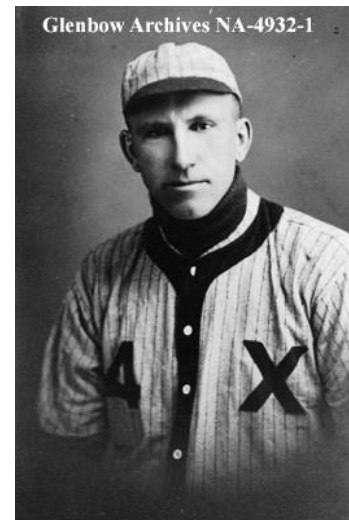




## Baxter Brothers Sidewalk Stamps

These stamps are still quite plentiful all over the inner city. Unlike most of Calgary's other old sidewalk stamps, they appear in sidewalks on private property, and would date to the pre-WW1 era. The company also built some sidewalks for the city, however. Andy Baxter is the most well-known of the Baxter family, who were sportsmen both before and during the time their concrete business operated here. Andy is shown here in his team uniform for the Calgary Hustlers. In addition to concrete, the Baxter Brothers were general contractors, and in 1914 built the Crystal Rink followed by the Crystal Pool in 1923. Both venues were later located side-by-side on the south side of the Bow River, east of the Louise Bridge. Even today, there are some Calgarians who recall learning to skate or swim there.



A bio of Andy Baxter follows, which once ran in a "booster" publication entitled "Calgary, 1875-1950".



Andy Baxter chats with the Prince of Wales in Edmonton during a ball game.

## ANDY BAXTER

Reviews Sport in Calgary

ANDY BAXTER, owner of the Crystal Swimming Pool, the Crystal Skating Rink and one of Calgary's oldest construction firms, has had a very interesting career. Born in Cadott, Wisconsin, he took to the ball diamond like a duck to water and in 1906 he was invited to Butte, Montana to play amateur baseball. Playing with the Montana Smelters he once took the field, in Weiser, Idaho against the great Walter Johnson. The following year he went to Spokane as an amateur player. In 1910 he was playing professional baseball in that city of rabid baseball fans.

In 1911 Andy Baxter was supposed to report to the Chicago White Sox, but his brother, John (Moose) Baxter, formerly of the St. Louis Cardinals, had been playing in Edmonton for one year. Instead of joining the White Sox, Andy went to Edmonton to play first base and his brother, Henry went along to pitch for the Eskimos. Deacon White was the manager. The following year he played with the Union Association at Missoula, Montana. That fall he returned to Calgary to enter business and has lived here ever since.

In 1915 Andy Baxter was re-instated as an amateur in order to help entertain the troops and he played amateur ball from that time until 1934—and this despite a severe injury he suffered to his pitching arm in 1927. In 1932 he was a member of Rosie Helmer's Booster Club which won the city championship.

Andy Baxter enjoyed his baseball career and today he still remembers some of the highlights. The 1950 visit of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor reminds him of the conversation he had in Edmonton in 1919 with the Prince of Wales. The Hillhurst Hustlers had journeyed to Edmonton to play ball and the Prince was on a tour of Canada. He stepped out on the diamond to greet the Calgary team and singled out Andy Baxter for special conversation as shown in the picture above. They had a pleasant social chat.

That year the Hustlers won the Western Canada championship. Harry Scott, now of

Calgary, brought a Scott-coached team from Moose Jaw to face the Hustlers who won the series to become the baseball champions of Western Canada. They won the Alberta championship for many consecutive seasons. In 1923 Medicine Hat took the Alberta crown to add a little variation to the record of the Hillhurst Hustlers.

The 1919 Calgary-Moose Jaw game was one of the highlights of Andy's baseball career. In the 9th inning the score stood 2 to 3 for Moose Jaw. Calgary was up to bat with two down in the last half of the 9th inning, with two men on bases when Andy was called to the plate. The outlook was bleak for Calgary when 2 strikes and 3 balls were called on the batter. But when Andy batted a home run to bring in his two team mates the crowd picked him off his home run tour to parade him shoulder high around the diamond.

That same summer Andy stole enough bases in a critical contest to steal a game from Edmonton. He deliberately walked to first, stole to second where he received a "cussing" from the Edmonton pitcher, then stole to third. At third he received another personalized blast from the opposing pitcher who came down to explain the matter in vivid language and as he turned toward the pitcher's box Andy started for home plate. The utter audacity of the attempt unnerved the catcher who missed the ball. The game was won.

Through the years Andy Baxter has taken great interest in hockey. In 1915 the old Sherman Rink at Centre St. and 17th Ave. went up in flames and the Crystal alone remained as a hockey centre. During 1916 to 1919 some very excellent hockey was played in Calgary and many of the later big names in hockey got their start as young fellows at the Crystal. Herbie Lewis, later captain of the Detroit Red Wings, Dutch Gainor, later with the Boston Bruins and Vic Ripley, later of the American League, received their early training at the Crystal.

Andy Baxter has paralleled his sports career with a number of successful enterprises. In 1912 he entered the contracting and cement business. Two years later he built the Crystal Skating Rink and in 1923 he built the Crystal Swimming Pool. In 1925 he entered the Sand, Gravel and Excavating business in which he and his two sons, Dick and Bob, are now engaged.

**A. G. BAXTER**  
SAND, GRAVEL, EXCAVATING  
M2507 — 908 - 4th Ave. W.

Mr. and Mrs. Baxter, Bob, Dick and a budding ball player.



A Baxter Bros stamp on Elbow Drive SW.



Andy Baxter in his playing days with the Hillhurst Hustlers baseball club.

