



Central Alberta Historical Society Newsletter

Central Alberta
Historical Society
Newsletter

Winter
2010

Layout &
Edited by
Shirley Dye

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Central Alberta Historical Society Annual Turkey Dinner Fundraiser

Wednesday December 15

Golden Circle 4620 47A Ave.

Doors open 5:30 pm

Tickets \$27 members; \$29 non-members
Phone 403-347-7873 or email cahs@live.ca

Note from our President



Dear Members,

Newsletter time always catches me by surprise, even though our patient editor, Shirley Dye, always gives me plenty of notice. Many thanks to Shirley, for her patience, and for an excellent newsletter!

The CAHS publications committee has been working on digitizing our publications, where it seems appropriate to do so. The big news at this time, is that Bill Baergen's book *Pioneering with a Piece of Chalk* has just been newly added to the digital list at <http://www.ourroots.ca/toc.aspx?id=13236&qryID=65613958-bb4b-4982-b997-188ba4510e91>

One of the very exciting things about digitized books is that they are word searchable, making detailed information readily available. To test this, I typed 'Hutterite' into the search box, and up came a long list of page numbers. I was able to read about many schools that I had not previously known had a Hutterite connection. Check out Bill's book, and then click on the home page to find other interesting reading and source books.

We would like to wholeheartedly thank the City of Red Deer for its support of the Arches project, demonstrated most recently by completion of the landscaping. It looks quite majestic, and at night, makes a delightful statement. Fundraising from major donors, in several categories beginning at \$3,000, has now begin in earnest – if you are interested in donating to the Arches fund, please contact Bob Lampard at j.robert.lampard@gmail.com. We already have two interested persons/groups, and it should be noted that there will be a place for donor recognition on the Arches, for posterity. In memoriam donations will be recognized as such.

CAHS Board 2009—2010

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------|
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President's message continued

December 15 brings our annual Turkey dinner! This year, we're preparing a reader's theatre and some snippets of stories (with engaging visuals) that we're sure you'll find most enjoyable. As usual we'll have tremendously exciting door prizes (well, interesting, anyway) and a few donated or crafted items on sale as a fundraiser for our Arches project. Be sure to pick up your tickets at the Museum, or at drop me a line at cahs@live.ca if you can't get to the Museum.
I'll see you there.

Sheila Bannerman, President

CAHS Annual General Meeting – September 16, 2010

Our annual general meeting, while an important event, does not often contain very many surprises for long time members. Attendance at this year's meeting was high – which was very good to see.

This year, we are happy to welcome Michael Dawe as a new Board member. Michael will replace Carolyn Kent, who has stepped down. We welcome back all other Board members, and look forward to upcoming programs and events. Sometimes we cover a lot of ground at Board meetings, and I am thankful for Board members with stamina! We are very grateful to Dean Frye at RDPL for providing the Snell Auditorium free of charge every month, and to Lorna Johnson at the MAG for providing meeting space for committees and the Board. This has a tremendous impact on our ability to use our budget efficiently.

Committee reports at the AGM reveal a very active publications committee with a new focus on digitization, as well as a really interesting list of potential new publications, or re-workings of valuable but outdated publications. Thanks to Bill McKay, Bill Baergen, Don Hepburn, Rod Trentham, Marion Hives and Michael Dawe.

Faye Hughes has been working very hard on membership issues. We are concerned that some individuals are not renewing their memberships, and Faye and Gorm Hansen are working with RDC to try to attract student members. Ideas and suggestions for changes are always welcome, if members would be more likely to renew or new people to join if we changed or added to our programs and other offerings. Last year's programs were well attended and so it is a bit of a puzzle that memberships are not being renewed.

Last year's major tour was cancelled due to lack of interest, something I wonder about, as Don Hepburn and Bill McKay had planned a really interesting tour in Edmonton and area. There will be a new tour planned for this year; perhaps people feel that Edmonton is too close to home.

Don also planned and guided a most interesting bus tour of area churches, and the sometimes- annual one- room schoolhouse event. Last year we did not coordinate the Central Alberta Historical Festival, as all energies were directed towards the Arches project and fundraising opportunities in that direction.

The 2009-2010 program year was a good one, with a tremendously varied set of speakers. Attendance seems to be up since our move to the Library in March, and we have more casual non-members attending. Thanks to Don Hepburn and Iris Loewen, who form the Programs committee, and have put together a great series for the upcoming year.

Last, but definitely not least, many thanks to our audit committee, who completed a very complicated audit last year, and have now completed this year's audit as well. Audited statements were not ready for the AGM package on Sept. 16, but should anyone wish to see them, they are now available from Treasurer Gorm Hansen. Many thanks to Paul Pettypiece and Shirley Thomas for their work on this.

There is much behind the scenes work that goes into every meeting and into planning events and tours. I would like to thank all Board members for their enthusiasm and dedication to the CAHS, to the members who have helped with audit and phoning, and setting up and taking down chairs for our program evenings.

All CAHS members are strongly encouraged to provide input, even if time for volunteering is tight, so that at least we can know what you would like to hear about at the speaker series, and where you would like to go for tours. YOU are the CAHS, so please make it yours!

Thanks for a great year, and I look forward to seeing you all at future meetings and events, and gathering your input for upcoming seasons.

Sheila Bannerman, President

Fun Stuff

Did you know that the **MAG** has a very cool exhibit up right now, featuring toys from the collection, and a fabulous photo collection which details a Swedish immigrant family's experiences settling in West Central Alberta. Check out what's new at the Museum, at www.reddeermuseum.ca

Did you know that the **Red Deer and District Archives** has friendly staff who will be delighted to help you if you'd like to learn more about almost anything to do with history in this area? I spent some time in the archives recently going through photographs, letters, and official documents relating to a research topic, and was quite impressed with the available material. Besides, putting on the white archival gloves are like a portal to another world, creating a connection to the larger world of research, and makes one forget the outside world, if only for an afternoon! Contact the archives at archives@reddeer.ca, or check out the website at <http://www.reddeer.ca/City+Government/City+Services+and+Departments/Archives/default.htm>

If you've never checked out the **Glenbow** online photo archives, it's at <http://www.glenbow.org/collections/search/> This is really a lot of fun and a good way to while away a cold afternoon.

Shirley Dye has asked me to write a short biography for the Newsletter, and I am happy to oblige. In a way there's not much to tell.

I was born in 1930 in Edmonton, the youngest child and only son of a Scottish immigrant father and a second generation Canadian mother. (My mother's grandmother came as a little girl from Ireland in the 1820s to settle in Lanark County in Upper Canada.) I attended Highlands School, Eastwood High School and the University of Alberta before embarking on a career in public education which lasted 45 years. In 1952 I married Joan Anderson of High River, and in the 58 years since then we raised five children, also planned and built three houses, and shared our lives with quite a number of dogs. With the exception of four years spent in the Northwest Territories I have lived all my life within a hundred miles (160 kilometres) of Edmonton.

That's about it. As the old expression goes, the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. A number of events happened during that time, however, that helped shape the course of my life, and perhaps I could mention a few of them.

First, I had the good fortune to go to Highlands School in Edmonton for the first nine grades. It was a big school and, in order to fill it up, students were drawn not only from the largely middle class and WASP Highlands district that it was built to serve, but also from the packing house district to the north and the coal-mining community to the east. My school experience introduced me at a very early age to the wonderful ethnic diversity that characterizes Edmonton, and I am grateful for that.

As a second example I might mention my first job after high school. In the summer of 1947 I was hired as cook's helper on the SS Mackenzie River, one of the last two sternwheelers to carry freight on the Slave/Mackenzie River system from Waterways (Fort McMurray) to the Arctic coast. I had the good fortune to sail from Fort Smith and visit every one of the settlements on the river from there to Tutoyaktuk, seeing much of the scenery from galley level, a couple of feet above the water.



S.S. Mackenzie River ready to leave Fort Smith for Fort McPherson

My employment that summer led to three more summers with the Mackenzie River Division of Hudson Bay Transport, driving a truck carrying freight across the fifteen-mile portage that by-passed the major rapids on the Slave River between Fort Fitzgerald and Fort Smith. That Northern experience would provide money for my fees and books at university. It would also make it easy for me to decide a few years later to take a teaching job in the North.

A third life-changing experience would occur while I was at university. In my third year I joined the University Mixed Chorus under Richard Eaton. That was the start of a life-long love affair with choral music. It was also the start of another and more important life-long love affair. It was in the Mixed Chorus that I met a lovely young soprano, who two years later became my partner for life.

There was another life-shaping experience at university. During my last year (1951-52) I was pressed for money, and managed to get a job as student assistant in the Education Clinic, a service offered by several of the faculty members to assist children in Edmonton schools who were not doing well in school. That was my introduction to psychometrics and individual program planning for children with special needs and it would be a major influence in the rest of my career. I later completed a masters degree in special education, qualified as a chartered psychologist and in 1977, after a year of study leave, completed a Ph. D. in educational psychology.

Continued on page 5

Following graduation in 1952, I was employed by the Edmonton Public School Board to teach junior high Language Arts and Social Studies at the same school I had attended for the first nine grades – the Highlands. After teaching in the city for five years, Joan and I decided to see what the North would be like. I signed on with the federal government as principal of the little two-room federal day school in Fort Simpson, on the west bank of the mighty Mackenzie.

It was actually two one-room schools in a single building since, for historical reasons, the students were divided on the basis of religion first. I taught the non-Catholic students in eight grades.

After two years in Fort Simpson, we moved on to the brand new town of Inuvik, where I was the administrator in charge of the non-Catholic wing of the 35-teacher Sir Alexander Mackenzie School. The school had a large residential component, however, and I was deeply troubled by what was being done to young children uprooted from their culture and separated from their parents. We left after two years.

On leaving Inuvik I went to work in Edmonton for Alberta Education as Supervisor of Special Education for the province. I travelled the province visiting special classes and schools for mentally challenged children, working on curriculum for slow learners, and developing policy for special needs children. It was on one of my visits to Red Deer that Superintendent Harold Dawe asked me if I would consider coming to Red Deer Junior College that was just being planned, to teach psychology. That's how we came to Red Deer. (The College opened in 1964 in a wing of Lindsay Thurber High School, which is where I got to know Bill Baergen, and started a friendship which I have valued ever since.)

After two years I left the College and became the person in charge of guidance and special education for the city public schools, and stayed in that position until 1976.

In 1976 we built a house on 80 acres of land near Morningside. Those were our “farming” years – a city boy experimenting beekeeping, raising chickens, keeping horses for the kids, and pasturing cattle over the summer months.

To pay for the “farming”, I taught at the University of Alberta, then was a consultant in the Red Deer Regional Office of Education, and finally became Deputy Superintendent of Schools for Ponoka County. Then in 1986 I became self-employed. I started my own consulting practice, doing psychological assessments and program planning for students in school systems from Rocky Mountain House to Provost until, in 1996, after some health problems I retired.

My retirement more or less coincided with the formation of the Central Alberta Chapter of the Historical Society of Alberta. When the late Allan Armstrong called a public meeting to see what interest there was in forming a new chapter, I attended and before long found myself on the board of directors. I have been active ever since in one capacity or another, and even served a term as president of the provincial association. I have also found time for some other new ventures – starting a chapter of the Council of Canadians, fighting for public health care through the Red Deer Network in Support of Medicare, serving on the Museum Board and the Normandeau Society board, for example. But it is the Historical Society that has been the most enduring and the most rewarding interest. It has provided me with tremendous opportunities and I am very grateful.

So – the apple didn't fall far from the tree but, within this small circumference, so far it has been an interesting trip.



Don & Joan
Hepburn

Remembering the Battle of Britain

The Second World War began on 1 September 1939 when Germany invaded Poland and Britain and France declared war as a result. A new type of combined operations tactics which the Germans called Blitzkrieg were used where tanks, troops and aeroplanes attacked together and smashed through any traditional defences. Using this method, Poland was



captured in just 28 days, despite heroic, often suicidal defence of their homeland by the Polish armed forces. After this, the British and French Governments, among others, tried a number of political solutions to prevent the spread of war, all the while reinforcing positions in Northern France with land and air forces from Britain. Known as the Allied Expeditionary Force and Advanced Air Striking Force respectively, these forces moved into position, and waited. This period was known as the 'Sitzkrieg' or 'Phony War' as the armies stared at one another across the German / French border, and the air forces flew

standing patrols and reconnaissance missions, probing for weaknesses. On 9 April 1940, the peace was shattered as the same 'Blitzkrieg' tactics were used against Denmark and Norway. A British Force was sent to help the Norwegians, but the Allied Forces were outnumbered and were quickly overwhelmed. Worse was to come.

On 10 May 1940, Germany attacked Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg and France. Twelve fighter squadrons of Royal Air Force were based in France, the only truly modern fighter forces available to the Allies. These Hurricane Squadrons were to support the army, and the Fairey Battle and Bristol Blenheim bomber units which were based in France and operating from Britain. The bomber Squadrons, particularly the Battles, were slaughtered by the German anti-aircraft and fighter units in their attempts to slow the German advance by attacking transport, such as bridges. The Hurricanes did their best to protect the bombers and fly their quota of patrols and reconnaissance. However, it was not enough, and when it became clear that the Allies could not stop the Germans, all but three of the Squadrons were called back across the Channel. The German advance pushed the Allied armies toward the sea to a French port called Dunkirk. During what some people called a miracle, 800 small boats managed to lift most of the men off the beaches and back to England. The RAF was successful in keeping the majority of German bombers and fighters away, shooting down 150 aircraft. However, they lost 100 precious fighters and 80 irreplaceable pilots.

By 18 June, all British forces had withdrawn from France. Both the German Air Force (Luftwaffe) and the RAF had lost many aircraft and trained crews during this campaign. Several weeks passed while the Luftwaffe replaced their losses and took over airfields in the countries they had captured. In Britain the time was spent putting as many new fighters and trained pilots into service as possible, to guard against the attack everyone knew was coming. The lull as the German forces consolidated their position was vital to the British armed forces, as it allowed them to prepare. By the beginning of July 1940, the RAF had built up its strength to 640 fighters, but the Luftwaffe had 2600 bombers and fighters. The stage was set. In the skies above South East England, the future of Britain was about to be decided. As Prime Minister, Winston Churchill put it; "What General Weygrand called the Battle of France is over, the Battle of Britain is about to begin".

The three weeks between mid-August and early September in 1940 were decisive for the Battle of Britain. The bravery of the pilots was captured in Winston Churchill's speech on 20 August when he said "never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few".

Those left of The Few, as those pilots became known, are now in their 90s. Some of them fear they will soon not be around to remind people of the events that summer. Tom Neil was a 20-year-old Hurricane pilot during the battle. He was often scrambled four or five times a day, flying 141 times in all. "As soon as the scramble order came, you'd have to get off the ground in three minutes," he said. "You're concentrating like mad, looking for the enemy as you get above the clouds." The adrenaline is racing... flak is bursting all around you, everything was exciting. When you get back on the ground, you feel like a piece of chewed string. You think Christ that was rather nasty."



"The Spitfire was a beautiful plane to fly. When you were sitting in it you really were part of the plane," said Spitfire pilot William Walker, now 97. But while the Spitfire came to symbolize the battle, the workhorse Hurricane was also held in great affection.

Battle of Britain.....Continued on page 7

Battle of Britain

"It was the Hurricanes which won the Battle of Britain," Mr. Walker said. "They outnumbered us two to one."

The pilots' days ran from dawn to dusk - sometimes from 0330 until almost 2200. A pilot had to be able to fall asleep in an instant, in the brief respite between flights. Tom Neil flew so many times because he was never seriously injured, or burned, a common hazard for Hurricane pilots. His friend James Nicolson once described to him "how he smelled like pieces of roast pork, how he could see pieces coming off his arm" in the cockpit. Nicolson had stayed in his burning craft that day, August 16 1940, to shoot down a Messerschmitt 109. He managed to bail out in time, and became the only fighter pilot during the Battle of Britain to win a Victoria Cross.



The British planes had little ammunition - only about 30 seconds' worth - and they were firing 7mm machine gun bullets while the Germans had 20mm cannon. The trick was to get in position - fast - and fire as quickly as possible before getting away. British planes could turn more sharply than the Messerschmitt 109s but otherwise they could not outmaneuver them.

Pilots were kept in the air thanks to the bravery of ground crew, whose job it was to check, patch holes, refuel and re-arm the planes. They too were risking their lives, particularly between August 15 and September 7, when the Luftwaffe targeted RAF airfields. Ronald Tooke, then 19, was an engine mechanic for a busy Hurricane squadron. He remembered the aerodrome being attacked on a sweltering summer day, when he went to sit in the shade by the hangar after testing a plane with a colleague. "You can't sit there," said his friend, "our planes are coming back". But the engine noise he heard was a Messerschmitt. "That was the last I saw of him," said Ronald Tooke. He dived for cover, but his colleague was dead.

What is more, if the pilots had not known exactly where to go, they could not have fought at all. Radar operators and the observer corps spotted German planes and relayed the information to the operations room, where it was plotted on a huge map. The plotters would hear information through their headphones and instantly start placing Bakelite arrows on the map, adding to it at a rate of about one a second. Winston Churchill visited the Ops room on September 15. "You're too close to it to realize exactly what's happened," the prime minister said. "But you will later and one day you'll tell your grandchildren about it and the part you played in it."

The Battle of France is over. I expect the Battle of Britain is about to begin. Upon this battle depends the survival of Christian civilization. Upon it depends our British life and the long continuity of our institutions and our Empire. The whole fury and might of the enemy must very soon be turned on us. Hitler knows he will have to break us in this island or lose the war. Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duty, and so bear ourselves that, if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will say, "this was their finest hour."

WINSTON CHURCHILL, JUNE 18, 1940

By far the largest numbers of defenders were British, but fighter pilots of many other nations flew with them, including some 80 Canadians. Of these, 26 were in the RCAF's No. 1 Squadron, which arrived soon after Dunkirk; 16 flew as a team in the RAF's 242 "Canadian" Squadron; the rest were scattered among a dozen other RAF squadrons.

Most of the veterans have said the Battle of Britain was no longer as well known as it used to be. School children study World War II, but they usually learn about the evacuations and the Blitz, which affected many millions.

Ronald Tooke recently went into a shop near his Hampshire home, wearing his Battle of Britain badge. The young shop assistant asked him what it was, so he told her. "And which Battle of Britain would that be?" she asked. And it was not a joke.

Compiled by Al Low, President of 703 (Central Alberta) Wing of the Airforce Association of Canada

The Airmen's Stories - F/Lt L M Gaunce

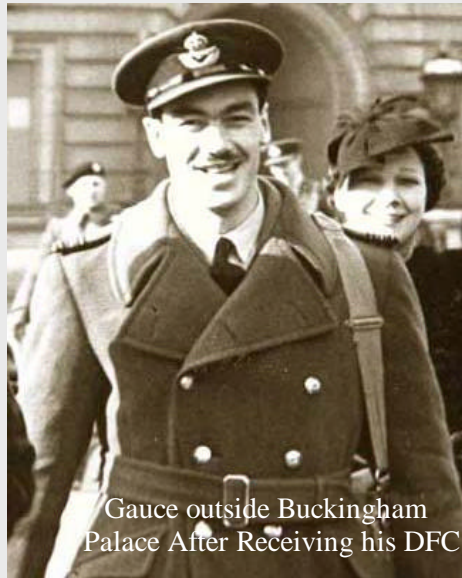
Lionel Manley Gaunce was born in Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada on 20th September 1915 and educated in Edmonton. He served in the Loyal Edmonton Regiment from 1933 to 1935 and then joined the RAF on a short service commission in January 1936 and was posted to 9 E&RFTS, Ansty. On 21st March he moved to 5 FTS, Sealand and at the end of the course joined 3 Squadron at Kenley. Appointed a Flight Commander in April 1939, Gaunce was posted to 615 Squadron in France in February 1940. The squadron was withdrawn to Kenley on 21st May.

He claimed Me109's destroyed on July 20th and 25th plus another destroyed with one probable on August 12th. On the 16th August he damaged a Me110. He was shot down on August 18 by Me109's damaging one and baled out with slight burns. He was admitted to the Holmesdale Hospital, His Hurricane P2966, crashed into Hobsacks woods.

Gaunce was awarded the DFC (gazetted 23rd August 1940).

Back with the squadron by 26th August Gaunce was shot down in flames on this day after destroying a Me109 and baled out. He was rescued from the sea and taken to Herne Bay Hospital, suffering from

shock. His Hurricane, R4111, crashed west of Herne Bay pier. On 31st October 1940 Gaunce was promoted and given command of 46 Squadron at Stapleford, Tawney. The squadron intercepted an Italian force on 11th November and Gaunce claimed a Fiat CR42 destroyed, probably another and shared a Fiat BR20.



Gaunce outside Buckingham Palace After Receiving his DFC

He left 26 of December because of ill health and did not return to operations until July 1941, when he took command of 41 Squadron at Merston.

Gaunce damaged a Me109 on 20th August, shared a probable Me109 on August 21st and damaged others on the 27th, 28th and 17th September.

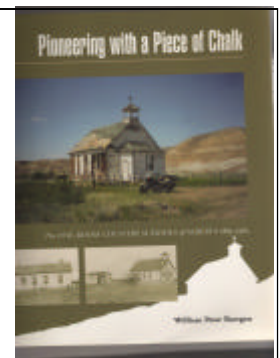
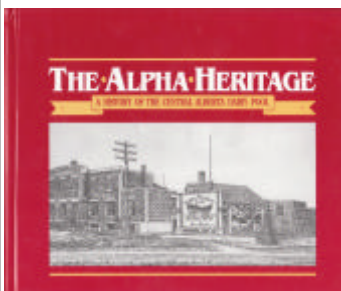
He was killed on 19th November 1941, when he was shot down by flak into the sea off Janville while on a sortie to St. Lo. He was 25 and is remembered on the Runnymede Memorial, Panel 28.

Mount Gaunce (7500ft., 2286m) in Jasper National Park, Alberta was named after him in 1949.

Submitted by Al Low

“Looking for a Christmas Gift for that hard to buy for person?”

Look no further, a hard to get book about some aspect of the history of Central Alberta might be the ideal gift! In addition to the list of books from the past (*Schutz- West of the Blindman*, *Heard-Prisoner of War Diary*, *Wishart-What Lies Behind the Picture & Baergen-Ku Klux Klan*) we have some 'new' additions to the books we are selling: Michael Dawe's *Red Deer. An Illustrated History*, 1989; a nice book to have around for Red Deer's upcoming centennial, *The Alpha History. A History of the Central Alberta Dairy Pool*, 1992 and we are also selling Nancy Millar's *Famous Five. Five Alberta Women and Their Fight to Become Persons*. All of these books are priced competitively. *Settlement Tales of West Central Alberta: The Markerville Story* makes a nice coffee table book about the early days in Central Alberta. It contains lots of photos and entertaining vignettes by Carl Morkeberg. Books are available at our meetings, including the Christmas Turkey Dinner or contact Bill Baergen or Don Hepburn.”



HOW FAR WOULD \$20 GO IN 1934?

I was telling my aunt about the article on Canada's Old Age Pension program in our last newsletter. She remembered when her parents got their first government cheques. I remembered my friend's mother telling me that she and her husband had rented a small house in Calgary for \$6 a month in 1934, and I wondered what a senior could have bought with the \$14 they had left after they paid the rent. A twenty dollars pension seems like a paltry sum.

A few days later my aunt sent me a ledger her dad had kept. Her parents were Clifford and Hazel Braithwaite. Clifford wrote down EVERYTHING he bought and sold. The first pages were 1934. The Braithwaites were farmers and they grew a lot of their food, so this does not give a real good picture of what a townie would need to buy, but we could extrapolate a bit.

Food: Sugar- 7¢ a lb, butter- 5 lb for \$1.00, eggs- 12¢ a doz., candy- 29¢, flour- \$2.68 a 100 weight, vinegar- 25¢. Fruit - \$9.40 (probably case lots for Hazel to preserve.)

Many entries were like this- boots clothes groceries \$11.24
Other: Kerosene- 45¢ a gallon, table cloth- \$1.29, rocking chair- \$2.95, pencil-10¢, book- 5¢, yarn- \$1.65

Clothing: dress goods- \$2.80, boots- \$2.69, suit- \$5.00, underwear- \$1.47, shoes- 85¢, socks- 51¢, pajamas- 50¢,

Health Care: drugs- 50¢, Dr. Nix- \$40, Dr. Parsons- \$5 twice, testing eyes- \$4, eye glasses- \$10.50, Liniment- 25¢,

Community: play & dance at the school house- 50¢, donation to rink- \$1, University- \$1, ticket to Board of Trade \$1.60, donation to Provincial Political fund- Innisfail \$5, Red Deer \$5,

Reading: subscription for paper- \$1.35, subscription to Advocate- \$8, books- \$1.10, trade journal- \$2.25.

(I created the headings, he dated all his entries.)

This entry has nothing to do with the topic at hand but I thought it was too funny not to share. *Aug 16 - 29 Cream taken to town and sold by Hazel which she refused to keep account of Estimate - \$6.33*

At the end of each year Clifford would summarize farm expenses in categories. Example: Total cost of food for family \$557.02 per year, \$1.53? per day. (They has six children) Total family expense: \$1100.01, of this \$240 home produced and \$860 cash outlay. Cost of feeding a farm hand 19.21 cents per day.

If Clifford could feed a farm hand for 19.21¢ a day maybe a senior could eat on \$5.76? a month too, and have a few dollars left for utilities and other necessities. My base pension from the government of Canada is \$451.96 - I might rent a basement suite but I couldn't afford utilities or food.

Shirley Dye

Programs 2011 Winter and Spring

January 19, 2011

Shirley Hocken: History of North Red Deer.
A Century of Change

February 16, 2011

Myrna Kostash: The Reluctant Historian
The Writer Reads the North-West

March 15, 2011

Denise Herr: and Edith Fitch
Canadian University College; The Hilltop Story

April 20, 2011

Don Hepburn:
Remembering the Children;
The Red Deer Indian Industrial School

May 18, 2011

Lawrie Knight Steinbach:
Helen Belyea, an Alberta Maverick

Central Alberta Historical Society Memberships

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code: _____ phone _____

email _____

New ? Renewal O

Alberta History Subscription \$25 _____

Individual Membership \$15 _____

 Membership AND subscription \$35 _____

Family Membership \$25 _____

 Membership AND subscription \$45 _____

I wish to Donate;

HAS Endowment Fund \$ _____

CAHS projects \$ _____

Education projects \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

OUR PRECIOUS HERITAGE



1944 Massey Harris combine with a 15-30 tractor pulling it. Ernie's brother Don operating it. The combine was ordered in 1943 and arrived in Red Deer in 1944. It was sent by rail, in crates. When the combine arrived at the dealership in Red Deer, the McEacherns came in to help put it together. Ernie grew up on a farm south-west of Red Deer in the Waskasoo district; Old Pole Road.



1950 Massey Harris #23 Combine with Ernie's dad, Jim McEachern operating it. The truck is a 2 ton 1952 International.

The process of mechanization on western Canadian farms went full-tilt with the labour shortage, strong demand and vastly increased industrial capability that accompanied the war. The tractor replaced the horse forever and the threshing crew gave way to the swather and combine, which could reduce harvesting to a two-person operation. The government gave high priority to farm machinery because food was needed for the war effort.

Submitted by Ernie McEachern

Merry Christmas
And
Happy New Year