



CHINOOK COUNTRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2006

Restoring Historic Perrenoud Ranche House

The Calgary and District
Chapter
of the Historical Society
of Alberta

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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.

The restoration Perrenoud Ranche house site is now well underway, thanks to the Cochrane and Area Heritage Association.

The Perrenouds, a pioneer horse and cattle ranching family, donated the Ranche House site to the Province of Alberta in the late 1980s. This donation included 4.7 Ha of land, the buildings, ranch equipment and machinery, as well as all household furnishings. The contents of the house are stored under archival conditions in Edmonton and will be returned to the house on a rotating basis for display. For 2006 the kitchen will be featured with the parlour in 2007 and the bedrooms in 2008. In recognition of the significant pioneer architectural, agricultural and ranching family history, Perrenoud Ranche has been designated a Provincial Historic Resource.

The Province leased the Perrenoud Ranche to the Cochrane & Area Heritage Association to oversee the restoration of the site. Over the past 15 years, the Society has worked on a plan to restore the buildings and manage a successful and sustainable Historic Site and Art Center. To date, over \$500,000 has been raised and expended on making the buildings structurally sound and bringing them up to current codes for plumbing and electrical systems – while still maintaining the historic integrity of the site.

The Perrenoud family arrived in Canada in the mid 1880s with the arrival of Ernest & Charles Perrenoud from France. They first worked on the Winterbottom Ranche before establishing their own homesteads by 1888-



1889. Earnest homesteaded at Mortimer Creek and Charles at the Perrenoud Ranche site.

The original one-room log shack Charles built is still on site and will eventually be replicated. Charles Perrenoud married Laura Phipps in April, 1902, and they had three children. (Laura was the daughter of local rancher John Phipps, who arrived from England in 1882.) He built a new log addition onto his bachelor shack for his new bride, more than doubling the available living space.

In 1910, Charles & Laura Perrenoud hired the Chapman brothers of Cochrane to construct a new four-square style house for them. The two-storey house has 2,400 square feet, an attached carriage house and a partially dug-out basement. The attached carriage house has been converted to an artist's studio with large north facing patio doors and skylights.

Be sure to visit the Perrenoud Ranche during the fall Art Exhibition September 16-17. There will be a pie-baking contest, an art show and a display of historic Perrenoud items.

—Submitted by Charlene Gale

Mrs. Emmeline Roper Hull

David Ballard's article in the Spring 2006 Chinook Country Historical Society Newsletter on Mr. William Roper Hull was most interesting. I would like to add a little more information about Mrs. Roper Hull (née Emmeline Mary Banister Ellis).

Emmeline Mary was born in 1867 in England, and came to the North West Territories in 1887 with her family to join her father Albert Edward Banister, who had settled in the Davisburg district in 1884.

On February 5, 1890 at the Church of the Redeemer, Calgary, she married Mr. Albert Ellis, who was a homesteader and trader in the High River area. Mr. Ellis died in Calgary in 1894.

In October, of 1903 Emmeline Mary married Mr. William Roper Hull. Mr. Hull died in 1925 and Mrs. Hull in 1953. -CCHS

—Joan Davis, Historical Committee
of Southern Alberta Pioneers

Alberta History Journals Available

Forty-two Alberta History journals, from Summer 1976 to Winter 1989, are available free to any interested person. Note: some issues are missing. The Cumulative Index, 1953-1977, is also available.

Please contact Bryan Baggot at (403) 278-2067. -CCHS

Correction Notice

The Spring issue of the CCHS Newsletter incorrectly identified Jennifer Peddesden as the author of the crossword puzzle. The author was Jennifer Prest. We apologize for the error. -CCHS

From the President

The Safari Lodge of the Calgary Zoo was the setting for Chinook Country Historical Society's Annual General Meeting, which, among other things, elected the 2006 executive and board. (The executive is listed on page 3.) Six of the seven board positions were filled at the AGM: Brenda Everitt, Tom Hamp, Sheila Grogan, Frank Miklos, George Milne, and Haifa Selo. On a motion by Sheila Johnston, the board was empowered to elect the seventh board member, which we have done. We would like to welcome Laurel Halladay, a PhD student in history from the University of Calgary, who has agreed to join the Chinook Country Historical Society Board.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Past President, Diana Ringstrom, for her hard work as president. Diana began her term as acting president, then served two years as president. Diana guided us through some difficult times and in addition, shepherded the CCHS Anthology through to a successful publication and launch in 2005 as *Chinook Country Remembers*. Thank you so much, Diana.

Stepping down from the board after a long run as a board member, vice president, president, and past president, is Vivian Sampson. Chinook Country Historical Society owes a huge debt of gratitude to Vivian for her many years as supporter and cheerleader for CCHS. Thanks, Vivian, and good luck in your position on the Historical Society of Alberta.

I would also like to thank Henry Murzyn, Haifa Selo, and Brenda Everitt for the work they did to ensure that the 2005 Annual General Meeting would be a success. Henry has organized the last three AGMs and our first Silent Auction – remember the successful events at the Carriage House, Ranchmen's (which included the first annual Silent Auction) and this year, at the Calgary Zoo? Haifa and

Brenda organized the successful second annual Silent Auction, held in conjunction with this year's AGM. Thanks to all.

The 2005 Annual General Meeting at the Calgary Zoo featured Alex Graham as guest speaker. In his talk, Alex took us through the history of the Calgary Zoo from its origins to the recent announcement of the new Arctic Shores Exhibit, a replication of the arctic ecosystem.

Since the Annual General Meeting in March and my election as president, I have been busy "learning the ropes" and working with the rest of the executive and the board to plan the year ahead.

As president of Chinook Country Historical Society, I attended a wonderful party to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Glenbow Museum and Archives. Hugh Dempsey spoke about the early days at the Glenbow while Doug Cass and Jim Bowman talked about the wonderful people they have worked with over the years. Current Glenbow President, Mike Robinson, commented on the reports he hears about the friendly cooperative attitude of all Glenbow staff.

In the meantime, the Historic Calgary Week Committee, under the chairmanship of Walter DeBoni, has been working hard to organize the annual event to take place from July 28 to August 6. Plan to attend as many of the events celebrating the "City of Treasures: Calgary's Historic Gems" as you can. Thanks to Walter and the committee. The program is included with this newsletter.

Tom Hamp, Chair of the Programs Committee, is in the midst of preparing the 2006-07 programs to take place between September and May at Fort Calgary. Thank you, Tom.

Thanks to everyone who is working hard to "promote a greater understanding of Canadian and Alberta history in Chinook Country for people of all ages" (CCHS Mission Statement). -CCHS
—Carrol Jaques

Solutions to Crossword

(Crossword on page 4)

Across: 1. Moodie; 4. TD Square; 10. Grace; 11. Ace; 12. Inert; 13. Install; 14. Retrain; 15. Grand; 17. Stride; 19. Ensnared; 21. Blair; 23. Unequal; 25. Nag; 26. Bow; 27. Teach; 28. Ria; 29. Not; 30. Ensues; 31. Prefer

Down: 1. Mogridge; 2. Opals; 3. Iceland; 5. Duerr; 6. Quilter; 7. Alexandra; 8. Eatons; 9. Palliser; 16. Annie Gale; 17. Sydenham; 18. Brewster; 20. Noughts; 21. Big Four; 22. Sutter; 24. Lorne; 26. Banff -CCHS

Sillitos and Stations: A Chestermere Detective Story

Through my work in transcribing stories from *Saddles Sleighs and Sadirons* (SSS), the 1971 history of Chestermere and environs, I discovered that being a historian means having some good detective skills.

Sillitos

In transcribing the stories from SSS, I came across the term “Sillito Jamboree”. No one knew what this was. How could I use it if the meaning had been lost? I eventually contacted Trevor Kunkel, whose father, Lloyd, headed a band many years ago. Possibly they had played at the jamborees. The answer then unfolded. Trevor’s grandmother, (Lloyd’s mother), was Della Rebecca Sillito. She was from Orton, close to Fort Macleod, and she had married Joseph Kunkel. The Sillito family was filled with singers and entertainers. They formed the “Sillito Jamboree” so the family could perform together.

The “Jamboree” helped with raising funds for several different communities in Southern Alberta, including Chestermere. There were entertainers from the age of three years up to 75 years old. One of Lloyd Kunkel’s uncles married a lady from Tonga and their family would do some Polynesian dancing in the show. Although they don’t perform jamborees anymore, Lloyd and his son Trevor are still involved in music in the Kunkel family business, The Great Canadian Barn Dance, at Hill Spring, located between Pincher Creek and Cardston.

Stations

My next challenge was a picture in SSS of “The Chestermere Station.” Everyone thought it was a part of the Chestermere Suburban Railway which, due to the burst of the Calgary real estate bubble in 1912, was never completed. This would have put the station somewhere northeast of the present town, south of Highway #1 but north of Highway #1A. However, we had no proof that any station had ever

been built for this proposed line.

Back to the drawing board. This time I contacted a number of local senior citizens, the CPR archives and the Glenbow’s CNR archival files. No luck.

One day, I was at the Glenbow and inquired at the library whether there might be help in finding the station through the library. Voila! I was given old train timetables, through which I discovered that this was a Canadian Northern Railway station that had existed from 1913 to 1930 when it burned down. A new book had just been published entitled, *Canadian National’s Western Stations* and the librarian on duty suggested I contact the authors for more information. Co-author Les Kozma contacted me with not only the exact location of the station, but his drawings of the station floor-plan. He said this station was built using the same plans as Alberta Beach and Jasper, as it was thought that Chestermere would become a busy holiday destination. Unfortunately, nothing remains of the station today, but we do have a wonderful picture, its exact location on the tracks, and a bit more of its history.

My conclusion is that a good historian is more of a Sherlock Holmes than a bibliophile! -CCHS —Jennifer Peddlesden



Your CCHS Executive

President: Carrol Jaques, who served as CCHS treasurer for the past three years

First Vice-President: Peter Bate, also a former treasurer and board member

Second Vice-President: Henry Murzyn, a board member who has organized the last three Annual General Meetings for CCHS

Treasurer: Janet McMaster, an archivist with the Archives Network of Alberta

Secretary: Irene DeBoni, who served on the Historic Calgary Week Committee last year -CCHS

Glenbow Library & Archives Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Glenbow Museum’s Library and Archives recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. In celebration of this milestone birthday, Glenbow is launching the “Dear Miss Griffis” blog with content drawn from its extensive archival collection.

The “Dear Miss Griffis” blog will feature the more than 200 letters written by First World War soldier, Calgary Dr. Harold McGill, to his future wife, Miss Emma Griffis. The letters vividly describe Harold’s experiences during four years at war and reflect the optimism he carried throughout this dark period in history. With very few living Canadian First World War veterans, this initiative provides a unique opportunity to preserve the significant stories of the past and creates a new realm for Glenbow visitors and users to interact with the museum’s content.

Each week the Glenbow Museum will post a newly-transcribed letter revealing the fascinating correspondence between Harold and Emma which vividly describes this significant moment in time as well as the progression of their relationship with one another.

Visit the “Dear Miss Griffis” blog at: www.glenbow.org/connected. -CCHS

Calgary Round-Up Band 50th Anniversary Reunion

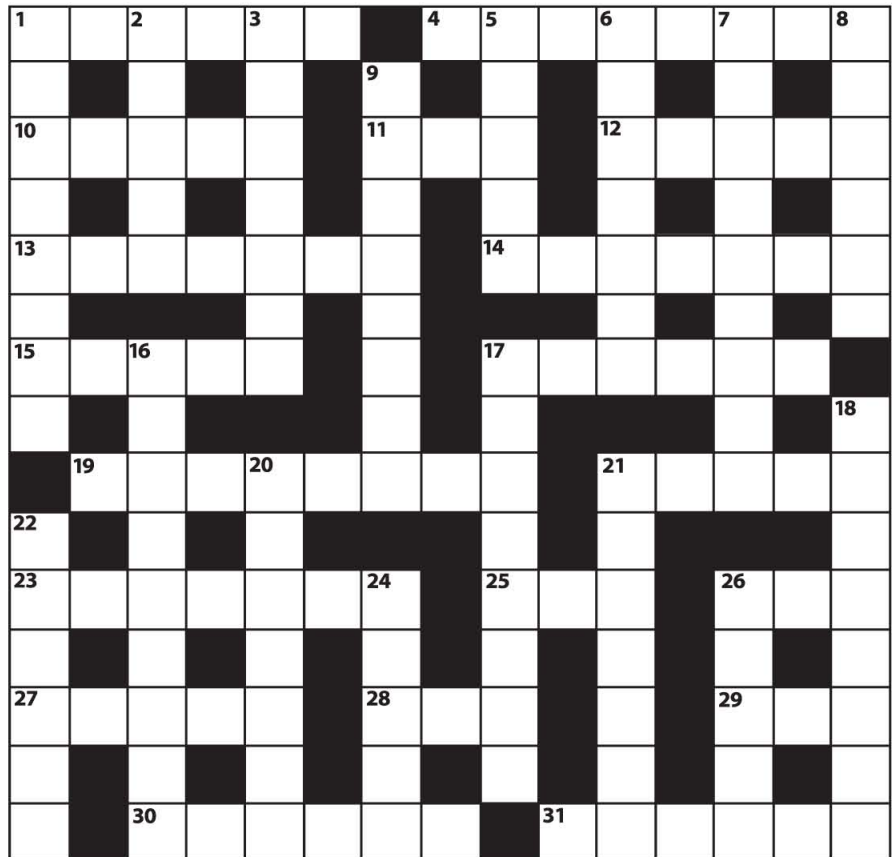
The Calgary Round-Up Band is looking for past alumni members, staff, parents and board members from the years 1956 to July 2005. Log onto www.roundupband.org or call 403-259-3120 and leave your name and contact information. -CCHS

Local History Crossword

(Solution on page 2)

Across

1. The first nurse to graduate in Alberta from the Calgary General Hospital, 1898, Marion -----
4. A downtown mall (2 wds.)
10. Formerly a health facility for women, the ----- Hospital
11. A highly skilled pilot or top card!
12. Leaden, passive, still
13. To load a software program or to plant
14. To teach again
15. One of Calgary's earliest theatres
17. To step out
19. Was trapped
21. The Hon. Andrew George -----, federal railways minister in 1907
23. Uneven, at odds
25. An old horse or to tell repeatedly
26. Calgary's river
27. To instruct
28. Creek inlet (Spanish)
29. Negative adverb
30. Follows
31. To elect or fancy



Down

1. A former president of the CCHS, Al -----
2. October's jewels
3. A country north east of Canada
5. Calgary's 37th mayor, Al -----
6. A person who makes old-fashioned coverlets
7. This lady was Queen when Alberta became a province!
8. A store that once dominated a downtown mall.
9. An early explorer, John -----, for whom our "grand" hotel is named
16. Calgary's first female alderman, (2 wds.)
17. Governor of Canada, 1839-41, Charles Thomson, Baron -----
18. A family that owned a bus company in the Rockies
20. Zeros
21. Building on the Stampede Grounds
22. Coach of the Calgary Flames
24. Marquis of ----- Trail
26. ----- National Park

—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 Fall issue is **August 25, 2006**. Please send your article to Ruth Kerr at rakerr2@telus.net.