



CHINOOK COUNTRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2007

The Patton Windmill

The Calgary and District Chapter
of the Historical Society
of Alberta

Office:
#311, 223 12 Avenue SW
Calgary, Alberta
T2R 0G9

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.

It was a landmark used for training exercises by Commonwealth pilots during WWII, and it stood tall and proud on the Patton farm for over 90 years. It is a unique symbol of an historical era created by intrepid homesteaders.

My grandfather, Thomas Patton, and my grandmother, Ella, had just arrived from Red Deer Lake, where they had homesteaded in 1903. Thomas "witched" his own well that year, which involved a search for water on one of the highest points of Strawberry Hill. (Strawberry Hill was a traditional strawberry-picking ground for the Sarcee Indians, now known as the Tsuu T'ina Nation.) Thomas was familiar with the art of "witching" as he had practiced it during the late 1800s in parts of Iowa and Nebraska.

The Patton Windmill, now stationed at Fort Calgary, was purchased by my grandfather in 1910. It was a Dempster Annu-Oiled No. 12, and fabricated in Beatrice, Nebraska. The delivered height was 30 feet, but Thomas wanted that windmill to pierce the heavens and really capture the wind, so he added an additional 10 feet to the structure.

I was about 12 years of age when my father, Ralph, decided it was time for me to climb up the windmill in order to check the oil level in the head. Never having been fond of heights, I gingerly climbed the metal ladder until I reached the wooden platform and cautiously stepped onto it. Clinging onto the wellhead, I dutifully checked the oil level and then I looked around.

It was a view I will forever remember. The Rocky Mountains, Glenmore Reservoir, the city of Calgary, farms, ranches and small holdings – 360 degrees of spectacular views. From that moment on, "checking the oil" became a pleasure rather than a chore.

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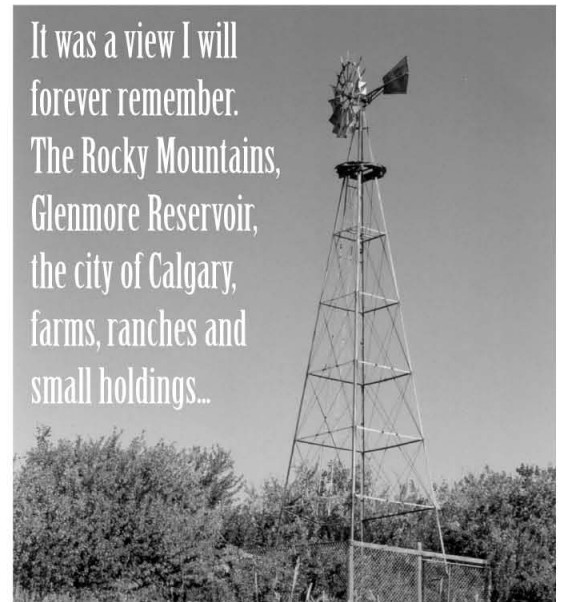


Photo: Marijke Jalink-Wijbrans

It was decided by the Clarence Patton family that our treasured windmill wouldn't be able to remain in its original location forever. Fort Calgary was approached to see if they would be interested in having our windmill on their site. Coincidentally, Fort Calgary's community garden had just evolved, and it was thought that the windmill and the garden would be a "match made in heaven". Accordingly, our windmill was removed from its prominent spot in Pump Hill on April 29, 2002, hauled to Chestermere Lake for restoration, and erected in all its glory at Fort Calgary. It is happily positioned adjacent to the community garden, and christened in its new home on October 22, 2002.

It was sad to see our precious windmill leave the farm after 92 years, but exhilarating to know that future generations of the Patton clan will be able to view that steel pioneer and rejoice in its history. -CHS

—Submitted by Clancy Patton

Passages

Florence Evelyn Pallesen (nee Mannix) passed away on November 10, 2006. Born at the family home in the Bankview district of Calgary on August 6, 1915, Florence attended Holy Angel's School, St. Joseph's Convent in Red Deer and St. Mary's School. A sixth generation Canadian, she was an associate member of the Calgary branch of the United Empire Loyalist's Association of Canada and a life member of the Northern Alberta Pioneers and Descendants Association, The Fort Calgary Preservation Society through the Calgary Division of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Veterans Association, and numerous other arts and philanthropic organizations.

Florence was an original partner and director of the former Ferguson Supply group of companies formed on May 2, 1947, later a five-branch dealership network for the sale of heavy-road construction and earth-moving equipment.

Florence was predeceased by her husband, Norman Peter Ostrem Pallesen. -CCHS

—Peter J.M. Pallesen



2006 Calgary Awards

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2006 Calgary Awards.

A City of Calgary initiative, the Calgary Awards have been recognizing exceptional citizens since 1994. Calgarians are invited to recognize fellow citizens for their contributions to making Calgary a dynamic, progressive and compassionate city.

Early bird deadline is February 15, 2007 and the final deadline for nominations is March 2, 2007

Call 268-8881 or send an e-mail to calgaryawards@calgary.ca for more information. -CCHS

From the President: Happy New Year!

Chinook Country Historical Society wound up 2006 with a couple of excellent late fall programs at Fort Calgary and then our famous and well-attended Christmas Dinner. Our October program featured Calgary writers Jennifer Hamblin and David Finch who regaled us with stories of the improbable team of successful opera singer, Norma Piper Pocaterra, and George Pocaterra, the Italian founder of the Buffalo Head Ranch. In November, Harry Sanders talked about a book he is currently writing on the stories of historical hotels in the province. Harry the Historian did not disappoint – his talk “Sleepless in Alberta” was engaging, funny, and very interesting.

The Christmas program, held in conjunction with our famous CCHS Christmas Dinner, occurred on December 5 at Fort Calgary. Our guest speaker, Trudy Cowan, reminded us of the importance of heritage and heritage buildings in a young city like Calgary where construction sites overwhelm our recent history and our heritage architecture. Trudy has recently retired as executive director of the Lougheed House Conservation Society, so she speaks with authority about heritage conservation. Thank you, Trudy.

Thanks to past president, Diana Ringstrom, for organizing and acting as Master of Ceremonies for the 2006 Christmas Dinner. Once again, the decorating committee, Jennifer Jack, Norma Lake, Ivy Cameron, and David Ballard outdid themselves. The decorations were glorious. Thanks to Jennifer, Norma, Ivy, David, and Walter and Irene DeBoni for their

assistance at the dinner. Thanks also to Bob Loov, Betty Proudfoot and Frank and Audrey Miklos for acting as hosts at the dinner.



Planning is underway for Historic Calgary Week. Stephannie McSween has accepted the position of coordinator. Welcome, Stephannie. Len Babin has volunteered to head up the Programs Committee; Roberta Ryckman and Lynda Purdy will be responsible for preparing the brochure; Doug Baum is the media and fundraising chair; Kate Reeves and Janice Lowe will coordinate the noon hour programs; and Irene DeBoni will be the Volunteer Coordinator. We still need an overall chair, as well as someone to take the lead on promoting Historic Calgary Week in the community. We also need someone to be in charge of organizing facilities and the audiovisual equipment. There is a wonderful, hardworking team coming together, so if you would like to help the Historic Calgary Week Committee, please contact me at 286-5955.

I am looking forward to seeing you at our Fort Calgary Programs and our Annual General Meeting at the Calgary Zoo on March 27. -CCHS
—Carrol Jaques

Solutions to Crossword (Crossword on page 4)

Across: 1. Hodges; 4. Farrell; 8. Xenon; 9. Harry; 10. Res; 11. AMA; 12. Elgin; 13. Cheri; 14. Liken; 16. Implode; 19. Ypres; 20. Skull; 23. Smith; 25. Lucas; 27. Lee; 28. Adams; 30. ON; 31. Lei; 32. Dec; 33. End; 34. Eyre

Down: 1. Hextall; 2. Don Mackay; 3. Ernie; 4. Foran; 5. Ray; 6. Eerie; 7. Leslie; 9. Higgins; 13. Cross; 15. North; 17. Prince; 18. Eau Claire; 21. Leeson; 22. Island; 24. Isaac; 25. Lloyd; 26. Sally; 29. Sue -CCHS

Mary's Corner Store in Bowness

Editor's Note: This article is a response to the article on Burt's Store in the Winter issue. If you have the history of a corner store in your neighbourhood, please let us know!

Mary's Corner Store, located at 6104 Bowness Road N.W., has served Bowness continuously since the early 1940s. Roy and Gertrude Allan purchased two lots on the north side of Bowness Road, north of the Shouldice Bridge. They moved to the hamlet of Critchley (now Bowness) in 1941, built two greenhouses and started a floral business. The business office was at the far north end of the greenhouses and you could always find Gertie waiting on customers or creating bouquets.

A few years later, in 1945, the Allans built a small store next to the greenhouses. Gertie's sister Eleanor moved to Bowness to manage the store. It was a general store with groceries and every day items that a family might need. It was known as Allan's Corner for years by the local people. As it was an hour-long trip by streetcar into the city of Calgary, people living in Bowness found the little store very handy.

The Allans' daughter, Anne, worked at the store after school hours and on Saturdays. Roy and Gertie worked very hard to build up their business and were very successful over the years.



Roy and Gertie moved to Carstairs where they farmed for a few years before moving to Victoria. In 1974, Roy opened a curling rink in Saanich that he ran for a number of years before retiring to Victoria. Roy died at the age of 86 and Gertie at the age of 95 years in Victoria.

In 1952 the store was sold to Eddy Hey. Eddy bought a house on River Drive (now Bow Crescent) directly behind Allan Greenhouses and the store. Eddy was a very supportive of the Bowness Community and took a great interest in the building of a Bowness band.

In 1974 Eddy Hey retired and sold the store to Mary Leung. It is believed that the name "Mary's Corner Store" came from this owner's name.

Mary's Corner Store thrives to this day, at the same location, with very little change in appearance over the years. -CCHS

-Submitted by Carole Carpenter

Doris Daley: Cowboy Poet



Doris Daley was born and raised on a Southern Alberta cattle ranch in the Porcupine Hills, west of Claresholm. She is descended from a 'five generations gene pool that includes Ranchers, Mounties, good cooks, sorry team ropers, Irish stowaways, bushwhackers, two-steppers, and saskatoon pickers'.

Early in life Doris was influenced by a 'battered, tattered, splattered rhyming dictionary' that her parents had given her and later became inspired by writings of Mother Teresa, Robert W. Service and such notables as Dale Evans, as well as numerous others of western fame. Internationally acclaimed as a cowboy poet and on occasion as an emcee, she writes and recites her own poetry.

Doris and her husband, Bob Haysom, who is an Orvis-endorsed fly-fishing guide, make their home in Calgary.

CCHS indeed feels very fortunate to be able to feature Doris Daley, Cowboy Poet, at its Annual General Meeting on March 27, 2007. -CCHS

Volunteer Opportunity at Glenbow Museum

Glenbow Museum is launching an exciting new volunteer opportunity as part of our long-awaited permanent history gallery, *Mavericks: An Incurable History of Alberta*. Come share your passion for history with our visitors in the Mavericks Volunteer Discovery Cart Program!

Volunteers will use thematic discovery carts and touch time artifacts to engage the public in Mavericks exhibit content.

Weekend and weekday shifts available.

Positions are suitable for individuals over 18, with public speaking or tour guide experience. A long term commitment of 18 months is required. Extensive mandatory training is provided.

To learn more, visit the Glenbow website: www.glenbow.org/getinvolved/volunteering or contact Lynn McShane, Volunteer Resources, 268-4105. -CCHS

Wanted: Old Postcards

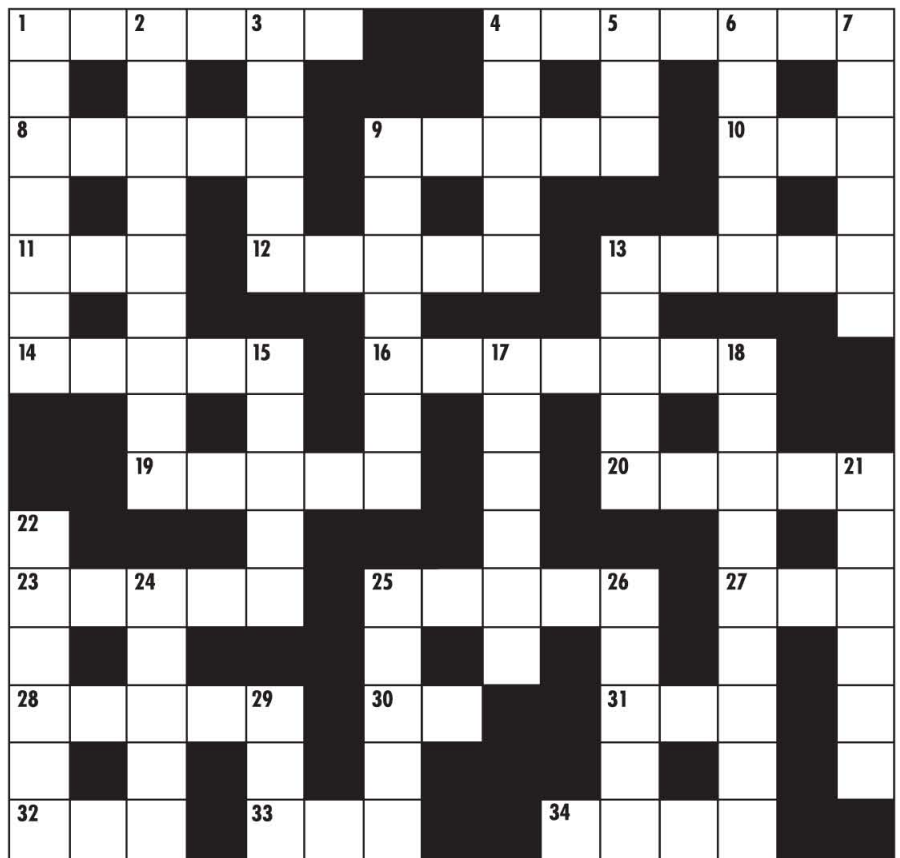
We are writing a book on Calgary postcards between the 1880s and WWII and are searching for collections with cards either posted or not, sent from Calgary with Calgary images, mailed to someone in Calgary, or kept in a private postcard collection. Even if you only have one or two, please contact Trudy Cowan, cowan@shaw.ca or Jennifer Cook Bobrovitz, jbobrov@shaw.ca. -CCHS

Local History Crossword

(Solution on page 2)

Across

1. Calgary alderman, Dale -----
4. Another Calgary alderman, Druh -----
8. An inert gas
9. Senator ----- Hayes
10. A legal 'thing'
11. Alberta Motor Association
12. The famous (now infamous?) ----- Marbles in the British Museum
13. Tony Blair's wife, -----
14. To compare
16. To bring down a building like the Calgary General Hospital
19. The site of a disastrous battle in WWI
20. Seen on a pirate's flag, a ----- and crossbones
23. Calgary philanthropist and former alderman, Art -----
25. Calgary Mayor, 1892-94, Alexander -----
27. Ex-alderman, Brian ---
28. Calgary Mayor, 1919-22, Samuel -----
30. Ontario (abbr.)
31. A Honolulu welcome
32. The twelfth month (abbr.)
33. Finale, termination
34. Bronte's governess



Down

1. An early developer in Bowness,
2. Calgary mayor, 1949-59, (2 wds.)
3. Past alderman ----- Starr, former owner of Starr's Ambulance
4. Popular Calgary historian, Max -----
5. Calgary alderman, --- Jones
6. Strange, creepy
7. Calgary Mayor, 1965-69, Jack -----
9. Ex-Calgary alderman, Sue -----
13. One of the Big Four, A.E. -----
15. ----- Hill Centre
17. Peter -----, an early Calgary entrepreneur
18. The --- ----- Logging Company, managed by 17 Down (2 wds.)
21. The ----- /Lineham Block on Stephen Avenue
22. St. George's -----, site of the Calgary Zoo
24. Colleague of 17 Down, ----- K. Kerr
25. British Prime Minister, ----- George
26. "----- Ann", slang for the Salvation Army
29. To take to court

—Jennifer Prest



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Editor

Ruth Kerr, rakerr2@telus.net

Newsletter Submissions: The deadline for the Summer issue is **March 26, 2007.**

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

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Annual subscription	\$25.00	Annual subscription	\$25.00	(school, museum, library, historical society)	
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