



CHINOOK COUNTRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

September/October, 2004

“BobFest” is here!

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 is only fitting that the legendary newspaperman Bob Edwards should have his own festival. And it’s also fitting that this festival occur on a “semi-occasional” basis.

This year, “Bobfest” begins on Saturday, September 18 with a gala book launch at McNally Robinson book store (120 - 8 Avenue SW) at 4:00 PM, followed by a walking tour of Bob Edwards’ Calgary.

There will be a presentation on “Through a Booze-Glass Darkly: Facets of Bob Edwards” at the Castell Central Library on Sunday, September 19 from 2:00 PM– 3:30 PM.

Join Allan Fotheringham on Monday, September 20, for “Private Eye vs. the Eye Opener” at the John Dutton Theatre, Castell Central Library. (Tickets on sale.)

The Bob Edwards VIP Luncheon on Wednesday, September 22 is sold out but



tickets are still on sale for the 30th Annual Bob Edwards Luncheon Thursday, on September 23. This year's recipient is Rick Mercer.

Go to www.bobfest.ca for more details. -CCHS

Touring the Walker Residence

For those of you who were unable to attend the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary Tour during Historic Calgary Week, below is an excerpt of the notes from Mary Walker Lynas’ talk. She gave this talk on the steps of the Walker Residence.

Introduction

Good morning Ladies and Gentleman and thank you for coming. This house was built in 1910 and was the third house the family owned after leaving the Cochrane Ranch. The first house was taken away

in the flood and house #2 was sold when this brick house was built. I spent 22 years living in the house and I have seen many changes.

The Surrounding Area

As a small child I can remember being taken to the bank back of the house and seeing the Bow River nearly coming to the top and seeing the houses and animals floating down the river. The water completely covered the Island and only the tops of the trees were

(continued on page 3)

Special Presentation: Feathered Dinosaurs & the Origin of Birds

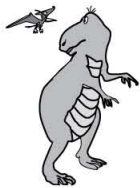
Presenter: Philip Currie
(Curator of Dinosaurs at the Royal Tyrrell
Museum of Paleontology)

Sunday, September 26
1:30-3:00 pm

The City of Calgary - Outdoor Resource Centre
1111 Memorial Drive NW
(Located at the corner of
Memorial Drive & 10th Street NW)

Phone 221-3866 for more information and
to reserve a seat for this free event.

World-renowned dinosaur researcher,
Philip Currie, will be giving a presentation in
Calgary on the dinosaur/bird connection.



In recent years, some of the most
significant specimens for understanding the
evolution from dinosaurs to birds have been
recovered from the lower Cretaceous rocks
(120 to 145 million years old) of north-
eastern China. These include more than 1,000
specimens of the primitive bird *Confuciusornis*,
and more than 20 skeletons of at least six
species of dinosaurs with feathers.

Feathers were probably widely distributed
amongst meat-eating dinosaurs, and we can no
longer be sure that fossilized feathers found in
the Cretaceous rocks all belong to birds.
Although no dinosaur specimens have been
found with preserved feathers in North
America, many of the late Cretaceous species
from Alberta and other regions are closely
related to the feathered dinosaurs of China. It
is highly likely that most of the Late Cretaceous
theropods of the Northern Hemisphere,
including tyrannosaurs, were feathered. -CCHS

Aubrey Kerr: Publishing Alberta's Oil History

My career as an author started shortly after I
had returned to Calgary as Manager, Oil and
Gas, Indian Minerals. Chairman Jim McKibbin
invited me to start contributing articles in 1978 to
the *Canadian Journal of Petroleum Technology*.
There then followed a series of short articles.

The idea of chronicling the Atlantic No. 3 story
started with the late Willis Gibson. Imperial Oil
turned the whole idea down because of potential
legal problems despite their head counsel wanting
to sue McMahan. Imperial had acquired the
Rebus lease but McMahan saw sufficient flaws in
it which enabled him to "top-lease". Gibson then
tried unsuccessfully to obtain funding from the
Alberta government. Gibson and I met to discuss
plans and by December 1980 I had started to draft
up the framework.

By 1984 I had worked up sufficient text to
approach Petro-Canada, the new lessee of the
Atlantic quarter section. Ed Lakusta and Claude
Morin agreed to help me. I then formed a
committee who met for the first time on March
11, 1985 and continued to research the subject,
but the drop in the price of crude (\$10) in 1986
dealt an almost fatal blow to Petro-Can's
operations. Despite thinly veiled threats from
management, Evelene Newsome and I
persevered and sent the draft to Friesen Brothers
late in that year for printing.

The books were sent to Jack Nesbitt's residence
from whence they were distributed to Calgary
booksellers by Jack under Anne's supervision.
Atlantic No. 3 1948 received a warm welcome
selling out later in 1987. Copies of the second
edition are still available at 912 - 80 Avenue SW.

My next book, *Corridors of Time*, received a
lot of attention particularly by a
senior citizen, Lois Argue. She wrote a
review which I am excerpting here at the
risk of sounding boastful: "*When I
first opened the book, I was afraid that it
would be very much
Calgary orientated,*

*but I soon discovered that the author had included
many stories of Bonnie Glen, Rainbow, Norman
Wells and the Oil Sands at Fort McMurray, which
I heard in the fall of 1992, 'will never run dry - but
so expensive to operate'. I also noted that there
was much about the oilfield in other provinces and
Alaska as well as all across Canada. This book
would be a wonderful, historical gift to anyone
involved in the oil patch - easy to read, enjoyable,
informative, even for the novice, as there is an
excellent glossary explaining terminology. Even
the oil wives and girlfriends would be wise to read
it, and then they would understand the pride,
perseverance and endurance of oil men."*

I am excerpting another review by an outside
source (Dr. Sarjeant, University of Saskatchewan)
submitted to give an unbiased appraisal of my
third book *Leduc* published in 1991: "*When the
Leduc No. 1 Well went into production on a
wintry day in 1947, the history of Alberta - and,
indeed, of Canada - was about to be changed
forever. Over the ensuing 45 years, the
production of Canada's oilfields has attained
and, by now, passed its peak; Alberta has been
transformed from just another poor Prairie
region into perhaps Canada's richest province
per capita, while Calgary has grown from a small
town to a city of international stature. The
author's own involvement in the story gives it an
immediacy; though, oddly, his index does not
include references to himself! This book
constitutes a unique and valuable document. All
persons whose interest in the history of the
Alberta oilfields surpasses the superficial will
find this volume rewarding, both for reading and
for consultation when facts are being sought.*" -CCHS

—Submitted by Aubrey Kerr



William Reader, Superintendent of
Calgary Parks from 1913-1943, was a
garden innovator. Although he was
responsible for all of Calgary's parks
and cemeteries, the municipal
nursery and the city's first municipal
golf course, creating the 'rockery' on
the steep north slope of Cemetery
Hill (just south of the Stampede) was
his personal passion.

You can help the restoration.
www.readerrock.com
Donna 268-5813



The Friends of Reader Rock Garden

Touring the Walker Residence

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visible. The flood happened every spring and we had both a chicken house and boat house down the bank. The chickens all had to be moved up and that was quite some job. The canoe had to be tied to the top of the boat house.

The floods only ended when the two dams were built – the Bear’s Paw and the Glenmore.

At the side of the house there was just pasture land with the road leading from 9th Avenue to the house. The other side of the road was fenced in and there were cattle and horses grazed there. That I know because as a small child I went to visit them and got switched all the way home. There was a large barn down at the edge of the 9th Avenue road and a small white house beside it. This belonged to the Healy family and I think he was the man that milked the cows and took care of the livestock. I don’t remember when the livestock disappeared and the market gardening began.

My grandfather’s horse, Ranger, was free to wander. He spent a lot of time in the yard and would come along side the verandah so I could get on. When he got tired of walking slowly around, he would return to the verandah so I could climb off.

The Koo family had their home and gardens on [some] of the fenced land and another group of Chinese had the other half. Because the Koo family had children, I knew them because I played with them.

As the other end of our land was George Pickering, the caretaker of the Sanctuary, and his family of two daughters.

The Depression

Then the Depression came and with it many changes. Every day Sing, our Chinese cook, made a loaf of sandwiches. The hobos, as we called them then, got off the train after it crossed the Bow River and were walking the rest of the way into Calgary along the railway tracks. They knew they would be arrested by the CPR Police if they rode into the station. As we were the first large house they passed, they always sent the youngest member in to ask for food. However, if any of them offered to cut the grass they would be paid in money. There was one French Canadian that just went and got the lawn mower from the garage and cut the grass without asking.

When finished he came to the door to be paid but he never talked. He probably came by the house three or four times as he crossed the country.

My grandmother died in 1928 just prior to the start of the Depression. She had been very much a recluse and after her death my mother was then free to do all the entertaining she wanted. We had garden parties, receptions, afternoon teas and picnics.

The Oil Refinery

I can remember the very bitter fight that went on when the B.A. Oil Company wanted to build a refinery on the prairie. At that time there was only a gravel pit, one bungalow and a cricket pitch on the land. The rest was just prairie grass and wild flowers. When the owner of the bungalow sold to the Company, we knew it was the end of the opposition. We had lost. My father was worried about seepage from the refinery that might make its way into the Bow River or into the Sanctuary.

The War Years

When the War came, the women formed a group that used the YMCA on 9th Avenue to hold dances on Saturday night for the armed forces. We had soldiers and airmen from the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand and, near the end of the war, Free French. If the men were able to get a weekend pass they signed up and various families provided a weekend in a home. As there was war rationing, the women with smaller houses and apartments would give some of their meat rations to the ones with larger ones that could entertain three or four men. Because we had a large home with a pond and a canoe, we usually had three or four weekend visitors.

Conclusion

The Walker home has seen two funerals and one wedding. My brother, Alan Selby, died on January 21, 1927 and my grandmother died a year later in 1928. Both funerals were held in the drawing room as it was called. After the war, I was married in the same room.

Finally, I would like to thank you for coming and I do want to thank the Sanctuary guide for making that portion of this morning so interesting. -CCHS

—Submitted by Kate Reeves

President’s Message

This will be just a short message to report on the Chinook Country Historical Society presentation of Historic Calgary Week 2004.

Again this year all events were very well attended and although the final attendance figures haven’t been tallied, we can consider 2004 another successful year. This is due, of course, to all the dedicated volunteers who offer their time and expertise to make Historic Calgary Week a summer event Calgarians look forward to every year. Historic Calgary Week is made possible only through the efforts of the volunteers and the Board of Directors of the CCHS.

Although space doesn’t permit me to name everyone involved in producing this year’s event, I would like to single out one person who deserves special praise.

Ruth Manning researched and conducted the Edworthy Park and the St. Mary’s Cemetery tours during Historic Calgary Week. Every Sunday, for approximately four months of the year, Ruth does presentations in the Union Cemetery. Ruth also serves on the board of Directors of the Chinook Country Historical Society. Our thanks to her for all her efforts

Thank you also to our sponsors. It makes all the hard work worthwhile having your support. -CCHS

—Diana Ringstrom

Winners of the Calgary Herald’s Historic Week Crossword Puzzle:

Patricia Barnes	Lois Kerlake
Jeanne Cody	Elizabeth Klafke
Fern Deane	Sharon Moffatt
Sandra Gray	Susan Platt

The winners will be invited to our first program at Fort Calgary on Tuesday, September 28, and will be presented with their prizes. -CCHS

Local History Crossword

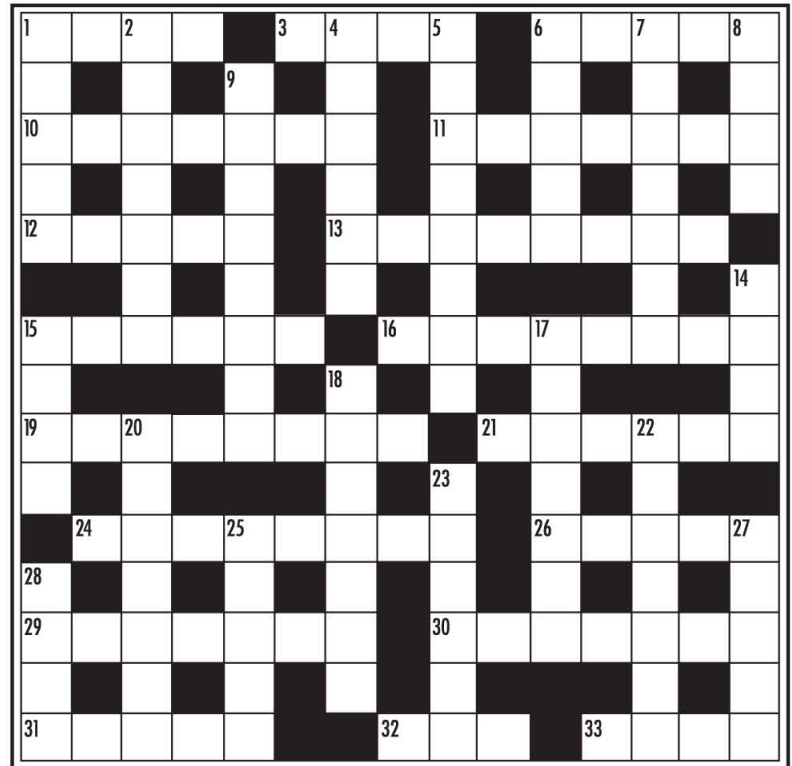
Across

- Five-time world champion chuckwagon great Willard to his pals
- Calgarian Mary Dover was a colonel of this army group (abbr.)
- This device to control dogs may be taken off in some park areas
- Patriarch of Calgary's wrestling family
- Withdraws from
- Great War battle in which Canadians held the line
- Calgary may have been one of these communities prior to 1875
- Stone, cab, or fever preceder
- Revolving pump recently donated to Fort Calgary
- You belong to society interested in such a subject
- Type of wire fence
- Calgarian Alice -----, the first woman judge in Canada; Girls' Academy in Stanley Jones School is named after her
- Propelled a boat by muscle power
- ♫ Oh give me a home, where the ----- roam ♫
- Colours of the Sunnyside-Burns Ave. trolley, --- and ---
- Parts of a diameter
- Motorists' club (abbr.)
- Hair salon professional

Down

- Tower name in 1968
- Gear position
- Mayor after Davison or before Mackay
- Donor to Calgary of our Memorial Library
- Item used by ropers at the Stampede
- Heritage Day or Family Day date
- Audience vocal reaction to the villain
- Calgary district named after a Calgary mayor
- Luge vehicle at Canada Olympic Park
- Kicking Horse Pass provides a route through this National Park
- Man considered to be Calgary's first Jewish resident, Jacob -----
- Rouleauville extended south to form this district
- Supplied with employees
- Calgary downtown Mall
- Calgary's first chief of police, 1885-1888
- Resident of Teheran
- Calgary's 37th mayor
- Skier's aid up the slopes

by Ken Penley



ANSWERS
 Across: 1. Hank, 3. CWA, 6. leash, 10. Sihhart, 11. resins, 12. Ypres, 13. One horse, 15. yellow, 16. windmill, 19. Historic, 21. barbed, 24. Jamieson, 26. oared, 29. buffalo, 30. RedBlue, 31. radii, 32. AMA, 33. dyer
 Down: 1. Husky, 2. neutral, 4. Watson, 5. Carnegie, 6. Jasso, 7. August, 8. hiss, 9. Haysboro, 14. sled, 15. Yoho, 17. Diamond, 18. Mission, 20. staffed, 22. Barclay, 23. Ingram, 25. Iranj, 27. Duert, 28. Tbar

Wanted:

Four able-bodied friends to socialize while keeping their fingers busy.

We need four volunteers to stuff envelopes and and mail the newsletter every two months. It could be a good excuse to get together for a good chin wag while doing your bit for the Society. Anyone interested? Please call Diana at 240-9828. -CHS

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Membership Rate Increase

Due to the increase in postage and publishing costs, memberships rates will be increasing October 1, 2004.

See chart on the right for new membership rates:

Individual membership	\$15.00	Family membership	\$25.00	Affiliate membership	\$55.00
Annual subscription	\$25.00	Annual subscription	\$25.00	(school, museum, library, historical society)	
Total	<u>\$40.00</u>	Total	<u>\$50.00</u>	Associate membership	\$120.00
Purchased together	\$35.00	Purchased together	\$45.00		

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