

The membership newsletter of the

Historical Society of Alberta

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History NOW

No. 1
January 1998



In this issue

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| The Ranche House at Bow Valley Ranche | 1 |
| President's Message | 3 |
| Wanted: Back Issues Alberta History | 3 |
| Annual Conference Update | 5 |
| Tribute: Alan Ridge | 5 |
| Book Reviews | 6 & 7 |
| Winter Reading | 8 |
| Lawrence Barrs, Cowboy Artist | 9 |
| Chapter Reports | 10 & 11 |
| HSA Calendar of Events & Crossword | 12 |

The Ranche House at Bow Valley Ranche

by Mitzie & Larry Wasyliw

A spectacular site is nestled in a serene meadow 17 minutes from downtown Calgary, in Fish Creek Provincial Park. Towering pines highlight "The Ranche House" in a truly exceptional setting.

In 1896, William Roper Hull built this magnificent structure which was sold to Senator Patrick Burns in 1902.

Purchased by the Alberta government in 1973, as part of the development of Fish Creek Provincial Park, the Ranche House stands as a recognized treasure of Canadian history incorporating the ranching, business, social, government and entrepreneurial roots that have built our country.



Empty and abandoned since 1978, the Ranche House, a pivotal landmark of our Alberta heritage, is structurally sound, but in serious need of repair. It is the goal of The Ranche at Fish Creek Restoration Society to restore The Ranche House to its original turn of the century grandeur. Its preservation will honour the Alberta Pioneers of the Fish Creek area, and once again become a meeting place for business, social and family gatherings.

Once completed, the Ranche House will sit in an area featuring a spectacular garden setting designed by Olds College, an outdoor pavilion catering to small events, a fountain courtyard and a meadow view patio.

The interior will offer a perfect blend of old and new. There will be two sun porches. The William Roper Hull Room and Senator Patrick Burns Room will be dining parlours with fireplaces. Charlie's Room will be a dining room with terrace, and the Grand Salon will be used as a conference/reception room which also has a fireplace and access to a courtyard.

The upper level will offer an elegant private dining salon with decorative fire place and an additional dining room.

HSA Pin

The new Historical Society of Alberta pin is now 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:

The Historical Society of Alberta
Box 4035, Station C
Calgary, AB. T2T 5M9

Phone: 403-261-3662
Fax: 403-269-6029



continued on page 4

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

Send copy to:

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Editor, *History Now*,
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#325, 304 8th Avenue SW
Calgary, AB T2P 1C2
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Fax: 403-269-6029

**Members of Council
1997-1998**

- | | |
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Alberta History Editor Hugh Dempsey
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Welcome to new members

Mernie Smith, Edmonton
Dorothy MacInnis, Calgary
Sylvia McKain, Edmonton
Lois L. McGhee, Red Deer
Pauline and Lawrence Ashley, Calgary
Mary Trace, Calgary
Mary Alice Arial, St. Albert
Joan Lawrence, Calgary
Larry and Mitzie Wasyliw, Calgary
Paul and Anne Chapman, Calgary
Donnie Welsh, Redwater
Barbara Holliday, Calgary
George and Sheila Rocks, Calgary
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| | |
|---|-------|
| Name: | _____ |
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| Postal Code: | _____ |
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| Individual: \$25; Families: \$30 | |
| Is this a renewal? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| My particular interest in Alberta's heritage is _____ | |
| My occupations is/was _____ | |
| I would like to assist The Historical Society of Alberta <input type="checkbox"/> | |

President's Report

by Sheila Johnston



Season's Greetings

I hope that you have all had a restful and pleasant holiday season, and that you are embarked on what will be a healthy and happy 1998.

The HSA Council met on Nov. 29th, and dealt with a variety of issues. We will be meeting again Jan. 10th and the weekend of March 27-28th for some long range strategic planning. If you have concerns or suggestions that might be dealt with at those meetings, please feel free to contact me through the office.

We have a number of Calgary members who regularly (usually once a week) volunteer to do a variety of tasks assisting our co-ordinator, Margaret Waite, in the office. In previous years we have held a small 'thank you' party in December in the office, with volunteers organizing it and helping to supply the punch and goodies. This year the Council decided to do our thanking in another way. At the Chinook Country Christmas Dinner on Dec 11th, I had the privilege of presenting a small gift and certificate of appreciation to those office volunteers who were present: Diana Sim, Clancy Patton and Ken Penley. The four not able to be present: Betty Dahlie, Fred Holberton, Carl Hanson and Michele Mallinson received theirs later. Many thanks to all of these faithful members who help Margaret keep the office going.

Since this is the end of the year, it is a good time for me to also say 'Thank You' to others who help keep HSA 'humming'.

First, our thanks to our office co-ordinator, Margaret Waite, who quietly and efficiently keeps our activities flowing smoothly, is there to guide the Council and President (thank goodness!), and whose friendly responses, by phone or in person, are one of our best public relations resources. Thanks Margaret.

Hugh Dempsey, our Alberta History editor, does his job so efficiently that I suspect we seldom stop to express our appreciation for the quality publication we take for granted. Thanks, Hugh.

Thanks also to Sherring Amsden, our conscientious newsletter editor, who is always looking for more items of interest to the members, as well as nudging the president to get her message done. Thanks, Sherring.

The ARPB (Alberta Records Publications Board), an 'arm' of the HSA produces a book every two years. I hope you have purchased and enjoyed, as I did, the last book: *A Preacher's Frontier: The Pastor, Alberta letters of Rev. Martin W. Holdum*. Watch for the next book in late spring of 1998. Our thanks go to David Jones, who is our general editor, and those who assist him on the ARPB.

Our Council members work hard at representing you, our members, and I would like to thank all of them for their commitment, dedication and support.

As we move into the new year, I also thank you, our members, for your continued support of our work through membership renewals, donations, and volunteering in your local chapters and special events.

All the best for 1998, sincerely, Sheila.

From the HSA Office ...

Back Issues of Alberta History Needed.

Please note that the HSA maintains 3 copies of each issue as archival copies, and extra issues are required to maintain an inventory for sale to members and non-members. A Charitable Tax Receipt will be issued for any magazines donated.

| Year | Issue | Volume, Number |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1953 | Spring, Summer, Autumn | Vol. 1, No. 1, 2, 3 |
| 1954 through 1968 | Winter, Spring, Summer, Autumn | Vol. 2 through 16, No. 1-4 incl. |
| 1969 | Winter, Autumn | Vol. 17, No. 1, 4 |
| 1970 | Winter, Spring, Summer, Autumn | Vol. 18, No. 1-4 incl. |
| 1971 | Spring | Vol. 19, No. 2 |
| 1973 | Autumn | Vol. 21, No. 4 |
| 1974 | Spring, Summer, Autumn | Vol. 22, No. 2, 3, 4 |
| 1977 | Winter | Vol. 25, No. 1 |
| 1980 | Autumn | Vol. 28, No. 4 |
| 1981 | Spring | Vol. 29, No. 2 |
| 1984 | Autumn | Vol. 32, No. 4 |
| 1995 | Winter | Vol. 43, No. 1 |

**The Ranche
at Fish
Creek
Provincial
Park.
Historical
Philanthropy
Program**



Ranche — continued from page 1

Archival displays and memorabilia throughout the site will feature the Ranche House history.

For the restoration the Society is working in partnership with the Alberta Sports Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation. All donations are considered gifts to the Crown and are therefore 100% tax deductible. This tax deduction under Sections 118.1 (3) and 110.1 (1), differs from a donation to a non-profit society and can also be deferred over time. Donations in kind such as art, furniture, gifts, materials are also welcome and will be appraised at today's value for tax purposes.

An approved operation has now been put in place to run The Ranche House as a fully serviced restaurant and tourist attraction. The operator will be solely responsible together with The Ranche at Fish Creek Restoration Society for ongoing maintenance and upkeep. The Society will hold specific fund raising projects and annual events to assist with the maintenance program.

The Board of Directors of the Society is dedicated to securing the restoration budget of \$680,000. So far, in excess of \$300,000, has now been raised so that Phase 1 of the restoration has commenced and a new roof recently installed. Interior construction will begin in December 1997, with completion targeted for spring/summer of 1998.

Phase 2, will encompass restoration of the other buildings located on the 2.5 acres of grounds surrounding the Ranche House.

For those who wish to visit the site, take Bow Bottom Trail south to Fish Creek Provincial Park. The first right-hand turn south of the Park entrance will introduce you to a part of Alberta's glorious past.

For further information please contact Mitzie Wasyliw at 403-269-3632, or Clarence Patton at 403-253-6879.

Did your family settle in Southern Alberta before December 31, 1890?

The Southern Alberta Pioneers and Their Descendants are looking for families descended from pioneers settling in Southern Alberta before December 31, 1890.

If you are a descendant of one of these families please get in touch as you may have stories about your family that can be included in a book about this period of history.

You are also entitled to become a member of the Southern Alberta Pioneers and Their Descendants.

For further information please contact Jim Mackie, historian for the Southern Alberta Pioneers and Their Descendants at 403-228-4046. email mackie@cadvision.com

Did you know our endowment is growing?



In 1994, the HSA Council decided to invest the money received from an insurance claim by opening endowments in community foundations, where that was possible. \$5000 was placed in the Calgary Foundation, and a lesser amount in the Lethbridge Community Foundation. I understand that, at the time, we could not meet the minimum amount necessary for investing in the Edmonton Foundation.

The Calgary Foundation endowment is a designated endowment in the name of the Historical Society of Alberta. Each year we receive an interest payment (\$326 this year). The value of our endowment in the Calgary Foundation, as of December 16, 1997, was \$6,990.40.

For the last three and a half years the interest has been reinvested back into the fund and this has resulted in a 40% growth. This is a goal to be maintained so that eventually the interest will be sufficient to give the Historical Society of Alberta a degree of independence and security in the future from reliance on grants.

To help our intention of this and other foundation funds to eventually provide a large enough endowment so that the interest will be a significant source of income, we obviously have to build up the endowment funds. This can be done by a variety of donations and bequests from members, and interested people or groups. Small or large, all donations are welcome and will receive a tax receipt.

We will be providing more information in future newsletters, in the meantime, if you are interested, and/or have questions, please call the office and someone will get back to you with the necessary information.

Tribute: Alan D. Ridge — 1926–1997

The historical community across Canada will be saddened to learn by David Leonard of the passing of our friend and colleague, Alan Ridge, from this earth on Saturday, 19th October, 1997. Alan was, for years, central to many archival developments both here and abroad, and served for 16 years as the Provincial Archivist of Alberta.

Alan was born in Brighton, England in 1926, and graduated from the University of London in 1947, specializing in History and Archives Administration. His career as an archivist began the following year, when he was appointed to the London County Council Archives. In 1958, he was appointed the Head of the Records and Registry Service of the National Coal Board, centered in Yorkshire. Here, he administered the records of 120 collieries, 20 district offices and 8 administrative areas.

Alan's archival career in Canada began in 1962, when he came to Montreal to establish and administer the archival program at McGill University. In 1968, he was appointed the Provincial Archivist of Alberta, succeeding Hugh Taylor. In this capacity, he oversaw the development of the Provincial Archives into a major research institution, housing over 4,000 accessions totalling over five linear miles. He effectively initiated the records management program in the provincial government and served throughout his term as the Secretary of provincial Public Records Committee. With manuscripts, the rich collection of church records held by the Archives was due primarily to his efforts. He retired as Provincial Archivist in 1984.

Alan was an active member of the Association of Canadian Archivists, the Alberta Society of Archivists, the Historical Society of Alberta, the Association of Records Managers and Administrators, and several other archival, historical and records management organizations. He was also an effective teacher, lecturing in and sometimes directing archival and records management courses at the University of Alberta. In 1983, he became a Member of the Institute of Certified Records Managers' Board of Regents. This was followed immediately by his appointment as a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists. In 1985, he was invested in the Order of Canada.

Alan leaves to mourn his wife of 45 years, Geraldene (nee Ames), and sons Simon and Timothy.

Annual Conference Update

The **Cross to Crisis** conference is taking up the energies of a committee of 16 people, so this either guarantees mass confusion or a truly worthwhile conference. We are betting on the latter choice.

We have a variety of paper presentations that examine the history of the Red Cross, The Alberta Children's Hospital, nursing on the prairies, psychiatry, public health nursing, and various medical conditions. In addition to these papers, we are presenting two panels. One panel will address hospital histories and the other will discuss "The Future of Health Care", so we hope to attract the interest of all of you 'history buffs'. There will also be tours offered that will be in keeping with the theme of the conference.

Last, but far from least, the Palliser Hotel will be providing us with those delectable offerings for which it has become famous. There will be a reception on May 29, a sumptuous banquet with live entertainment that evening, and a full breakfast prior to the annual meeting of the Historical Society of Alberta on May 31. All of this for an earlybird registration fee of \$95 — before May 1, 1998.

We think it will be a great conference and hope to see you all on the last weekend in May, 1998. If you have any questions, please contact Diana Mansell: Phone/Fax: 403-289-3194. Email: djmansel@acs.ucalgary.ca.



Oral history refers to recorded interviews with individuals about the past, or first-person reminiscences. The primary form of the oral history document is the recorded human voice. This document, in turn, may be applied as informational source material or directly in sound or transcribed form.

Among those who create and use oral history are professional historians, family and local historians, journalists, broadcasters, archivists, educators, folklorists and sociologists. The Canadian Oral History Association recognizes these practitioners and other kinds of users and is open to those in allied fields who use sound recordings as cultural records.

The Canadian Oral History Association was formed to help the diverse individuals and groups who express an interest in oral history and to deal with the preservation of sound recordings using new archival procedures, new types of finding aids, a new interpretation of copyright, and a set of ethics to govern the practice and use of oral history.

The Canadian Oral History Association publishes the *Oral History Forum*, an annual review containing a selection of papers on oral history in Canada and a Newsletter reporting on the administration of the Association, news about individual projects, relevant publications and regional activities. The Association also sponsors national conferences.

To apply for membership contact:
The Canadian Oral History Association
PO Box 2064, Station D
Ottawa, ON K1P 5W3
Institutional: \$30
Individual: \$20
Student \$ 15
<http://www.ncf.carleton.ca/oral-history>
email: coha@freenet.carleton.ca

Book Reviews

Last Chance Well



by Beatrice Hunter.

Last Chance Well was written to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the discovery of the Leduc No. 1 oil well, described as "the most important economic event to occur in the west, or in Canada, in the postwar years" — Marlene Cowling, Parliamentary Secretary for Natural Resources, House of Commons, February 13, 1997.

Yet it is a story that almost didn't happen. After spending millions of dollars and drilling 133 dry holes, the Board of Directors of Imperial Oil had decided that this was to be the last attempt to find oil. If the 134th hole was another 'duster' they were going to give up the search for oil in Alberta.

The book is a collection of stories based on the actual recollections of oil-patch pioneers who participated in the discovery of the Leduc oilfield and the early development of the oil industry in Alberta. It contains anecdotes from some of the original drilling crew members, Imperial Oil staff, representatives from other major and independent oil companies, oil wives and some of the local residents including Andrew Turta, whose father Mike Turta, owned the land.

Containing approximately 80 black and white photos, the 256 page book is illustrated by internationally known cartoonist, Yardley Jones, who also did the art work for the cover. Allen Shute, of Tree Frog Press, is the editor and publisher.

Last Chance Well is authored by Beatrice Hunter, whose late husband, Vernon (Dry Hole) Hunter, was the colorful toolpush who drilled Leduc No. 1.

Partially funded by a grant from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, Mrs. Hunter interviewed over forty oil field pioneers and has compiled their experiences

and anecdotes into this unique account of the most important event in the history of the Canadian Oil Patch.

All levels of readers will find this book interesting, both for its historical value and its human interest portrayal of the early development of Canada's Oil Industry.

Interested in obtaining a copy of *Last Chance Well*? Send \$19.95 plus \$3 postage and handling to:

Bea Hunter,
13911 92 Avenue,
Edmonton, AB T5R 5B1

Klondike Paradise



by C.R. Porter

In his foreword, Pierre Berton says "There are moments when a single decision can change the course of a man's life." The decision was made by Cy Porter in the summer of 1937, when he had the opportunity of going to work in a Klondike mining camp with Pierre Berton. The mining job did not materialize, instead he worked as a waiter on the stern-wheel steamer *Tutshi*.

It was from the *Tutshi* that he first saw Ben-My-Chree and so began a life-long love affair with this area of the Yukon and the promise he made to himself to buy this place one day. In 1971 the day arrived, he bought Ben-My-Chree and started the struggle to preserve "the paradise" founded by Otto and Kate Partridge.

The Partridges came to the Yukon looking for gold in during the gold rush of 1987. Kate kept a diary of her experiences and there are her letters to her relatives and the photographs she took.

After their mine was destroyed by a land slide, Otto and Kate Partridge decided to settle in the area. They built a homestead and planted a garden which they shared with visitors, rich and poor from all over the world. The Partridges set out looking for

gold but ended finding a "... different kind of gold — that of giving themselves to others, and therefore receiving great joy."

Ben-My-Chree in the Manx-Gaelic language from the Isle of Man means Girl of My Heart and was so named by Otto Partridge who was a Manxman. Under the care of Otto and Kate this wilderness became an "oasis of international peace," and visitors such as President Teddy Roosevelt, the Prince of Wales, Lord Byng of Vimy signed a visitors book and all visitors to Ben-My-Chree carried away memories of a cultured, hospital couple.

Decades later, Cy Porter and his family also fell under the spell of Ben-My-Chree and have sought to record its charm in this book — a must for all lovers of the Yukon.

Klondike Paradise is available at \$19.95 from Hancock House Publishers, 19313 Zero Avenue, Surrey, BC V4P 1M7. Phone: 1-800-938-1114. Fax: 1-800-983-2262. Email: sales@hancockhouse.com. Website: www.hancockhouse.com

Chilcotin Diary: Forty Years of Adventure



written and illustrated by Will D. Jenkins, Sr.

Will D. Jenkins, Sr., and his wife explored the Cariboo Country during the 1930 and 1940s. They both had a love of wilderness and pioneer history. The West Chilcotin area satisfied this 'love' and became part of their retirement plans.

During the forty or so years they explored the Chilcotin area they kept diaries of their travels. At that time the region was sparsely settled by widely scattered ranches,

They built a log cabin at Little Eagle Lake and eventually stories and observations of their life in the wild and its wildlife there found its way into a book.

These are stories to be enjoyed by readers of all ages for it tells of lives that have disappeared once paved roads took the remoteness away from Little Eagle Lake.

"... the old suspension bridge at the Fraser Crossing, long since replaced by solid high steel. The dizzy switchbacks of the old wagon road that climbed the perilous canyon walls of Sheep Creek are but a memory Sod-roofed cabins of pioneer days fall to decay in the shadow of new homes of sawmill lumber. The 'country' stores where harness leather and hardware hung from rafters, where you could buy such things as coffee ground in a red iron mill, an Indian beaded buckskin jacket, moccasins or gloves, chewing tobacco or kerosene for your lantern, have disappeared."

Will Jenkins goes on to point out that not all of the old frontier has perished. Nature and wildlife remain to remind us of the begone days.

Will Jenkins lived forty years in the wilderness of the Chilcotin Plateau and the stories in this book are taken from his daily dairies. Intermingled with accounts of his and Mildred's life in the Chilcotin are legends and tales of pioneers in the region such as Tom Hance credited to be the first white settler; Charlie Skinner who imported purebred Clydesdales and Percherons, Chee-Wit his metis daughter; Jimmy Brown trapper-pro prospector; George Turner suspected of a shady past

Jenkins description of driving across Sheep Creek suspension pension bridge during the trip he and his wife Mildred took into the Chilcotinis is beautifully written and grabs the reader and draws him/her into the action:

"We crossed in second gear as the wind moaned a dismal refrain in cables that swayed, jerked, creaked and groaned in their turnbuckles, the deck undulating in its center like the contortions of a weary belly dancer, Mildred gripped the door handle in terror, her fear of high places had her staring wide-eyed at the opposite end of the bridge."

Will Jenkins own drawings illustrate the animals and landscape that were part of their lives and a 16-page photo section documents the people and places they travelled through.

Born in 1899, Jenkins has had an illustrious and creative life. He is descended

from a long line of newspaper publishers and writers. He has worked for the Vancouver Sun, the Bellingham Herald and KVOS radio. He is the author of *Last Frontier in the North Cascades* and is working on a book about his grandfather's trip up the Stikine River during the Yukon gold rush of 1897. He currently resides in Rockport, Washington.

Chilcotin Diary: Forty Years of Adventure, is available at \$19.95 from Hancock House Publishers, 19313 Zero Avenue, Surrey, BC V4P 1M7. Phone: 1-800-938-1114. Fax: 1-800-983-2262. Email: sales@hancockhouse.com. Website: www.hancockhouse.com.

What's in a Name ... Calgary? Volume II



by Donna Mae Humber

Have you ever wondered why there is a Quebec Avenue in Mount Royal?

"Mount Royal was originally nicknamed "American Hill" because of the many American businessmen who had homes there. The land was owned by the CPR, who chose to develop it as an elite neighborhood similar to Westmount in Montreal, home of CPR president, William van Horne. The name Mount Royal and the French-Canadian street names were chosen to honor the wealth and tradition of Old Quebec."

In her second volume on district and street names in Calgary, Donna Mae Humber is continuing, what even she admits is an impossible task, to find the origins of names used in Calgary.

In the preface, Humber points out that "The origins of many of the names have been lost to poor record-keeping or indifference on the part of both The City and the developers involved. Often, for one reason or another, names are changed. Many buildings in Calgary

with interesting or historic names are small or insignificant structures, known primarily to the residents of the community where they stand. Tracking these down has been a challenge"

The names selected for streets, buildings, parks, bridges and communities have origins that can be historic, geographical, or taken from the many interesting people who came to Calgary as it became a city.

The introduction continues with an explanation of how names are selected and the guidelines used by City of Calgary departments and each school board.

Each street "type" is described and subdivision names are chosen by developers who submit the rationale of the chosen name to The City of Calgary Planning and Building Department for approval.

Major facilities used by the public, such as parks, swimming pools and arenas also have to follow a set naming procedure. In a similar fashion the naming of schools is set by the The School Naming Committee.

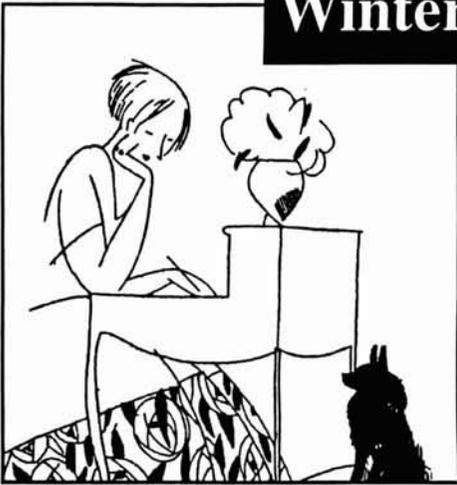
Names are set out alphabetically and to further assist the reader in finding entries, names are listed according to subject in a listing found at the back of the book.

Subjects are Arts and Culture, Bridges, Buildings, Fish Creek Park, Miscellaneous, Mount Royal College, Parks, Schools, Sports and Leisure, Streets and Subdivisions.

In this book the reader will find the names of towns and counties, rivers and mountains from around the world. The history of the people who have found their way to Calgary from across the continent and beyond is written into the very fabric of the city, daily reminders that Calgary is a truly cosmopolitan place.

What's in a Name Calgary? Volume II is available for \$18.95 from your local bookstore.

Winter Reading



Books



Curl up with a book from
The Historical
Society of Alberta

Birthday Gift

*A Preacher's
Frontier, The
Castor, Alberta
Letters of Reverend
Martin W. Holdom,
1909-12*

\$ 14.95

*A Funny
Bone
That Was*

\$ 15.95

*Aberhart:
Outpourings
and Replies*

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*Citymakers:
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1953-1977
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for each additional book purchased.

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I enclose payment in the amount of \$ _____

Name: _____

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to the Historical Society of
Alberta Library. The books are
highly treasured and serve as
reference material to members,
visitors and students involved
in research.

1998 is the year of the cowboy

Have you ever wondered what happens to cowboys after they retire from the rodeo circuit? 1998, is the year of the cowboy and there are many tales to tell. The following is a story of a man with both a competitive and creative spirit.

Former cowboy Lawrence Barrs recalls bruises and broken toes

The belt buckle Lawrence Barrs wears looks like the ones given to champion cowboys, but look closely and you'll see that he won it at a chess tournament in 1955.

Barrs has been both a rodeo cowboy and chess champion. Chess, he says, is the safer and easier of the two activities.

In fact, in his 10-year rodeo career, he only had one good year.

"I was going to be the champion of the world, but the bulls, broncs and steers never understood that," he says.

Barrs grew up near Calgary and started his career in the rodeo in 1939, when he was 14.

"I didn't grow up in a rodeo family," he says. "In fact, my parents were horrified when I started."

However, he had dreams of winning big money by riding bull, steers and horses.

"Every year I thought this would be my big year," he says. "There's big money in rodeo if you win."

But Barrs didn't walk away with prize money very often. Instead, he often walked away with bumps and bruises.

In fact, in one season, he was bucked off horses and bulls 19 times. He has also been gored by a bull once.

Among his many rodeo injuries were cracked ribs, broken toes, rope burn, blood poisoning and back injuries.

He also lost part of his hearing when he hit his head on the ground once.

"It's the contestants who take the beatings, not the animals," he says.

The bruises were not what he expected when he joined the rodeo.

"I saw stretchers carry people off, but I thought that would never happen to me," he says.

But 10 years later, on his way to a rodeo in Saskatchewan, Barrs realized that he did not want to risk any more injuries riding the rodeo circuit. That's when he quit.

"Nearly everyone who retires from rodeo does so because of injuries," he says. "I was just like the rest of them."

The rodeo circuit was a little tougher then than now. Cowboys had to stay on the horse or bull 10 seconds instead to today's eight second rides. After he quit the rodeo, Barrs took up chess.

To date, he has not been battered, bruised or otherwise injured playing the game.

As a chess master, he has won 14 championships; a much better record than he had in the rodeo circuit.

from the *Summerland Review* - July 1995

What this article omits to tell us is that Lawrence Barrs is a well known artist and illustrator.

While at home with his parents he had a studio. Also he owned a herd of purebred dairy cows - Ormidale Jerseys. Ormidale was the name of his parents' home in Bowness, Alberta.

In 1957, Barrs, the artist and illustrator, established himself in a studio in Vancouver. However, the storefront studio attracted too many people and interrupted his work. So, he moved to a quiet little bungalow and reestablished his studio there where he had



privacy and could concentrate on his work.

His artistic work has brought him fame. Lawrence Barrs oil paintings depicting British Columbia cities, towns and villages have been reproduced (four colour) in the form of hasti-note cards. Approximately two hundred and sixty thousand (260,000) of the cards were published and distributed to locations

throughout the province of British Columbia. Subsequently, the cards found their way to many parts of the world. Not a bad achievement for an ex-rodeo cowboy.

Lawrence Barrs is now retired and living in Summerland, BC.

The Alberta Genealogical Society proudly presents the 25th Anniversary Conference

Seek Research Record

Keynote Speaker
Dean Hunter

The Collection Development Specialist for English, Scottish, Irish, Welsh, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Gibraltar collections of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

April 17 & 18, 1998

Prince of Wales Armouries
Heritage Centre
116, 10440 - 108 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta

Lethbridge Historical Society

The next regular meeting of the LHS is Tuesday, January 27, 1998 at 7:15 pm, at the Lethbridge Public Library, Theatre Gallery.

Dr. Brigham Young Card presents "William Aberhart Speaks for Himself". A first public reading in Alberta of the acceptance speech Aberhart prepared for the announced honorary doctoral degree he was to receive May 19, 1941, but was denied by the University of Alberta senate, March 12, 1941. Program will consist of: Brigham Card - historical introduction and concluding comment and Stan Carmichael - reader representing William Aberhart.

Tuesday, February 24 is the Banquet Meeting, Royal Canadian Legion, Lethbridge.

"A Tale of Three Trails", a "triple-threat", program focusing on the re-enactment of three Historic Treks that will be travelling through southern Alberta in the next three years. Len Mitzel of the Etzikom Museum on the 1998 Boundary Commission Wagon Trek; S/Sgt. Jay Wiebe of the RCMP on the 125th Anniversary NWMP Trek and Bob Pearson of the Forts Regional Network on

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Due North 2000 — a recreation of the Whoop-Up Trail.

Tuesday March 24, a regular meeting at the Lethbridge Public Library, Theatre Gallery, 7.15 pm.

Local businessman, Lethbridge Herald columnist and amateur western historian Terry Halden will speak on his passion, "The Old West Ghost Towns of Montana." Mr Halden has recently had an article published on Castle, Montana and his talk will cover this and many other abandoned mining camps of the State.

At the recent annual general meeting, Nominations Chairman Tracy Anderson (assisted by Robert Shore) presented the new slate of officers for election — all positions were filled by acclamation, as follows: President Carlton Stewart; Vice-President (Temporary) and Past President Bill Lingard; Secretary and Newsletter editor Irma Dogterom; Treasurer David Dowey; Councillors: Robert Shore, Helen Kovacs, Ross Bertrand (1 yr); Richard Shockley (2 yr replacing Doug Card); Ernie Snowden, Dick Papworth (3 yr); Ralph Erdman book sales.

Chinook Country Historical Society

by Diana Sim

The Chinook Country Historical Society Christmas dinner was held at the Calgary Zoo Conservatory on December 11th.

In a surrounding of tropical butterfly gardens and Christmas lights, about 140 people enjoyed a dinner of prime rib among good company.

Sheila Johnston, President of the Historical Society of Alberta, acknowledged the CCHS committee as well as Bill McIntyre, HSA Secretary.

Barbara Morrison received a certificate of thanks for volunteering to phone people whose memberships need renewing.

Remember to keep in mind the evening of **Tuesday, January 27**, and come and

discover some of Alberta's spookiest places from author Barbara Smith. Her book *More Ghost Stories of Alberta*, takes from The Prince of Wales Hotel in Waterton Park and through the Crowsnest Pass area before visiting the spirits in the Rocky Mountain Parks. The journey continues to Calgary's many haunted places, and ends with a visit to the staid capital in the north.

Tuesday, February 24, Shirlee Smith Matheson, the well known author of *Flying the Frontiers*, Volumes I and II, will discuss her new book on the history of the Calgary International Airport.

Douglas J. Card

Douglas J. Card died recently in Lethbridge.

The Lethbridge Historical Society and indeed the Alberta Historical society has lost a good friend and energetic worker.

Born in Calgary, Doug moved to Lethbridge shortly after World War Two and was involved in radio electronics and broadcasting until his retirement. He continued this interest in radio after retirement both on the electronic and the vocal sides of that industry.

Doug was an untiring worker for the community and for the many organizations that he was a member of or had been elected to. He was a long-time member of the United Church in Lethbridge and of the Kiwanis Club.

Doug joined the Historical Society in Lethbridge many years ago. He served for eleven or more years as secretary, then held the positions of vice president, president and lastly that of past president for the next five years until his passing.

As President of the Lethbridge Chapter, Doug was also the representative from Lethbridge on the Historical Society of Alberta executive council.

Doug's death will be a blow to our organization as it will be to the many other clubs and fellowships that he had served wholeheartedly with until his death.



Tuesday, March 24, there will be the book launch of *The Bramley-Moore Letters*, by Ken Tingley. The former Alberta MLA wrote touching letters to his five children before he was killed by a sniper in 1916. These letters vividly describe his training in England, the tense waiting, and the fear in Flanders. Gladys Bramley-Moore will be present to discuss her father's life.

Edmonton & District Historical Society

Write to
PO Box 1013
Edmonton,
AB. T5J 2M1

The Edmonton and District Historical Society has held two well-attended and fun events already this year.



The School Lunch Box Social launched the year in September when members and public enjoyed fabulous fall weather during a "picnic" setting for the tours and activities held at the Historic McKay Avenue School in downtown Edmonton. The school is the home of the Edmonton Public School Archives and Museum and volunteers from that organization entertained and educated a variety of Edmontonians about the history of teaching, learning and living in the Edmonton of bygone days. Outside the EDHS hosted a lunch and games of skill including egg and three-legged races, hopscotch and ball.

The second event was the Reader's Night Silent Auction held in conjunction with the EDHS midwinter/Christmas party. Titles were solicited from Alberta authors and publishers, several of which included books of our own members or our constituent historical societies. Over 40 volumes were donated and silently (except for some animated jockeying for position around coveted titles) auctioned off during the dinner and presentation of historical notes by Dr. David Leonard. David reminded us of events in Alberta and the world during November from 1907 to 1957. The event raised over \$500 to be used as seed money for next year's Historic Edmonton Week.

Ken Tingley then described his latest project, editing the letters of Alwin Bramley-Moore for publication by the Alberta Records Publications Board. The letters were written to Bramley-Moore's young children during the time he was stationed overseas during the First World War. Ken detailed how he got involved in the project and read, with obvious emotion and deep personal involvement with his subject, some of the letters. We are all looking forward to the publication of the book in the spring of 1998.

Forecasting into the new year, the EDHS is planning a Film Night in January, a Salute to Scarlet (a celebration of 125 years since the formation of the RCMP) on February 19, and a Workshop on Neighbourhood Know-How — researching and presenting your community's history - March 21.

Central Alberta Historical Society

The second annual meeting of the CAHS was held September 18, in the Stewart Room of the Museum at 5 pm. Acting president, Don Hepburn, chaired the brief meeting and acknowledged the work of past board members. The four new board members are: Bill Baergen from Stettler, Gerry Beauchamp, Bruce Buckley and Faye Hughes from Red Deer.

The 1997-98 executive are: President Ron Williams, Vice President Dr. Robert

Lampard, Secretary Jean Bridge, Treasurer Bryan Nelson.

Gerry Beauchamp is Program Director and Faye Hughes, director, will convene the Membership Committee. Morris Flewwelling, Don Hepburn and Janet Walter complete the board. The position of Past President was left vacant with the passing of Allen Armstrong.

The President reported a successful year

News & Views from HSA Chapters

Alan Ridge 1926-1997

Members of the Edmonton and District Historical Society and the Historical Society of Alberta will be saddened to hear of the death of Allan Ridge in October 1997.

Mr. Ridge served as President of both the local Edmonton Chapter (1971-1973) and the Provincial Society (1979-1980).

As part of his commitment to the Historical Society of Alberta, Mr. Ridge served on the Alberta Records Publication Board and translated the diaries of Bishop Vital Grandin for publication by that body.

The HSA wishes to convey to Mr. Ridge's family our condolences.

of eight public presentations which were well attended. An evening dinner tour and a three-day bus tour were popular.

CAHS was invited to participate in two commemorative events — the unveiling of the plaques at the old CP Railway Station honoring the work of many railway workers who served in the area and the second was the Dawson Site Cairn.

The financial year-end balance reflected the popularity of the activities organized by CAHS.

Most people at the AGM took part in the progressive supper that began with appetizers at the Museum, a tour of the Dr. George House, Innisfail and an interpretive presentation. Dessert was served in Red Deer at the Aspelund Lafthus in Heritage Square.

HSA Calendar of Events - January—March 1998

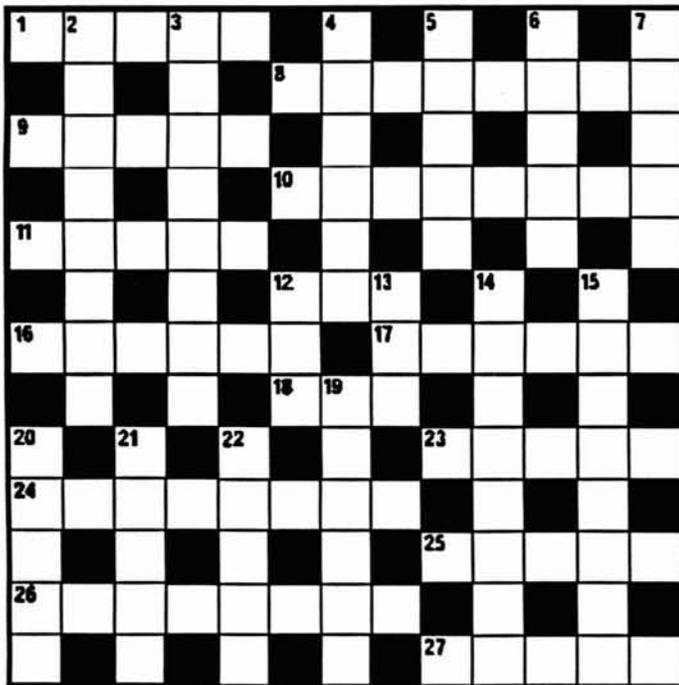
- Jan 14 EDHS Film Night.
- Jan 27 CCHS *More Ghost Stories of Alberta* by Barbara Smith, Fort Calgary, 750 9 Ave SE, 7:30 pm
- Jan 27 LHS *William Aberhart Speaks for Himself*, presented by Dr. Brigham Young Card, with Stan Carmichael reader. Tuesday, 7:15 pm at the Lethbridge Public Library, Theatre Gallery
- Feb 19 EDHS **Salute to Scarlet Dinner.** Come and celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the establishment of the North West Mounted Police. Governor's Room, Prince of Wales Armouries, 5:30 to 11 pm
- Feb 24 CCHS **Annual General Meeting.** Fort Calgary, 750 9 Ave SE 7:00 pm. Guest speaker Shirlee Smith Matheson the well known author of *Flying the Frontiers (Volumes I & II)*. She will discuss her new book on the history of the Calgary International Airport.
- Feb 24 LHS **Banquet Meeting. A Tale of Three Trails.** by Len Mitzel and Bob Pearson. At the Royal Canadian Legion, Lethbridge. Information on forthcoming re-enactment of three Historic Treks.
- Mar 24 CCHS Book launch of *The Bramley-Moore Letters* by Ken Tingley.. Fort Calgary, 750 9 Ave SE 7:30 pm
- Mar 24 LHS *Old West Ghost Towns of Montana* presented by Terry Halden at the Lethbridge Public Library, Theatre Gallery, 7:15 pm.

Answer to last newsletter crossword:

Across: 1. Gaelic, 5. Ware, 9. Alberta, 10. Taber, 11. Card, 12. Emir, 13. Roi, 15. Lubicon, 17. O'Hara, 18. Icefield, 20. CAI, 24. Klein, 23. Ryckman, 24. Espy, 25. Spouse.

Down: 2. Amber, 3. Lark., 4. Chapman, 5. Waterton, 6. Roberta, 7. Marcel Dirk, 8. Irrigation, 14. McKinney, 16. Brewers, 19. Lords, 20. Camps, 21. Echo.

HSA Crossword



Across

1. ... Lake, town NE of Redwater
8. Water playground near Bentley
9. Cast member
10. Monumental structures in Egypt
11. Alternate to motel or hotel (abbr.)
12. Negative vote
16. Calgary's Max ..., later Lord Beaverbrook
17. Medicinal liquid
18. Physical check-up procedure (abbr.)
23. Cowboy's best friend
24. Alberta's flower
25. CNR divisional point on Hwy 9
26. Twin city of Hull, Quebec and Nashville, Tenn. USA
27. Military officers (slang)

Down

2. Indian "telegraph"
3. Edmonton festival days
4. Lieutenant-Governor 1905
5. Former name of Alaskan Highway
6. Peace River's 12 footer
7. Snow, Canada & Brant
12. Compass reading
13. Edmonton, to airline baggage handlers
14. Tyrell exhibit
15. Fort McMurray feature
19. Oil, bean or Alberta town
20. Bonspiel shout
21. Calgary athlete
22. Tragic slide site

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*.