

Travels to Rocky Mountain Park

The Calgary and District Chapter
of the Historical Society
of Alberta

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hsa/chapters/chinook](http://www.albertahistory.org/hsa/chapters/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.



THE CALGARY
FOUNDATION

Today's outdoor enthusiasts can drive from Calgary to Banff National Park in about an hour. But not so long ago, that same trip took all day – back when Model T Fords raced at a breathtaking speed of 25-30 miles per hour.

In those days, Banff National Park was called Rocky Mountain Park, and this protected area included Canmore and her coal mines as well as Exshaw and her cement plant.

Even though the park allowed mining, it had strict rules regarding car travel. W.R. Marshall, an American visitor, recounted the panic he and his companions felt when they were travelling to Banff in 1912. They were nearing Exshaw when they stopped to ask how much farther it was to Banff. It was still 25 miles away, and as Marshall later recalled:

"...we all took a serious look at each other. It was then five o'clock and to reach Banff after six in an automobile meant a fine. ... No automobiles are allowed on the drives at any time, and parties arriving must get in before six o'clock in the evening or pay a penalty. Twenty-five miles of mountain roads such as we were entering and only one hour did not look very encouraging." (*Alberta Historical Review, Vol. 14, No. 4*)

Although Marshall and his group did make it to Banff "on the shady side of six," they were dismayed to find a different fine awaiting them. No cars were allowed on the road in Banff unless the owner bought a special bronze buffalo license – for the hefty fee of \$2!

The first car to enter the national park was in 1904. It sported specially-made flanged



Moraine Lake, Banff National Park
Photo by Karl Strieby, Winnipeg, MB

wheels so it could drive on the railroad. Alarmed park officials immediately banned all cars from the park, fearing the effects on wildlife.

In 1911, the Calgary Auto Club challenged this ruling. They obtained permission to drive to the (now-defunct) town of Anthracite, where they were to park their vehicles and finish the trip to Banff via horse and buggy. Instead, this rebel group drove straight to Banff with the hapless NWMP in hot pursuit – on horseback.

Park officials knew they had been licked. Not only were cars given permission to enter the park, motorists were soon able to travel as far as Lake Minnewanka.

In 1917, there were 67,779 visitors to Rocky Mountain Park, 10,000 of which came by car.

In 1930, the boundary of the park was redrawn, and was renamed Banff National Park. By this time, the park and the automobile had made peace. —Submitted by Ruth Kerr

Upcoming CCHS Programs

February, 2009

Professional Jazz and Pop

Musicians in Calgary: 1900-1950

Presenter: David Klinger

Tuesday, February 24

7:30 pm

Fort Calgary Historic Park

March, 2009

CCHS Annual General Meeting

Guest Speaker: Glenbow Museum

Representative

Tuesday, March 24

AGM: 5:30 pm

Dinner: 6:00 pm

Location: SAIT

April, 2009

The Aerial Adventures of WW I

Flying Ace Freddie McCall

Presenters: Shirlee Matheson and Fred

McCall

Tuesday, April 21

7:30 pm

Fort Calgary Historic Park

May, 2009

Nursing on the Prairies:

1860 to the Present

Presented: Diana Mansell

Tuesday, May 26

7:30 pm

Fort Calgary Historic Park



Send Us Your Articles!

Do you want to share your experiences at a historical event? Do you want to share some research with our readers?

We're looking for articles that are 500-600 words in length, as well as any accompanying photographs. Send your articles and photos to Ruth Kerr at rakerr2@telus.net. -CCHS

From the President

Greetings all! Program Meetings have dominated our events this Fall and Winter, with thanks for Laurel Halladay for arranging this excellent and entertaining series of presentations.

The October Program Meeting was a wonderful presentation by renowned photographer Lawrence Christmas, entitled, "A Brief History of Coal Mining: The Industry from the Miners' Perspective". Lawrence has produced several books of portraits and stories on the subject, and his wonderful photographs showed what can be done with a camera in the hands of a skilled and artistic craftsman.

The November Program Meeting was unusual in that it was presentation by Glenn Wilkinson of the movie, *The 49th Parallel*, addressing the topic of British Wartime Propaganda and Images of Canada. The projection equipment that we are routinely using at our meetings helped make this a standout evening, and the movie was much enjoyed by everyone.

And finally, our January meeting presentation on the Danish Ethnic Communities by Kirstin Bouwsema brought to us the stories of Danish immigrants to Canada during 1903-1939, and how they coped with their new life in Alberta. It was very interesting to understand the dynamics of this thriving community in and around Calgary.

A reminder for those who would like to

attend the February Program Meeting – it is sure to be a sellout. I suggest you come early to be sure of a seat. Pianist David Klinger will talk and play tunes from the era in his talk on "Professional Jazz and Pop Musicians in Calgary, 1900-1950". Those who have seen and heard David before will appreciate his performance style, which we expect to be in period costume!

We are looking forward to our Annual General Meeting being held this year at SAIT on Tuesday, March 24, where you will meet your new Board for 2009-2010 and hear a presentation on the Glenbow Museum. Our thanks to Shona Gourlay for arranging this event; you may contact her at cms@marigold.ab.ca to secure your tickets.

The 2009 CCHS-HSA Conference (May 29-31) is in excellent shape, under the outstanding direction of our coordinator, Trudy Cowan. This promises to be a wonderful and well-attended event with five sessions, tours, Trade Fair and HSA AGM. This is an exceptional bargain for the \$100 HSA member price, especially considering the four meals included in the price (thanks to Trudy's fund-raising success). You will have received your registration brochure in the January mailout of the HSA's *History Now*, and you will receive another with this newsletter. Please feel free to distribute any duplicates you may have to friends and colleagues and we hope to see you there! -CCHS

—Tom Hamp

Solutions to Crossword

(Crossword on page 4)

Across: 1. Briar Hill; 6. Cross; 9. Tip; 10. Sag; 11. Unfurls; 12. Yee; 13. Match; 14. Satin; 16. Desous; 17. Be; 18. Roman; 21. Night cap; 23. Seesaw; 26. April; 28. Petroleum; 30. Keyhole; 32. Ned; 33. Hen; 34. Young; 35. Lay; 36. Ninth.

Down: 1. Betty; 2. Impress; 3. Rosemount; 4. Ingots; 5. Lougheed; 6. Cafes; 7. Orr; 8. Susan; 15. Tom; 16. Don MacKay; 18. Roe; 19. New; 20. Campbell; 22. Grr; 24. Stephen; 25. Stoney; 27. Loo; 29. Ogden; 30. Month; 31. You. -CCHS

Chinook Country Historical Society

Annual General Meeting

Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Time: 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Cash Bar 5:00 - 6:00 pm

Where: MacDonald Hall,

SAIT Campus

1301 - 16 Avenue N.W.

Program:

AGM, Dinner, Speaker

Tickets: \$45/person

(sorry, no refunds)

Tickets on Sale 'Til:

March 16, 2009

To Buy Your Tickets:

Call Shona at 403-243-3516

Guest Speaker: Ken Lima-Coelho

Manager of visitor experience at the Glenbow Museum, CBC Radio
guest host, and a member of the a cappella quartet, The Heebie-Jeebes

VOICES FROM THE PAST

It was New Years Eve, 1907. Needless to say I felt like a very sick person when I saw the place I had come to - my heart sank within me. It was a shack, worse than any henhouse in Scotland. A room downstairs and a room upstairs. A stove in the middle of the floor and a pipe running up through the ceiling to heat the room above. But that was not the worst. A bedstead upstairs and no mattress on it, just newspapers. No quilts, no blankets - an old horse rug was all....So another dilemma had to be faced! I laid down just as I had come off the train and I cried bitterly...I don't know yet how I faced the situation, but after about two weeks there my husband took quinsy - my little boy again took earache. Lucky for me the little girl was more sturdy. I wondered what I would do if my husband died. However he did recover and a couple of weeks later he got a job clearing snow off the railway tracks. There was about ten feet of snow to be cleared away, so for three or four weeks he was kept busy, and February and March dragged along. Then the April sun came through once in a while and I felt more hopeful.

-from the memoirs of
Jean McDonald, a future
Calgarian who came to
Canada from Glasgow

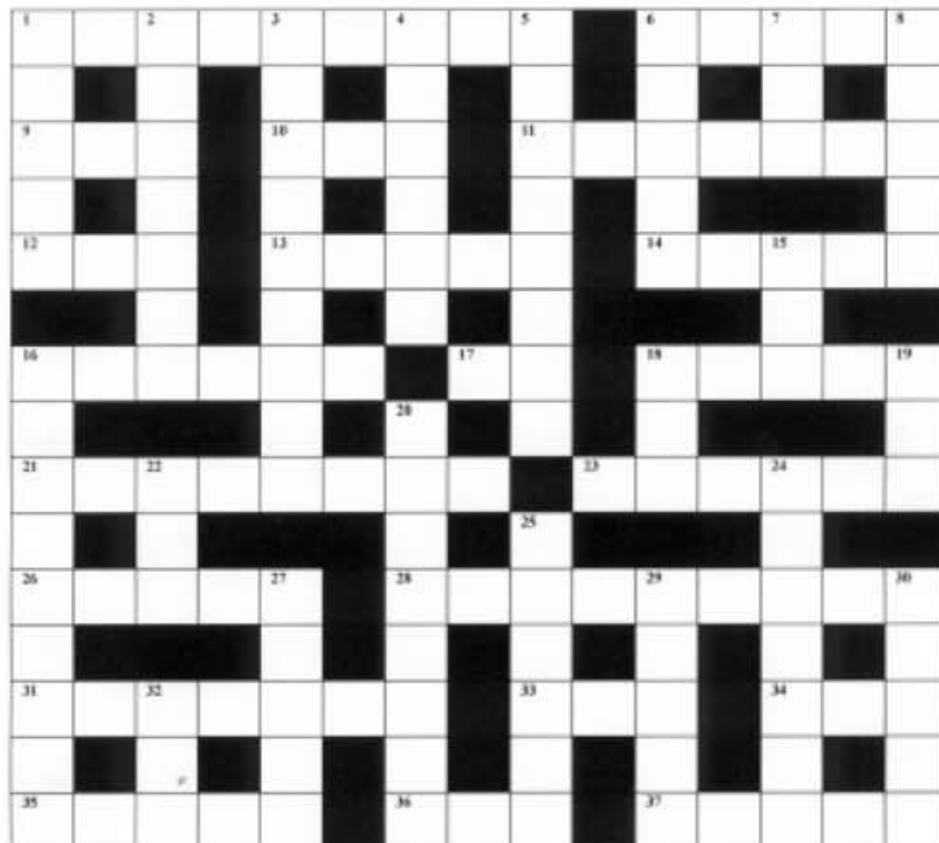
-Submitted by
Laurel Halladay

Local History Crossword

(Solution on page 2)

Across

1. An inner city community in NW Calgary (2 wds.)
6. Big 4 Rancher, A.E. -----
9. A server's reward?
10. To slump or hang
11. Opens or waves, e.g. a flag
12. A call commonly heard at the Calgary Stampede, --- Haw
13. A pairing or game
14. A lustrous fabric
16. Below (Fr.)
17. "To -- or not to --"
18. A type of firework or an ancient empire?
21. Taken at bedtime (2 wds.)
23. A teeter-totter
26. Tax month
28. Oil!
31. A door feature, often
33. Australian outlaw, --- Kelly
34. The rooster's mate
35. ----- Men's Christian Association
36. To put down or spread over
37. Beethoven's ----- Symphony, featuring the "Ode to Joy"



Down

1. Edmonton slum landlady, Elizabeth Abbott, a.k.a "Sweaty -----"
2. To mark, affect forcibly
3. A district in NW Calgary
4. Bars of gold
5. "Beaulieu", once home of sir James -----
6. Diners or tearooms, often
7. Hockey great, Bobby ---
8. A long-serving member of CCHS Executive, ----- Turner
15. CCHS President, --- Hamp
16. Calgary's mayor, 1949-59 (2 wds.)
18. A famous American court case, --- vs. Wade
19. --- York
20. Tom -----'s Hill
22. The sound of an angry dog?
24. ----- Avenue Mall
25. The ----- First Nation, west of Calgary
27. A washroom in England!
29. A district in SE Calgary
30. Unit of a year
32. A personal pronoun

—Jennifer Prest

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Newsletter Submissions: The deadline for the Spring issue is **MONDAY, MAY 25, 2009**. Please send your article and/or photos to Ruth Kerr at rakerr2@telus.net.

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,
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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		