



CHINOOK COUNTRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2006

Burt's Store Turns 60

The Calgary and District
Chapter
of the Historical Society
of Alberta

Office:
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Website:
www.albertahistory.org/Chinook

The Vision of the Society:
"to promote a greater
understanding of Canadian
and Alberta history in
Chinook Country for people of
all ages."

Chinook boundaries
are from Olds to Nanton,
from the B.C. to the
Saskatchewan borders.

Burt's Store on the corner of Elbow Drive and 50th Avenue S.W. (city limits at that time) has now reached the age of 60 years.

Memories of the beginnings are warm in the hearts of the Austin and Norma Burt family who built, owned and operated the store for 10 years. After the war in 1946, Austin and Norma Burt, his dad and brother-in-law built this corner marker. It was no easy task to procure lumber and nails after the war or even tackle constructing a building. Austin was informed of a grain elevator annex in his wife's hometown of Sovereign, Saskatchewan that was being torn down. Immediately he bought the lumber and had it shipped by freight to Calgary. Finding enough nails was quite an undertaking and the men had to scrounge around Calgary's hardware stores to find enough to build the store. As it was, the nails from the annex were straightened and used many times. It was a family affair in the construction as Austin's dad, Jim, was the foreman and he and his brother-in-law, Dunc, were the crew. Later his brother Tom and sisters Eileen and Joy, among others, clerked in the store.

The store opened in October, 1946. Conveniences such as a hitching post for the riding customers, an ice cream bar, Calwin (Calgary/Windsor Park) Post Office, plus a general store was provided for the area. Initially, Norma, Austin and daughter, Bonnie, lived in the back of the store so they could remain open every day from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm and Sundays from 10:00 am to



Photo taken by Norma Burt last year – from the middle of the intersection of Elbow Drive and 50th Avenue!

6:00 pm. But many a night there would be a knock on the door as a customer would need a quart of milk.

In the early 50's three more stores were added and were built by the same crew – Windsor Park Pharmacy, Dan's Meat Market, and a bigger Calwin Post Office. When mail delivery came to Windsor Park, the post office was closed and a television store was opened.

In 1956, Austin Burt left the grocery business. The store has had two owners since that time. The most recent owners are Harry Ahn and wife who won the dealer of the month in October, 2002. The owners have kept the name "Burt's Store" for these 60 years as it has turned out to be a landmark in the Calgary area.

Austin died in 1982 and Norma still lives in Calgary. Her children, Bonnie and husband, Gene Vennard, live in Cochrane; son Bob lives in Smithers, B.C.; and daughter Linda and husband, Denis Marcial, and sons, David and Scott, live in Cochrane. -CCHS

—Submitted by Norma Burt

CCHS Annual General Meeting

The CCHS Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held March 27, 2007, in the Tropical Oasis Room within the Atrium of the Calgary Zoo

Close-in parking is behind the Administration Building, off Zoo Road and 12th Street East.

Program details will be included in the next Newsletter. -CCHS

—Frank Miklos



Winners of the Historic Crossword Puzzle Challenge

Mrs. Gloria Rasmussen, Calgary

Ms. Patricia Barnes, Calgary

Kristin Jakobson, Calgary

Dorothy Minhinnett, Calgary

Ms. Doreen Ryning, Calgary

Neil Ellison, Calgary*

Ernie and Joyce Unruh, Calgary**

Frank Coulson, Calgary

Mel Crawford, Calgary

Bonnie Fischer, Calgary

Fred Ronicker, Calgary

Sharon Hanna, Calgary

Gayl Benedict, Calgary

Ken and Margaret Jordet, Didsbury

Angela Granlien, Calgary

Carol Christensen, Calgary

*winner of the gift certificate for the Reader Garden Cafe

**winner of the Earls gift certificate -CCHS

From the President

The 2006/2007 Chinook Country Historical Society Program began with a maverick – a maverick look at Alberta history by University of Calgary English professor and writer, Aritha Van Herk. During her presentation at Fort Calgary, Ms. Herk outlined Alberta's interesting path to provincial status in 1905. Before the presentation, however, the winners of the Historic Calgary Week Crossword Puzzle were presented with their prizes. Once again, congratulations to the winners. And thanks to Program Chair, Tom Hamp, for preparing this year's program and to Tom and Membership Chair, Brenda Everitt, for organizing the Fort Calgary programs.

Our successful Historic Calgary Week is not far from my mind, particularly since we have just held the first organizational meeting for next summer's program. If you have any ideas for programs or suggestions on how to improve Calgary's 2007 Historic Calgary Week, please contact me or one of the members of our executive. We know there are many history aficionados out there with new and innovative ideas, so let us know what you are thinking. Or, come on board and help with the planning.

The 2006 chair, Walter Deboni, has left huge shoes to fill, so we are attempting to do that by dividing up his position into five (you heard it – five) committee chairs. This is a volunteer-based organization, so if you could help by chairing one of the following

committees, please let us know: Program Development; Brochure Preparation; Promotional (getting the message out); Venue and AudioVisual Organizer; and Volunteer Coordinator.

CCHS is also looking for a coordinator to assist the overall chair of HCW. The coordinator will be paid an honorarium. Please call Carrol Jaques if you are interested in applying for this position.

We are aware that some corporations encourage employees to get involved in the community. If you know any history buffs who work for one of these corporations, encourage them to get involved with Historic Calgary Week or serve on the board of Chinook Country Historical Society. People with a passion for history would find their involvement in either group very rewarding.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our "Historical Happenings Highlighter," Kate Reeves, for compiling and presenting a summary of some of the historical happenings in the Calgary area. Kate will highlight one or two historical happenings at each Fort Calgary Program and prepare a list that can be picked up at the meeting. Thanks for all your work, Kate.

I hope to see you at the November program at Fort Calgary – a presentation by Harry Sanders, "Sleepless in Alberta," a history of Alberta hotels, on November 28 at 7:30 p.m. -CCHS

—Carrol Jaques

Solutions to Crossword (Crossword on page 4)

Across: 1. McIver; 4. Glencoe; 8. Niger; 9. Black; 10. Eat; 11. Ike; 12. Stake; 13. Token; 14. Globe; 16. Meadows; 19. Dover; 20. Penny; 23. Ellis; 25. Peter; 27. Sam; 28. Percy; 30. A.C.; 31. Yeo; 32. EEC; 33. NBA; 34. Glee

Down: 1. Manning; 2. Inglewood; 3. Earls; 4. Grace; 5. Elk; 6. Creek; 7. Eatons; 9. Braemar; 13. Troop; 15. Eaves; 17. Abbott; 18. Sandstone; 21. Yamaha; 22. Temple; 24. Lyric; 25. Plaza; 26. Royal; 29. Yen -CCHS

Historic Calgary Week/06 Treasure Hunt Answers

Due to numerous requests, the following are the answers for the Historic Calgary Week 2006 Treasure Hunt.

1. The architect of the Lougheed House was James R. Bowes.
2. Edward, Prince of Wales visited the house in 1919.
3. The first bridge in this area (Louise Bridge) was constructed in 1920.
4. The Calgary and District Cricket League was established in 1908.
5. Calgary's first mayor, George Murdoch, established a harness shop on Atlantic Avenue after moving to Calgary in 1883.
6. The name of the road was McBride Road N.E.
7. The Calgary Tennis Club was established in 1889.
8. The Calgary Lawn Bowling Club was established in 1923.
9. Spiller Road used to be called MacLeod Trail S.E.
10. The sidewalk with the dog tracks is dated 1907.
11. The avenue name shown on the sidewalk is Linclon Avenue.
12. The avenue name shown on the sidewalk is Somerville Avenue.
13. The St. Joseph's cornerstone is dated September 6, 1914.
14. The first tree was planted in this park on May 7, 1923.
15. The architect of City Hall was William M. Dodd.
16. The Governor General of Canada, Earl of Minto, is named on the cornerstone.
17. The avenue name shown on the sidewalk is Francis Avenue S.E.
18. The Inglewood Lawn Bowling Club was established in 1936.
- 19 & 20. Two regiments that have used the Armoury for many years are Kings Own Calgary Regiment and Calgary Highlanders.

Congratulations to Pat Summerton, whose name was drawn from the correct entries. She won a night at the historic Tarry-A-While B&B in Banff. -CCHS

—Walt & Irene DeBoni



Coming Soon to the Public Library

Exshaw: Heart of the Valley

Join Dene Cooper, co-author of this recently-published and well-respected local history for fascinating stories of this mountain community near Banff. He will also give insights into the joys and tribulations of writing and publishing a local history.

Wednesday, Nov. 1 / 7:00-8:30 p.m.
4th Floor Local History Room

Calgary's Past in Postcards: A Visual History of our City

Thursday, Nov. 9 / 10:00–10:30 a.m.

Fort Calgary and the N.W.M.P.

In the fall of 1875, Inspector Brisebois and fifty members of the "F" Troop of the North-West Mounted Police (NWMP) established a fort on the banks of the Elbow and Bow Rivers. Learn about the men of the NWMP, how they lived and worked, and what inspired them to come to the prairies to maintain law and order on the frontier. This presentation includes historical costumes and artifacts dating back to the beginnings of Fort Calgary.

Wednesday, Nov. 15 / 7:00-8:30 p.m.
4th Floor Meeting Room -CCHS

2007 Pioneer Gentleman and Lady of the Year

CCHS member, Clarence Davis, has been selected as the 2007 Pioneer Gentleman of the Year by the Southern Alberta Pioneers and Their Descendants. Clarence is a long time supporter of Chinook and has served for several years with his wife Joan, on the Historic Calgary Week Committee. As well, he has contributed articles to this newsletter. Congratulations Clarence!

And who is the Pioneer Lady for 2007 you might ask? She is the Agnes Rouse, mother of Pat Rodriguez, another CCHS supporter and member of the Historic Calgary Week Committee. -CCHS

—Kate Reeves



Volunteers Needed

Jennifer and the Christmas Decorating Committee are requesting help with the table decorating for the annual Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, December 5. If you like to decorate, and would be willing to help, please call Jennifer Jack at 249-0843.



Storage Closet Needed

Our Christmas decorations need a home where they can be stored safely during the year until the next annual Christmas dinner. Is there anyone that can provide us with, or know where space is available? Please call Jennifer Jack at 249-0843. -CCHS

Local History Crossword

(Solution on page 2)

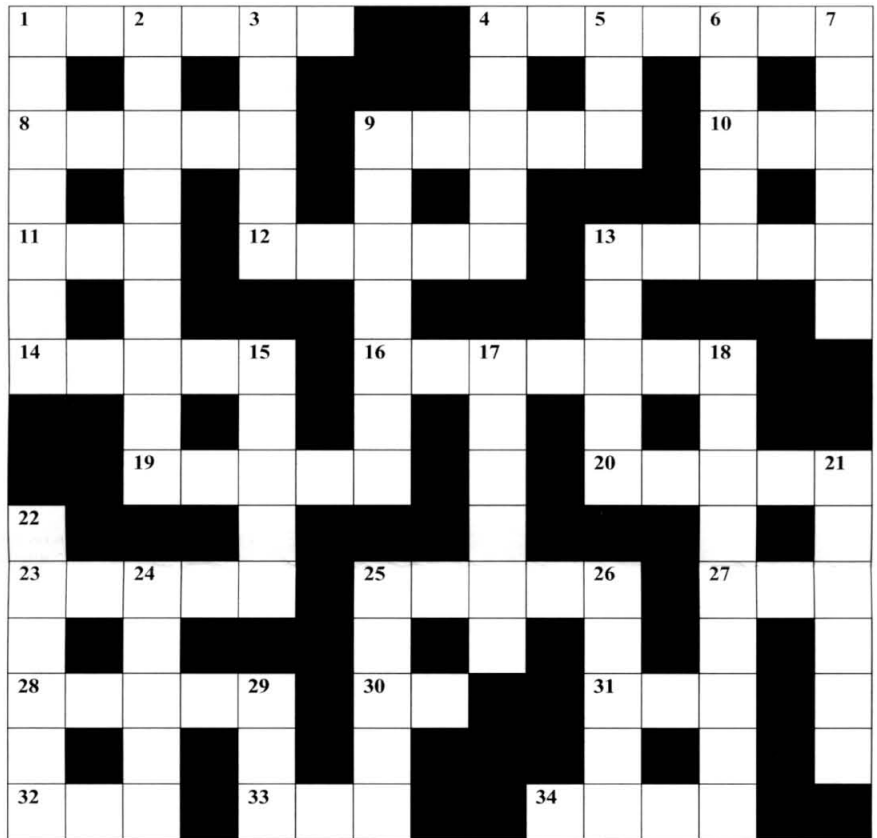
Across

1. Alderman for Ward 12, Ric -----
4. The ----- Club in southwest Calgary
8. The third longest African river
9. One-time Canadian entrepreneur extraordinaire, Conrad -----
10. To consume
11. General Eisenhower's nickname
12. A meeting place for members of the LDS, the ----- House
13. A sign, mark or symbol
14. A theatre known for showing internationally acclaimed movies
16. Spruce or Canyon -----
19. Grand daughter of Col. McLeod, Mary -----
20. Soon to be no more, ----- Lane
23. The ----- Bird Farm, near Blackfalds
25. Early Calgary entrepreneur, ----- Prince
27. His settlement used to be where the Glenmore Reservoir is; --- Livingstone
28. J. ----- Page, appointed Alberta's Lt.-Governor, in 1959
30. -- Leighton, artist
31. Former CCHS president Bill ---
32. Forerunner of the European Community, (abbr.)
33. National Basketball Association (abbr.)
34. Pleasure, happiness

Down

1. She leads cemetery tours, Ruth -----
2. The first district of Calgary
3. A well-known restaurant chain
4. Once known as the women's hospital, the -----
5. Wapiti
6. Fish ----- Provincial Park
7. Once a department store in Calgary
9. The ----- Highland Games, usually attended by the Royal Family
13. To march; army (sl.)
15. Gables; roof overhangs
17. ----- and Costello, comedians
18. Calgary's local building material
21. A Japanese motorcycle
22. A district in N.E. Calgary
24. Once one of Calgary's most prestigious movie theatres
25. An early movie theatre in Kensington
26. Mount -----, district in Calgary
29. An urge or desire

—Jennifer Prest



Membership

Please check the address label on your envelope and note when your subscription expires. Membership cheques are payable to: The Historical Society of Alberta, PO Box 4035, Station "C", Calgary, AB T2T 5M9

Individual membership	\$15.00
Annual subscription	\$25.00
Total	\$40.00
Purchased together	\$35.00

Family membership	\$25.00
Annual subscription	\$25.00
Total	\$50.00
Purchased together	\$45.00

Affiliate membership	\$55.00
(school, museum, library, historical society)	
Associate membership	\$120.00

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Newsletter Submissions: The deadline for the Spring issue is **January 26, 2007.**

Please send your article to Ruth Kerr at rakerr2@telus.net.