonton, a city of under 100,000 in the midst of the Great Depression, to build the 1938 section.

It is our very strong desire that these structures should be designated and managed to retain their integrity. This means the complete preservation of the structures without impact to their original formations.

We oppose the intervention options outlined by EPCOR in the RD11 and the Rossdale LP Plant Building Intervention Review, and we believe that EPCOR has refused to consider solutions for power generation that could result in the adaptive reuse of existing structure of the Low Pressure Plant. In 1999, the City of Edmonton's own heritage officer favored an engineering solution within the original structure. In our opinion, that option has not been properly explored. We believe that opinion should have been dealt with in the review.

The HSA appreciates that there is a need to balance functional necessities and economics with heritage stewardship. We believe that EPCOR's key objective is to retain the minimum portion of the Low Pressure Plant to satisfy an aroused public in order to pursue uncertain economic gain.

EPCOR has agreed to work with heritage communities to establish the basis for development of the heritage stewardship program. EPCOR has stated that if the most intrusive option is not accepted, it will not finance an interpretation centre. We are extremely concerned that EPCOR is unclear as to its responsibilities in the management of a heritage site as regulated by Alberta's provincial legislation.

The Rossdale site is one of the most important existent industrial sites. It

simply must be preserved. There will be extra cost but when an important part of the history of our province is at stake, that cost simply has to be met.

Therefore, I repeat, the HSA supports fully the designation of the structures and recommends that the Low Pressure Plant building be retained in its entirety as it is important to all Albertans.

Heritage Issues

continued on page 9

ConCerv takes its concerns to the Alberta Courts

ConCerv, a citizens group that has played a lead role in the opposition to expanded power on the site, has won a Leave to Appeal the EUB Decision.

ConCerv reports:

"In May, the EUB approved the EPCOR expansion application. In June, ConCerv sought leave to appeal that decision in the Alberta Court of Appeal in Edmonton on August 14, 2001. The brief is available on the website, www.ConCerv.com. On August 29, the Court of Appeal granted leave to appeal. The Court rarely grants leave to appeal so this was quite a victory."

ConCerv's position and Mr. Justice Berger's decision can be read on ConCerv's website. Although the EUB stated that it did not have any role to play in judging the heritage value and resources on the site, ConCerv's appeal will argue that the EUB could have made a stronger stand to help regulate and determine the appropriate conservation of the site even if that resulted in not approving the RD-11 expansion.

Please let your concerns about the history of the Rossdale site be known to your MLA or to the Minister of Alberta Community Development. The issue is an important one in Edmonton's civic election as well. Many community

Heritage Issues

Coming up... a forum on the economics of heritage.

Heritage Canada is hosting "Preservation Pays: The Economics of Heritage Conservation" this October 11 to 13 at the Toronto Colony Hotel. Heritage Canada states "The 2001 annual conference sheds light on the challenging issue of the economics of heritage conservation. Leading experts from Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States will present the current state of research and practice in this emerging field." Registration includes early morning walks to visit Toronto's outstanding heritage buildings, a keynote address by Mr. Allan Gotlieb, an address by Michael Tippin, one of Canada's most enterprising developers of heritage properties, a session on historic theatres, and a panel discussion on the economics of heritage tourism. Visit www.heritagecanada.org or call (613) 237-1066 for more information. Conference registration can be emailed to conference2001@heritage-canada.org

Canmore Mining Heritage threatened

A Calgary Herald article of August 7, 2001 reported that "vandalism and progress are threatening Canmore's mining history." This summer vandals set the Engine Bridge on fire. It was once used for hauling coal across the Bow River. City officials hope to repair the structure. Also, Royal McKellar, Canmore's museum curator, is concerned about the fate of the Canmore No. 1 Mine site and is hoping that this important element of mining history will not be compromised by development and intensified growth in the town.

Good news for the HULL Block in Edmonton

Edmonton's jewel of Chinatown, the Hull Block will undergo an extensive \$2 million dollar refurbishment. It is hoped that the resurrection of this 1913 building which is protected by municipal

designation will be redeveloped to house both commercial and residential tenants. Owner Bob Dawe, a government archaeologist initially bought the building as an investment but is now determined to make it an economically viable heritage project. He has received a \$200,000 grant from the City of Edmonton to help restore the building. The Hull block was built by William Roper Hull and was the only building Hull, a Calgarian, built in Edmonton.

Rossdale Power Plant

Hearings were conducted in Edmonton on August 28 and August 29 by the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation to address the proposed designation of three structures on the Rossdale site, the Administration Building, the Pumphouse and the Maxwell Dewar Building (The Low Pressure Power Plant). The Historical Society of Alberta and the Edmonton and District Historical Society made presentations at this hearing in favour of the designations and both agreed that the Lower Pressure Plant designation should ensure that the building remain intact. A large number of community groups expressed their views demonstrating the intense interest in this issue. They included Alberta Community Development, Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues, ConCerv, Edmonton Historical Board, The Rossdale Community League, Windsor Park Community League Association canadienne-francaise de l'alberta, Legimondiere Desdendants, Central Council of Community Leagues, and various First Nations Groups. All these groups have embraced the historical memories and legacies of this site.

EPCOR proposed four options for the building ranging from a demolition of two thirds of the plant to what is favoured by Alberta Community Development, a scenario that would require less than one third of the demolition of the building. EPCOR made it clear that they would only accept the maximum

demolition option in case they needed to clear the site for further expansion. They said that any other level of preservation was not economic for them. The AHRF panel questioned this argument and appeared not to be satisfied with EPCOR economic analysis. The Foundation will make their recommendation to the Minister of Alberta Community Development. He will make the final decision as to the amount of the building preserved as well as decide on the designations of the other buildings.

The Historical Society of Alberta believes that this decision will strongly impact the future workings of our provincial Historic Resources Act and is hopeful that the site will be well maintained as a heritage resource in the years to come. The decision is expected mid-October.

Throughout the summer archaeological investigations have proceeded on the site to determine the location of the burial grounds and new investigations have started to look for more evidence of fort remains. The Edmonton Historical Board has continued a public consultation process to help determine how the burial grounds can best be commemorated. EPCOR has also carried out public consultations with stakeholders and has hired a historical consultant, Ken Tingley.

ConCerv Report (continued from p 8)

groups involved in the issue are suggesting that citizens support candidates who will make sure the site's history is preserved and who will reconsider the expansion of the plant.

If you have a heritage concern you would like to share with our members please e-mail your views to our office at hsa@cadvision.com

Rossdale buildings to be designated but how much of the Low Pressure Power Plant will remain will be determined by the Minister of Alberta Community Development.

The Passionate Man - Part I

by Allan W. Mogridge

Passion—“an eager outreaching of mind toward some special object, as art, travel, etc.”

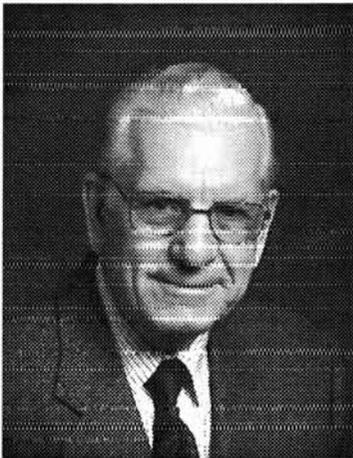
August 26, 2001

On this date I was celebrating a Birthday—no, not mine. A very special Birthday. A small family gathering, and I was privileged to attend as a “friend” of the “Passionate Man” (a term which has been used by the media and some people working with this person on various projects).

August 26, 1911 (8:00 pm)

On this date and at this time the first white child was born in a vast, arid homestead area in southeast Alberta.

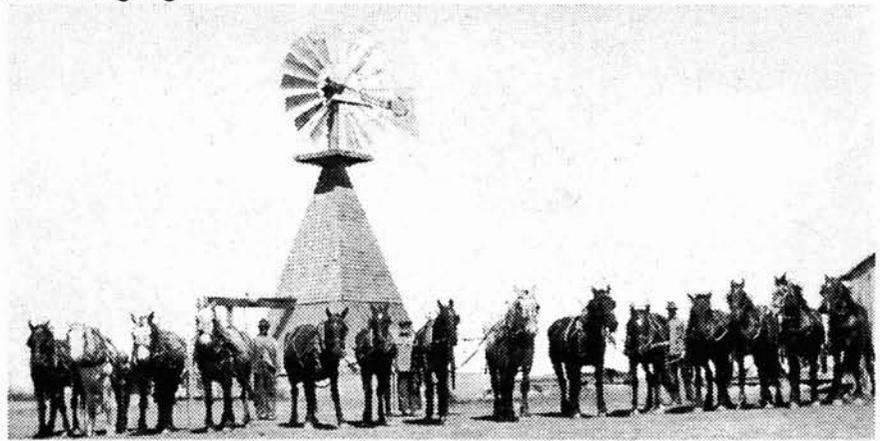
William (Bill) Eldon Peters



“The Passionate Man”

His favourite epigram *History teaches us to learn from the past*

90 years of age, married 59 years to his wonderful wife Florence. Father of William T. with his wife Celeste, grandson Will and granddaughter Brette. Always a dedicated family man. Born on that prairie homestead, Section 12, Township 4, Range 9, W4M, near Lake Pakowki, being 50 miles east of the town of Warner. As the railroad was extended east the town of Foremost (1914) and then the hamlet of Etzikom



1920 photo of the Bittorf (grandfather) homestead

(1916) were established.

It was here Bill became acquainted with his first windmill—a Goold Shapley Muir. In the photo it stands proudly as a backdrop to the magnificent teams of workhorses. This power windmill was used to grind and store grain as well as to pump water—but that’s part of a long story to be told separately in the history of Bill’s life.

At age 16, he moved with his family to High Hill south of Vulcan. Somehow I think he has hardly stopped moving since that time!

My records indicate that for these 90 years he has been a farmer’s son, general merchant, travelling representative, RCAF service, gold mining expeditor, an investment firm branch manager—maybe more. He worked from the Northwest Territories to the Canada/U.S. border. During that time he travelled thousands of miles by car, and by plane. Then he retired. And what did he do? He decided to concentrate on being a History Recorder—and he has travelled many more thousands of miles!

Well, I am certainly glad he kept on travelling because the past 18 years have been a “great ride” for me. All around southern Alberta we poked our

noses into farm and ranch areas as well as hardly known corners of this big land. We picked through long forgotten piles of scrap—stuff that didn’t get picked up for World War 2. We checked out points of interest as well as points that people didn’t know were interesting, visited museums, sought out communities and became friends with some of the most wonderful people in the world – too numerous to count. And all along the way, like a couple of missionaries we preached about saving windmills, preserving our history, the value of the Alberta Historic Resources Foundation and about The Historical Society of Alberta. What an education! What fun!

Bill Peters was educated, to Grade 8, in a little **Red** (truly red) schoolhouse. He then went to work in Edmonton, got his high school education at night school, followed by business college also at night school. He took carpentry and photography courses, and he developed an extensive library (read every book) all on an extensive range of subjects. To me, the magnitude of his studies and knowledge is astounding.

The roots for the “Passionate Man” were well established in the Alberta southeast prairie homesteading land. Bill has developed, to the fullest extent,

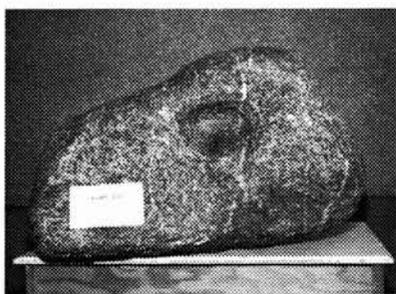
that “eager outreaching mind” for which he is so well recognised. He has always maintained well detailed records—otherwise I wouldn’t have much material for my writing! However his time—retirement that is—has been occupied by a whole host of organisations where, in most instances he actively volunteered. My 1990 list read: as follows:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Alberta Historical Resources Foundation(1) | International Molinological Society |
| Alberta Museums Association | Medalta Society (Medicine Hat) |
| Alberta Science Centre | Red Coat Trail Association(4) |
| Archaeological Society of Alberta | Royal Canadian Geographical Society |
| Arctic Society | Saskatchewan Museum Society |
| Canadian National Windpower Museum(2) | Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies |
| Delia Historical Society(3) | (1)Province discontinued public memberships |
| Etzikom Historical & Museum Society of South-East Alberta | (2)Originator |
| Head Smashed In Buffalo Jump Society | (3)Founding member/Lifetime membership |
| Heritage Canada Foundation | (4)Founding member/Director |
| Historical Society of Alberta (CCHS) | |
| Humanities Association of Canada | |

In the years that he worked, travelled and lived in various areas of the province Bill was involved in a number of historic events. For example, in 1949 he was in attendance when the Giant Yellowknife Gold Mines poured their first gold brick at the mine. He also actively promoted the communities in which he lived.

It was in 1973 (ten years before Bill and I teamed up for windmill research) that a ceremony was held at the Provincial Museum Of Alberta honouring William E. Peters. The assistance of Charles E. Denney, (who is a longtime member of The Historical Society of Alberta), was also gratefully acknowledged. This ceremony was in regard to the return of The Manitou Stone (Meteor) to its rightful place in Alberta. It was a proud day for Bill to be able to do this for his Province. This Stone was a 300– 400 pound meteor (91% iron) and was regarded as a sacred stone by the Crees, Stoneys and Blackfoot. However, in 1867 it was transported to Edmonton by

the Reverend George McDougall and subsequently moved to Winnipeg and then to Victoria College in Ontario. It was due to Bill’s tireless endeavours that the Stone was returned to its rightful place - the Alberta Provincial Museum in Edmonton. On several occasions he has been interested in “stones”—on one occasion he became intrigued by The Medicine Stone after reading an article by Dr. John Maclean in the 1927 December issue of



The Medicine Stone

The Beaver, as published by the Hudson’s Bay Company. The Blackfoot said this stone, like so many objects determined by them, was sacred and considered to be the “resting place of spirits.” The article said that the stone was in the bottom of a coulee down by the Belly River. At some point in time Bill was able to determine that the Stone had also been the interest of other researchers of history. It was

located and documented by them. The stone in the photo below is one that he kept mounted beside his fireplace for many years.

The stone is a glacial erratic (granite), from The Canadian Shield, as left by a receding glacier. Bill found this on the rolling till plain north east of Mannyberries in south eastern Alberta. The unusual hole in the one face is a mystery – a case yet to be solved!

How many readers remember when, as individuals, you could obtain a membership in the Alberta Historic Resources Foundation? Many dedicated individuals were very active in this Alberta Government foundation, which had its head offices in Calgary. You may recall names of dedicated people—like Grant Webber, Grant MacEwan, Hugh Grant, Trudy Cowan as Executive Director, followed by Esther Robinson in that position. Remind me to tell you a little story about Grant MacEwan and my first year on the Awards Committee – or maybe I won’t! I will tell you, next time you read about “The Passionate Man,” about how we met through the Historic Resources Foundation and started a friendship. Well, it didn’t start out as a friendship. Anyhow, tune in to the next issue of *History Now*.

In Memory of Florence Elizabeth Peters

Prior to *History Now* going to press, we received the sad news that Bill Peter’s beloved wife, Florence, passed away on September 19, 2001.

Florence was born 89 years ago in Forestburg, Alberta. She faced life with courage, stamina, and was a source of great pride to her family. She will be deeply missed.

Uniform: A Story of Conflict and Change

by Carrol Jaques



Alberta farmers and ranchers know that, in the frustrating business of agriculture, years of bounty inexplicably turn into years of despair. Looking back over the past half century, Jaques recounts the tumultuous history of the Alberta farm organization, Uniform. This book documents Alberta farmers' quest to increase control over the forces that have had such an impact on their lives and describes how it led them to form organizations which have afforded them measures of stability and security throughout the past century. Uniform, one of the most enduring of these organizations, is chronicled from its development in the 1970's to its reorganization as Wild Rose Agricultural Producers in 1995. While discussing the relationship of Uniform to the business of agriculture, Jaques addresses issues of co-operative philosophy, marketing boards, surface rights, commodity groups, and the importance of education and training for members of the rural community. *Uniform* is an important book that sheds new lights on the many facets of Alberta's rich agricultural history.

Publisher: University of Calgary Press
\$29.95 ISBN 1-55238-051-3. 355 pages,
6 x 9 in. 65 b/w photographs. Phone Sharon
Boyle, UofC Press 403-220-5284 or
e-mail: sboyle@ucalgary.ca. website:
www.uofcpress.com

This Blessed Wilderness Archibald McDonald's Letter from the Columbia, 1822-44

by Jean Cole



Jean Cole was a featured speaker during Historic Edmonton Week. She is a descendant of Archibald McDonald who was an important fur trader in the region west of the Rockies. He was a pioneer cartographer and spent time at Fort Edmonton. 2001. 308 pages. UBC Press. \$24.95. ISBN 0-7748-0833-0

Selection from the Heritage Collection at the Stanley Milner Library, Edmonton

by Joseph Rek



Klancher, Donald J. *The North West Mounted Police and the North West Rebellion*. Rev. ed. Kamloops, BC: Goss Pub., 1999. 153 p., ill. The author discusses the history of the North West Mounted Police and its involvement in the Riel Rebellion of 1885. Large portion of the book consists of nominal rolls and list of stations of the NWMP in 1885.

Kolias, Nina K. *The Greeks in Alberta, 1903-1995*. Rev. ed. Calgary, AB: Nina K. Kolias, 1997. 463 p., ill. Although much of the book focuses on the Greek community in Calgary, it also contains a brief history of Greek immigration to Canada and Alberta and a large section with biographies of Greeks in other communities in Alberta.

McKenzie-Brown, Peter. *In balance: an account of Alberta's CA profession, 1910-2000*. Edmonton, AB: Chartered Accountants of Alberta, 2000. 278 p., ill. The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Alberta published its 90-year history to celebrate the arrival of the Millennium. It chronicles the transformation of the organization from just 12 members in 1910 to more than 7,000 today and the contributions of the leaders who have helped shape the profession.

Prokop, Manfred. *Annotated bibliography of the cultural history of the German-speaking community in Alberta, 1882-2000*. Edmonton, AB: Modern Languages and Cultural Studies, University of Alberta, c2000. 707 p. A comprehensive bibliography of some 6,200 primary and secondary materials available in libraries, archives and

Books



private collections across Alberta. It includes not only books, but also newspaper articles, maps, photographs, recordings, etc.

Reineberg Holt, Faye. *Sharing the good times: a history of Prairie women's joys and pleasures*. Calgary, AB: Detselig Enterprises, c2000. 232 p., ill. The publication presents the lighter side of the lives of western Canadian women settlers through interviews, archival photographs, personal stories and excerpts of women's writing from 1870 to 1960.

Strathcona County Retired Teachers Association. *The schools of Strathcona County: a success story*. Sherwood Park, AB: The Strathcona County Retired Teachers Association, 1999. 361 p., ill. A record of more than a century of education in Strathcona County and its pioneer teachers from 1887 to 1994.

Lawrence D. Halmrest: Guardian of Milk River

Gasser, Ellen &
Maurice Doll Ed.



Edmonton: Provincial Museum, 2001.
ISBN 0-7785-1544-3. \$10.00

Guidebook For Sherwood Park's Heritage Mile

by June Dodds & Allison Matichuk



Sherwood Park Heritage Mile Society
ISBN 0-9-689183-0-1 18.95, 2001

Burns Illustrated: A Study of Selected Illustrations of The Poems and Songs of Robert Burns, 1796-1927

by **Dr. Robert Hay Carnie**



This limited edition book was published by the Calgary Burn's Society to celebrate their 25th Anniversary in 2000. The study was written by Bob Carnie, life member and bard of the club. Dr. Grant MacEwan was Patron of the Calgary Burns Club and Honorary President of the worldwide body.

For more information contact:

The Calgary Burns Club
c/o The Watson Group
Box 6622, Station D
Calgary AB T2P 3E4

Naming Canada: Stories About Canadian Place Names

by **Alan Rayburn**



This is a revised edition of *Naming Canada*. First published in 1974. The book contains many stories about names in Alberta.

UofT Press, \$24.95

Government of Alberta Information Bulletin Edmonton May 2, 2001



Inaugural Grant MacEwan Author Awards presented The first annual Grant MacEwan Author Awards were presented by Gene Zwozdesky, Minister of Community Development at a luncheon on Wednesday May 2, 2001, at Government House in Edmonton.

Finalists in the Grant MacEwan Young Author Scholarship:

Jennifer Bowering of Edmonton for her essay "The Journey Home."

Daniel Iseli-Otto of Bluffton for his story "A Storm of Winds."

Erin Knight of Edmonton for her story "May Without Snow."

Sandra Malcolm of Airdrie for her story "The MacEwan Staffordshire Dogs."

Finalists in the Grant MacEwan Author's Award:

Lisa Christensen of Calgary for her book *A Hiker's Guide to the Rocky Mountain Art of Lawren Harris*, published by Fifth House Publishers.

David Finch* of Calgary for his book *R.M. Patterson: A Life of Great Adventure* published by Rocky Mountain Books. (reviewed *History Now* No. 3, July 2001).

Alice V. Payne of Calgary for her book *Quin Kola* published by Crossfield Publishers.

Fred Stenson of Calgary for his book *The Trade* published by Douglas & McIntyre.

Donald Wetherell* & Irene Kmet of Edmonton for their book *Alberta's North* co-published by University of Alberta Press and Canadian Circumpolar Institute Press.

Winner of the Grant MacEwan Young Author Scholarship:

Erin Knight of Edmonton for her story "May Without Snow."

Winner of the Grant MacEwan Author's Award: Fred Stenson of Calgary for his book *The Trade* published by Douglas & McIntyre.

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*Members of the
Historical Society of
Alberta.



Websites to Try

History on the Web

www.stemnet.nf.ca/monuments

"Canadian War Memorials are a poignant reminder of the price Canadians have paid to preserve our democracy". This site was developed to track the history of our country's war memorials. Over 60 memorials are documented through a digital format.

www.museums.ualberta.ca

This fall you can now visit by the way of virtual tour the University of Alberta's 35 special collections on campus. Look for a feature for youth in the Kidzone, also coming this autumn.

www.antiques.ab.ca

Looking for a special collectible. This site lists Alberta's antique dealers, offers advice for collectors and an extensive classified listing at no cost.

www.thecowboytrail.com

Follow this Travel Alberta site to take a road trip along the historic Cowboy Trail. The route covers 700 km from Mayerthorpe to Cardston including visits to small town rodeos, museums and country fairs.

www.albertasportshalloffame.com

Take time to visit the Alberta Sport's Hall of Fame. New inductees are added each year to this interpretive center dedicated to Alberta's sport's history.

www.imagescanada.ca

Browse the gateway to over 65,000 images found in Canadian cultural institutions spanning all aspects of Canadian history.

www.collections.ic.gc.ca/myrtlephilip

An educational web product that tells the story of Myrtle Philip, a renowned and respected founding pioneer of the Whistler, BC, resort municipality. A fascinating glimpse into the lifestyle and values of a Canadian nature lover.

A Perfect Gift for Christmas

Give a lasting gift and tribute to the life and times of Dr. Grant MacEwan this Christmas.

Additional souvenir copies of the 2001 Grant MacEwan *Alberta History* Tribute Issue are now available for Christmas delivery. Place your order prior to November 10, 2001 and we will make sure your present arrives with a gift enclosure for Christmas.

Special issue \$ 9.95
Special issue and one year
HSA membership \$19.95

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

cheque: _____

VISA: _____

Expiry Date: _____

Signature: _____

Gift to: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

Mail with payment to:

The Historical Society of Alberta
PO Box 4035, Station C
Calgary, AB T2T 5M9
Phone: 403-261-3662
e-mail: hsa@cadvision.com

The End of the Rope

by Kirsten Olson

A play written by Aaron Coates

Just over 40 years ago a brutal murder in the small town of Stettler sent shock waves over central Alberta. The bodies of Ray Cook, his wife and their five children were found hidden in a grease pit in the garage of the family home. Robert Cook, Ray's son, was charged with the murder and after two trials was hanged for the crime in 1960. The last man to be hanged in Alberta.

Playwright Aaron Coates has taken the story of Robert Raymond Cook and transformed it into a one-hour play *The End of the Rope*, most recently performed at Calgary's Fringe Festival. Commissioned by the Legal Archives Society of Alberta to write a play from Alberta's legal history, Coates chose the Cook story and had access to some of the original documents from the case. The play centres on the relationship between Cook, a young man of 22, and the young lawyer who represented him, David MacNaughton. The play is historically accurate but is more about the personal struggles of the two men rather than a recreation of events.

Sean Bowie directed the play and with Kelly Reay as Stage Manager used a set of only four chairs to depict scene

and time changes. Nate Prochnau, as Cook, transforms his character fluidly from a confused young man just charged with his father's murder to an angry, desperate death row inmate. Len Harvey plays MacNaughton, a young inexperienced lawyer suddenly thrown into a murder trial. By using asides to the audience, Harvey masterfully leads the story through the events of Cook's arrest, escape, re-capture and eventual sentencing.

The End of the Rope had a two-week run earlier this year at the old Red Deer courthouse, in the very same courtroom where the first trial was held. The play has been extremely well received in both cities and has acted as a catalyst for the memories of many people, as well as informing younger Albertans about this dramatic episode in our history. The impetus for this project was a desire to expose a larger audience to the many treasures in Alberta archives. Judging by audience reaction and public interest, the project has been a success. As theatre, *The End of the Rope* holds audience attention to the inevitable end, and whether one feels Cook was guilty or innocent, at least leaves us with a view to his humanity.

From the Editor

Another year to look back on. I do hope *History Now* continues to fulfill your informational needs by supplying news of people and events.

A grateful *thank you* to everyone who has sent in reports, news, articles and photographs of events. Such material is the support I need in order to fill the pages with interesting and diverse material.

In 2002, I look forward to again receiving information about the events and programs in your Chapter, or about an interesting trip you've made to a place of historical interest. Deadlines for each issue can be found on page 2.

Good wishes for Christmas and the New Year—Sherring

Summer Institutes for History Teachers by John Spearn

Historica Montreal Summer Institute: C'est Magnifique! On July 7th, after contact from some friends in HSA last March, I flew to Montreal as one of the fortunate people chosen to attend Teacher's Summer Institute: a bilingual week of intensive updating on what is new and exciting in Canadian History.

The many highlight speakers at the Lower Canada College campus included Mark Starowitz, producer of CBC's *Canada: a People's History*; Jack Granatstein, curator of Ottawa's National Museum and author of the controversial book *Who Killed Canadian History*, and Brian McKenna, film producer for Galafilms of Montreal.

Tour sites included Old Montreal, a two day guided venture to old lower Quebec City, the Citadel, the Plains of Abraham, and Trois Rivieres to name

but a few. Accommodation was provided in the quaint dorms of old McGill University, which in itself can provide Montreal visitors with wonderful, inexpensive rooms (\$40/night, available in July and August).

As a high school history teacher (Vimy Ridge Academy, EPSB), and through my involvement in writing and publishing music and multimedia for the history classroom, I cannot imagine having a more inspirational week than the one that these people provided the sixty of us who attended.

Lots of kudos to Historica (www.historica.ca) and the CRB Foundation for their support in hosting this conference, as well as to the Lower Canada College staff who coordinated the event. Parlez plus forts, Canada!

About Historica

Historica is a new charitable foundation whose mission is to provide Canadians with a deeper understanding of their history and its importance in shaping their future. Historica helps teachers meet their professional objectives by providing training, resources and opportunities to exchange ideas and information. For details on Historica programs please visit us at www.historica.ca

We hope to see you there,

Deborah Morrison, Director of Operations, Historica en français
www.historica.ca/historica/french_site/resources/summer_inst/index.html

William Aberhart Historical Foundation

Historical Foundation Organized

The William Aberhart Historical Foundation has been put together by the initiative of The Honourable Arthur Dixon, CM, a long-time MLA (1952-1975) and Speaker of the Alberta Legislature (1967-1971). The organization profile mentions that the Foundation exists to enhance the understanding of the history of Alberta and the important role played by William Aberhart in the growth of the young province to maturity.

Created under the Companies Act of Alberta in January 2000, it was registered as a charitable organization effective September, 2000. Officers include Mr. Dixon, President, J. Alvin Speers, ACE, Treasurer; and Directors, John Galbraith MD; J. Martin Hattersley, QC; M. Wayne Stewart; and Clarence Patton.

It was felt that there is much to learn from the life and legacy of William Aberhart that is missing from the material produced to date, and that students plus others could benefit should the record be set straight and missing pieces of information be filled in.

A shortage of objective, detailed accounts of our past are seen to result in a decrease in attention to our history, in our schools and by the public at large, with a consequent natural reduction in understanding.

A conception of Premier Aberhart perpetuated by popular myth and the media is largely misconceived and clearly not complete. Among these are the impression attached to the name "Bible Bill," the focus on the "failed social dividend" plan, and no account of

the other elements of his platform. It is seen as important that the missing details be filled in, the impressions challenged, and the record clarified.

Activities to date have concerned the formation of the Foundation and formulation of the initial operating plan. The organization is now seeking funding from a variety of sources to initiate and carry out the major project of production of material for distribution.

Interested persons are invited to contact Mr. Dixon or other officers of the Foundation.

William Aberhart Historical Foundation. Charitable registration number 87776 3128 RR0001.

Greetings,

It's hard to believe that we are now entering into fall, after going through one of our hottest summers ever. Some say this summer, especially in southern Alberta, was drier than the 30's. All in all, hope everyone had an enjoyable summer.

CCHS again put on a successful Historic Calgary Week. The Program Committee has been very busy compiling our new program for the 2001-2002 season with more events lasting into June 2002.

September 25, 2001 at 7:30 pm at Fort Calgary, Linda Manyguns took us through the colourful history of our Native people before the beginning of Calgary with an overview of major events and historic gatherings.

October 23, at Fort Calgary, Brian Brennan will pay tribute to premiers William Aberhart and Ernest Manning, Edmonton mayor William Hawrelak and many others.

November 27 at Fort Calgary, a talk by Ed Bredin about former Calgary solicitor and founding chairman of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Leonard Brockington.

December 4 will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Calgary Old Timers' Club at Martin's on Eight. Reservations only.

Wednesday, December 12 is our annual Christmas Dinner at the Wainwright Hotel, Heritage Park. Brian Lehman will be entertaining us about antiques. Reservations only.

One of our board members and a past president of CCHS, Harry Sanders, decided to get married during the summer. His new bride is the former Kirsten Olson. Congratulations Harry and Kirsten. May you have a long and happy life together.

The committee responsible in the planning of next year's conference and HSA Annual General Meeting, May 24-26, 2002, have been busy putting together tours and events that will be of interest to all tastes. This is your pre-invitation to attend, so mark those dates on your calendar. Watch for the next issue of *History Now* to get further details on this event that is open to all members of the Historical Society of Alberta.

Historic Calgary Week 2001

Historic Calgary Week was a huge success. This year we had the lower floor of Memorial Park Library as our headquarters. Displays were set up by numerous organizations including four from Heritage Fair that depicted some of Calgary's history. There was an art display of Sandstone buildings by Stanley Jones Grade 3 students. All the displays were enjoyed by visitors as they munched on a cookie, sipped lemonade or drank coffee. One gentleman who has lived in Calgary over 40 years commented that he had never been in Memorial Park Library until this year's Historic Calgary Week.

The theme this year was "Volunteerism in the Past." It opened Friday July 27 at Fort Calgary with keynote speakers, Doug Mitchell and Ed Whalen. On behalf of the province of Alberta, Wayne Cao spoke on the 1907 Act of Legislation and presented CCHS with a certificate of accomplishment.

Representing the City of Calgary, Alderman Bev Longstaff read the Proclamation for Historic Calgary Week. HSA president Ron Williams came with greetings, as did Marj Wing from the Calgary Public Library and Sara-Jane Gruetzner representing Fort Calgary. Bob Pearson, dressed in NWMP uniform played O'Canada on the piano.

Almost 3000 attended events and included visitors and newcomers who wanted to learn the history of their new community. HCW events covered Storytelling, an open house to show the restoration of a fire damaged apartment building, a polo game, a heritage tour by car, and climbing up to the bell tower in a church. We learned about old fire trucks, the importance of the navy on the prairies, how sandstone buildings on Stephen Avenue were restored, and viewed old medical instruments and uniforms from the General Hospital. We heard about the personalities who worked at Memorial Park Library when

it opened, reminiscences about the early days of Edworthy Park, and what was on an artist's mind when painting the events of war.

Ninety-eight entries were submitted for the annual HCW crossword puzzle compiled by Ken Penley and published in the Calgary Herald. Winners: Neil Elison, Airdrie (Martin's on Eighth gift certificate); Doreen A. Rynning, Calgary (Jerome's Hair Salon gift certificate); Betty Dahlie, Calgary (Jerome's Hair Salon gift certificate); and Dorothy Lamont, Calgary (CCHS gift). The auto tour was also a contest. Winners: Glenn and Margaret Waite and Jennifer Prest and Martin Stocker (gift certificates). Congratulations to all winners.

A big thank you goes to the HCW committee, the presenters, to all the volunteers, the members and the general public who came out and visited the 33 venues over the ten days. We invite everyone to attend the 12th HCW next year from Friday, July 26 to Monday, August 5, 2002.

As a Society, the LHS had a slow summer as usual, but that does not mean that the Executive has been idle. Jean Johnstone, Barry Snowden and I have been planning a Fall Bus Tour for September 22nd to local area museums and attractions. Carly has also been training Jerry Kylo of Lethbridge in the mailing of our local Newsletter edited by Irma Dogterom. Jerry, who has caught on fast, will be taking over most of the work involved in: photocopying, folding, stuffing, addressing, mailing etc the next newsletter.

Our latest book: "*Where Was It? A Guide to Early Lethbridge Buildings*" has sold very well. We arranged a reprint with some of the photos re-digitized to improved their image plus Duncan Rand—retired Lethbridge Librarian—compiled an index which we have included in the second printing. It should be off the press by the time this *History Now* is released.

Georgia Fooks has been keeping her nose to the grindstone this summer on our next book: *Prairie Prisoners—Lethbridge POW Camps During Two Major World Conflicts*. If all goes well, we will launch it the evening of November 27th or on a special launch night thereafter.

On September 17th a group of LHS members met in Carly and Barb Stewart's garage to label, package and bundle 1150 books which went to 200 school and public libraries in Southern Alberta.

Our October 23rd program will feature local photographer Mr. Ed. Keeling speaking on the history of photography and especially the history

of his firm "A.E.Cross Studio" in Lethbridge. Ed may bring along some of the firm's early cameras to demonstrate to us.

The Alex Johnston Lecture Series is slated for the Lethbridge Public Library on the evening of October 30, 2001 at 7:30 pm. Max Foran of Calgary will deliver the lecture on "Uncertain and Capricious: The Export Market and the Southern Alberta Ranching Industry, 1887-1949." The Chinook and Edmonton Historical Societies have been contacted to host the Lecture, arrangements for Chinook in Calgary are underway. Be sure to attend when it arrives in your community.

Our November meeting is slated for 7:15 pm. November 27th at the Lethbridge Public Library. Dr. Hugh Dempsey has been asked to present the program that evening which will commemorate the special edition of *Alberta History* that is dedicated to the late Dr. Grant MacEwan who was the Honorary President of the Historical Society of Alberta. Final arrangements are still in progress.

Also, on November 27th Hugh Dempsey will speak on the Grant MacEwan Tribute. It will be at the Public Library Theatre Gallery at 7:15 pm. Afterwards is the Annual General Meeting of the Lethbridge Historical Society. The usual reports will be presented and election of officers will take place. If all goes well we hope to launch our next book: *Prairie Prisoners—Lethbridge POW Camps During Two Major World Conflicts*.

The program for January will be Carrol Jaques of Calgary. She will present

a talk on the History of Unifarm and she will bring copies of her latest book for sale and autograph.

The February program and banquet are well into the planning stages.

This will likely be the last report that I will make to Sherring Amsden, Editor of *History Now*. My term of office is due to end with the November meeting of the Lethbridge Historical Society. So I would like at this time to extend a special Thank You to Sherring for her patience and friendly atmosphere that has prevailed while she has been editor of *History Now*. I look forward to reading *History Now* for many years.

—Thank you Carly, your timely and interesting reports will be missed
Editor

Dr. Alex Johnston Lecture Series

This year the Dr. Alex Johnston Lecture Series is scheduled for October 30, 2001 at 7:30 pm at the Lethbridge Public Library Theatre Gallery.

The speaker is Max Foran and his topic is "The Export Market and the Southern Alberta Ranching Industry, 1881-1948. Alex Johnston's heart and soul was in rangeland management so the topic is well chosen.



The summer news from the CAHS Chapter begins with our June, Golden Opportunity bus tour, four days of beautiful scenery and glimpses of restored history. The first stop was the Morley Nakoda Lodge, an ideal off-highway place for a driving break and walk around. On over the Great Divide into B.C. for an afternoon and supper stop at Fort Steele. As was the case with all our stops at restoration sites and interpretive centres, tour arrangements in advance ensured that our guides provided us with in-depth presentations at Fort Steele. Named after Sam Steele who built a NWMP post at this location in 1887, the present historic centre was initiated locally and continues its operation under a local historic board. The gold at Wild Horse Creek brought white settlement there and an unproven murder charge against a Kootenay, plus a Colonel Baker land transaction that ignored traditional Kootenay territories, brought the police. The NWMP Post operated for one year.

The most adventurous of the forty people in the CAHS tour group did some gold panning at Creston in a creek that flows into Kootenay Lake. The next morning bus ride along Kootenay Lake was a changing scene between mountain flowers, shrubs and trees on the one side; on the other, blue water and sky framed by the Selkirk mountain range. A ferry ride across the lake and north to Kaslo brought us to a tour of the SS Moyie. This restored sternwheeler was pre-highway transportation for almost sixty years. Everything and everyone that came in and out of this area was carried by boat or packed in on foot or pack horse. Launched in 1898, the

Moyie was also used for excursions with fine dining and dancing.

From Kaslo into the Slovan valley to Sandon where we toured a still in operation hydro electricity plant. This is the only remaining plant of the eight, that once provided mines and city power. The Silversmith power plant has a flume that drops water 300 feet onto a vertical Pelton wheel—hydro power without a dam! Sandon was a booming mining town in the 1890s, with a population peak of 5000 at the turn of the century. Our interpreter here was Veronika Pellowski, born in Scotland. By academic training a lawyer, her family operates the electric plant. She has written a social history of Sandon with the title of, *Silver, Lead and Hell*.

In New Denver we toured the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre. Reconstruction shows the deplorable living conditions of this 1942 site where some of the 22,000 people of Japanese origin were forced to live as, "enemy aliens." Some of their sons were in the Canadian Army and 75% were Canadian citizens. This centre was built and operated by the local Kyowakai Society. The last exhibit in this memorial is a large mirror where viewers see their own face—an unspoken invitation to reflect on what can happen under the guise of national security.

Our stop at the Doukhobor Historical Village Museum in Castlegar was another occasion to look at ugly discrimination that is part of our history. RCMP were ordered to evict Doukhobors from the land given them in Saskatchewan just as they were used to remove and confiscate the property of

the Nekkei in BC. In both of these instances, our police were required to serve those with legislative might rather than maintaining what was right.

The Rossland Historical Museum and Gold Mine gave us a picture of the lives and working conditions of hard rock miners and the phenomena of a mine claim in 1890 that became a town of 7,000 five years later. Back in Alberta, our stop at the the Leitch Collieries Historic Site informed us of what happened at this site when the sandstone shell familiar to all who travel the Crownsnest Pass highway was a coking plant and part of a coal mine enterprise.

The last historic stop of the tour was at the Pincher Creek Museum and Kootenai Brown Pioneer Village. The local historical society named their site for a man that came west seeking gold at Wild Horse Creek and stayed to live out a life shaped by the rapid cultural and commercial changes around him and his own adventurous nature.

From June 22 to August 24, Red Deer and District Museum conducted five day tours that visited 15 different historic centres in Central Alberta, each site the result of local people intent on historic preservation. On August 18 as part of the special Historic weekend at Rocky Mountain House, dancers from the Metis Cultural Dance Association in Edmonton, performed in front of the remnant chimneys of the HBC fur trading fort of 1865-1875. The dancing was filmed by a National Film Board crew for inclusion in a documentary, "How the Fiddle Flows," that will be on APTN and Bravo programming in 2002.

Edmonton & District Historical Society

by Frank Norris, Vice President

Write to

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Summer Activities

This has been a very busy spring and summer season for our chapter.

On June 14 and 15 the HSA casino was held at West Edmonton Mall. We were fortunate to have an executive member, Mr. Alan Vanterpool, an experienced casino organizer, step forward. He handled all the details in a well organized way and as a result there was not a single problem with the paper trail. Organizing the necessary volunteers was a formidable task but thanks to our very supportive membership we had more than we actually used. The good news is that we cleared \$58,500. For those of us new to casino's it was an interesting experience.

On June 17, Airfest 2001 was held at the aviation Museum to celebrate the 75th anniversary of North America's first Municipal Airport. This Airport is still commonly referred to as Edmonton's Industrial Airfield. We were fortunate to have been invited to set up a display in the Trade Fair area. We were given prime space in a visible location. We set up a photo display of historic events, historic buildings,

historic churches and general interest photos of the time period. We find that people gravitate to these old photo displays and interesting conversations result. The display provides an excellent opportunity to showcase and promote our society and hopefully attract some new memberships.

Historic Edmonton Week was held from July 29 to August 6 inclusive. This annual event, once again, was extremely successful. Our thanks to the many sponsors, activity partners, the electronic and print media, an active and efficient coordinator, and of course the activity participants. We featured sixty-four (64) activities hosted by over thirty (30) different partners some of whom were new to our festival this year. Already, we are receiving inquiries from new partners showing interest in participating in next year's Historic Edmonton Week. We are especially grateful for the coverage we received from the media, in all forms, including at least three events on live television. This year we held a contest, with entry forms, that served as a means for tracking attendance at each activity. We awarded prizes of books and there was

an over-all grand prize. This was one night of accommodation at the Fairmont Hotel Macdonald, deluxe room, double occupancy, a three-course dinner in the Harvest Room, valet parking, taxes and gratuities. The winner was Jean Rogers of Edmonton.

We were invited to put up a display in Edmonton City Hall which was a centre point attraction for the World Games. We were given prime space and were able to set up an interesting display of historic pictures and small artifacts. We attracted lots of visitors, many from other parts of the world, and they took great interest in our display. Estimates of attendance at City Hall was 50,000 plus. We were fortunate to be able to have a host at the display for the busy hours of the day. Some interesting conversations were generated. We had a guest book which many people signed. We hosted the display from August 5 to 12. What a great opportunity to distribute our brochures, magazines and society information.

After a busy and interesting summer, we now move on to the fall/winter program.

Remember to buy that
**Perfect Gift
for Christmas**

for details turn to page 14



Good wishes,
health, and
happiness for
Christmas and
the New Year
to all our
members

HSA Calendar of Events – 2001/2002

- Oct 23** CCHS Alberta Originals: Stories of Albertans Who Made a Difference. Brian Brennan. Ft. Calgary 750 9 Ave SE, 7:30 pm.
- Oct 23** LHS Guest speaker Ed Keeling will speak on the History of Early Lethbridge Photographers, particularly the A.E. Cross Studio
- Oct 30** LHS The Alex Johnston Lecture Series at the Lethbridge Public Library at 7:30 pm. Max Foran of Calgary will deliver the lecture on "Uncertain and Capricious: The Export Market and the Southern Alberta Ranching Industry, 1887-1949."
- Nov 27** CCHS Leonard W. Brockington: Calgary's Silver Tongued City Solicitor. Ed Bredin. Ft. Calgary 750 9 Ave SE, 7:30 pm.
- Nov 27** LHS AGM. Guest speaker Dr. Hugh Dempsey, Editor *Alberta History*. He will speak about the commemorative edition of *Alberta History*, dedicated to the late Dr. Grant MacEwan. If all goes well we hope to launch *Prairie Prisoners, Lethbridge POW Camps During Two Major World Conflicts*, by Georgia Fooks, or at a special launch evening thereafter.
- Dec 4** CCHS Historic Calgary Week 2002 Fundraising Dinner. Martin's on Eighth, 121 8th Ave. SW. Cocktails 6:00, Dinner 7:00 pm
Call: Harry 403-259-8339.
- Dec 12** CCHS Christmas Dinner. Wainwright Hotel, Heritage Park. Cocktails 6:00 pm, Dinner 7:00 pm. Call: Anne 403-242-5696
- Jan 22** LHS Carrol Jaques of Calgary will talk on the History of Uniform. See book review page 12.
- Jan 23** CCHS Storytelling and the Fur Trade. Louise Crane. Ft. Calgary 750 9 Ave SE, 7:30 pm.

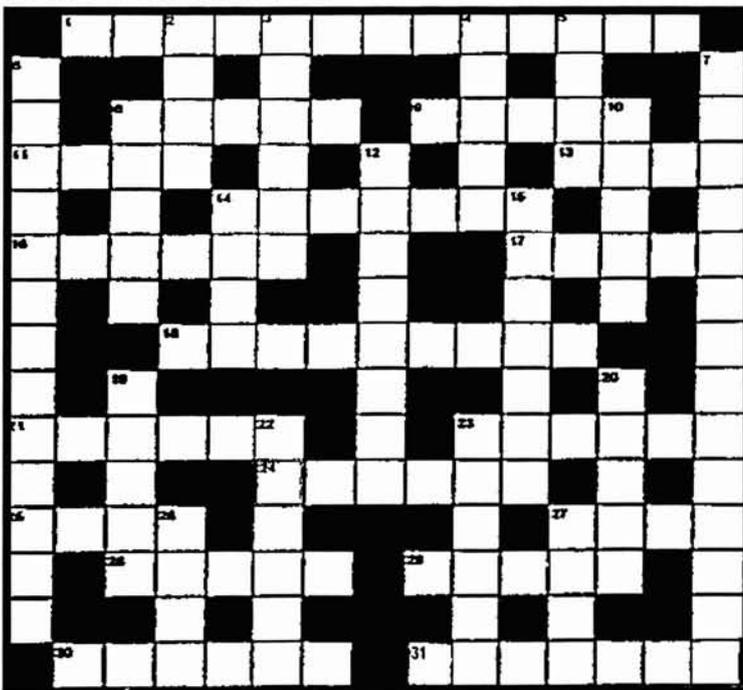


Answer to last newsletter crossword:

Across: 1. Tommy Banks, 6. disc, 9. Rockyview, 10. aloft, 11. howls, 12. Innisfail, 13. Pancake, 15. slide, 16. obeying, 18. ehs, 20. cue, 21. holster, 22. Frank, 24. taper, 25. epaulette, 26. coed, 27. KuKluxKlan.

Down: 1. Torah, 2. MacEwan, 3. yoyos, 4. asinine, 5. Kiwanis, 7. isolate, 8. catalogue, 10. Aussies, 13. Prophetic, 14. aviator, 17. eclipse, 18. Garneau, 19. eye ball, 20. Coastal, 22. Felix, 23. Klein.

HSA Crossword



You have plenty of time to complete this crossword puzzle which was devised by a member of HSA. The answer will be published in the next issue of *History Now*.

Across

1. Explorer who, in 1754, was the first white man to see "the shining mountains" from west of site of Red Deer
8. Famed basketball team from Edmonton
9. Alberta Alcohol & Drug Abuse Commission (acronym)
11. Breezy, gay
13. Finger, toe or brad
14. Mom and Dad
16. Highest mountain in the Canadian Rockies, west of Jasper
17. Colour of army tunic
18. The Indian tribes communicated by moccasin
21. Departs
23. Calgary district or Ottawa canal
24. Province in which Edmonton's "twin city" is located
25. Southern Alberta university (abbr)
27. Alberta is famed for this meat
28. Grant MacEwan's son-in-law, author Max
29. Edmonton athlete
30. HBC explorer, map maker, who surveyed Lake Athabasca and foothills of the Canadian Rockies, Peter
31. Book or list of important citizens

Down

2. A Conservative
3. River or dam in Southern Alberta
4. Pass into law by the provincial legislature
5. With 6 down, post held by Grant MacEwan at the University of Manitoba
6. see 5 down
7. Stoney chief whose life was subject of a Grant MacEwan book *Tatanga Mani*
8. A four toed, tailless, diving waterfowl
10. Type of ditch which transports fresh water to crops in parts of dry Alberta
12. Traitor, deserter, often a fugitive from the law
14. North or South
15. One who doubts the truth
19. A National Park in Alberta
20. A past president of the Historical Society of Alberta
22. Product of a number multiplied by itself
23. Condiment used, with pleasure, on hot dogs etc. at country fairs in Alberta
26. Female university student
27. Wagers