



CHINOOK COUNTRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2010

The Other McClung

The Calgary and District Chapter
of the Historical Society
of Alberta

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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

Most Albertans have heard and read of Nellie McClung. But what about a Mr. McClung? Indeed, was there a Mr. McClung? The fact that Nellie had five children would suggest that there was, indeed. He was Wesley McClung and known to his friends as Wes.

On the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary, Nellie described their meeting: It came about through Nellie's Bible class teacher who had mentioned that she had a son with red hair. Red! That was Nellie's favourite colour and she was determined to meet him. Nellie wrote "I went into the drug store where he was employed and purchased a fountain pen with my last three dollars. He had no chance to escape after that." Nellie and Wesley McClung were married in 1896.

Wes was a young pharmacist trying to earn enough money to set up his own pharmacy. In time, he did so and the young couple lived above the drug store, which was in Manitou, Manitoba, for 15 years.

Wes was a good pharmacist and a conscientious one. Indeed his attention to detail and for accuracy in his work became a problem. As Nellie related in her biography: "He had the drugstore in Manitou now. Wes was a worrier. Had all the prescriptions been filled properly? Were the drugs all locked up securely? The strain was beginning to tell on his disposition, so we sold the drug store. He tried farming at first but when he received an invita-

tion to join the Manufacturers Life, we moved to Winnipeg."

Times were ripe for insurance salesmen. Wesley McClung had found his niche and did very well in the insurance business. Indeed, it was his success which caused the family to move further west and to become Albertans. Wes was transferred to Edmonton where he became circuit manager for the company, then later the firm moved him to Calgary with still more responsibility.

The family lived in a beautiful and spacious house at 1501-7th Street SW. They attended nearby Wesley United Church and because of this, as well as Nellie's activities, they no doubt met and knew Dr. George Kerby who was a

United Church minister at Central United Church but who had been a minister at Wesley United and who probably returned there from time to time to give guest sermons.

The former McClung house is now a Heritage site and will remain where it is and as it is for years to come. When one passes this house one will be reminded of Nellie McClung and the many fine contributions she made to this city, this province and this country.

Perhaps now, one will also be reminded of the tall, handsome man with the reddish hair turning to sandy grey, who was by her side for 55 years until she died at Gordon Head, Victoria, in 1951. Wesley followed her five years later. ©CHS

— Ken Penley



Wesley McClung - 1930
Courtesy Glenbow Archives
NA-5186-5

Calendar of Events



February 23rd:

Movie Theatres on Stephen Avenue: The Case of the Empress

The history of the Empress Theatre.



March 23rd:

CCHS Annual General Meeting

See page 3 for details.



April 27th:

Ernest Manning: the Accidental Politician

The history of Ernest Manning from Saskatchewan farm boy to Alberta's longest-serving premier.



May 25th:

A History of Arabs and Muslims in Alberta

The 100-year story of Arabs and Muslims in our province.



All events, except the AGM, are free programs at 7:30 p.m. at Fort Calgary Historic Park (750-9 Avenue SE).

From the President

Program meetings at Fort Calgary, organized by Laurel Halladay, included:

- The Waldron Ranch Story 1883 – 1907 by author Warren Elofson
- The Grandfather of the Buffalo: Fossils in the Culture and Beliefs of the Nitsitapii (Cory Gross)
- Proud to be White: The Ku Klux Klan in Alberta (William Baergen)
- Early Pioneers — Struggles and Triumphs (Edie Postill Cole) in conjunction with the Christmas Lunch on December 12

Proud to be White filled the Fort Calgary auditorium and we received a threat about the talk. Needless to say it generated some interest in Calgary. As usual the Christmas luncheon (thanks to Sarah Harvey and Shona Gourlay) was sold out and Early Pioneers brought back the “good old days” that sound romantic but were very challenging.

CCHS has been invited to attend Historical Institutions meetings in Calgary. The core group may expand but at present consists of Heritage Park Historical Village, The Calgary Stampede, Fort Calgary,

Lougheed House and Glenbow Museum. Carrol Jaques has been our representative.

Our AGM on March 23, 2010 will have the President and CEO of the Heritage Park Historical Village, Alida Visbach, as the guest speaker. The Ranchmen's Club will be the historic location.

Historic Calgary Week 2009 was very well attended. The co-chairs — Kate Reeves, Janice Lowe, Roberta Ryckman and Linda Purdy — deserve more than congratulations. They attended a preliminary meeting to help CCHS begin to think of 2010. Their commitment and expertise is needed and valued, and they will assist in picking a paid coordinator for HCW 2010. Carrol Jaques has applied for grants from the Alberta Community Initiative Program and the Federal Government's Building Communities Through Arts and Culture Program and has obtained a \$2,000 grant from the City of Calgary.

CCHS is in the final stages of entering into an Agency Agreement with the Bowness Historical Society.

The Living History Project is in its nascent stage. CCHS

— Henry Murzyn

Editorial

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Bill Longstaff and with this edition I assume the responsibilities and pleasures of editor/designer of this newsletter. I have a broad background in writing and editing as an author of books and articles, as a communications instructor at SAIT, and working with other newsletters. When the job became available, this background combined with my interest in history insisted that I apply, and the Board graciously accepted my applica-

tion. My biggest challenge of course will be to maintain the high standard that Ruth Kerr brought to the task during her tenure. I will, I promise you, do my best.

If you have something to say to your fellow members, a news item or a story drawn from our history, or if you simply have ideas about what the newsletter should be doing, we want to hear from you. Submissions may be edited for length or clarity. CCHS

— Bill Longstaff

Solutions to Crossword

(Crossword on page 4)

Across: 1. Cantos, 4. Tyrrell, 8. Intel, 9. Tuned, 10. Taw, 11. Oil, 12. Youth, 13. Diner, 14. Kwong, 16. Sanders, 19. Era, 20. Reads, 23. Cabot, 25. Allen, 27. Nee, 28. Tutor, 30. No, 31. LDS, 32. Ash, 33. Dee, 34. Only

Down: 1. Chinook, 2. Natal, 3. Oxley, 4. Tenth, 5. Rod, 6. Eaton, 7. Lowery, 8. Trussed, 13. Duerr, 14. Grant, 17. Nickle, 18. Shawnessy, 21. Sweeny, 22. Scotia, 23. Butch, 24. Annie, 25. Nolan, 29. Red

CHINOOK COUNTRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AGM & DINNER

Guest Speaker:
Alida Visbach
President & CEO
Heritage Park

Tue March 23/10
Bennett Room
Ranchmen's Club
710, 13 Ave SW

Doors Open: 5:00 pm
Mini-Tour: 5:10 pm
AGM: 5:30 pm
Dinner: 6:30 pm
Speaker: 7:30 pm
Cash Bar
Parking Available

Tickets: \$45
For Reservations Call:
Sarah Harvey:
403-730-1771

Alida Visbach brings 28 years of hospitality, tourism, and heritage institution management experience to Canada's largest living history museum. She launched the institution's largest single capital campaign and expansion project. With over \$63-million raised, the project is 95% complete, expanding the Park's time period from 1914 to the 1940s.

Ranchmen's code of dress: smart casual. No jeans, T-shirts, athletic shoes, sweats, etc. are permitted. Inappropriate attire may result in refusal of entry into the building.

Voices from the Past

4 January 1916

"Prisoners of war complaining about an insufficient supply of winter clothing. This was supplied as far as possible by the Supply Officer. He, however, lacks large Shoepacks, Mackinaws and other necessities. Weather cold. Two Prisoners of War arrived in camp today."

11 January 1916

"The P. of W. were not sent out to work today on account of the extremely low temperature; the temperature registering 40 degrees below zero. They were employed cutting wood for the camp and cleaning up generally in hour shifts. Two P. of W. arrived today."

17 January 1916

"At about 1 a.m. this morning a shot was fired at a suspicious looking object moving in the underbrush, by the sentry of No. 6 post. The Bugler sounded the alarm and the Guard and soldiers off duty were turned out. An inspection was made of the surrounding ground but no trace of any tracks except those of a deer were discovered. The prisoners were counted and found all present so it was concluded that the sentry fired at a deer. P. of W. turned out to work at the usual time and worked satisfactorily."

— diary entries written by officers in charge of the Castle Mountain Internment Camp near Banff during the Great War, Glenbow Archives

— Submitted by
Laurel Halladay

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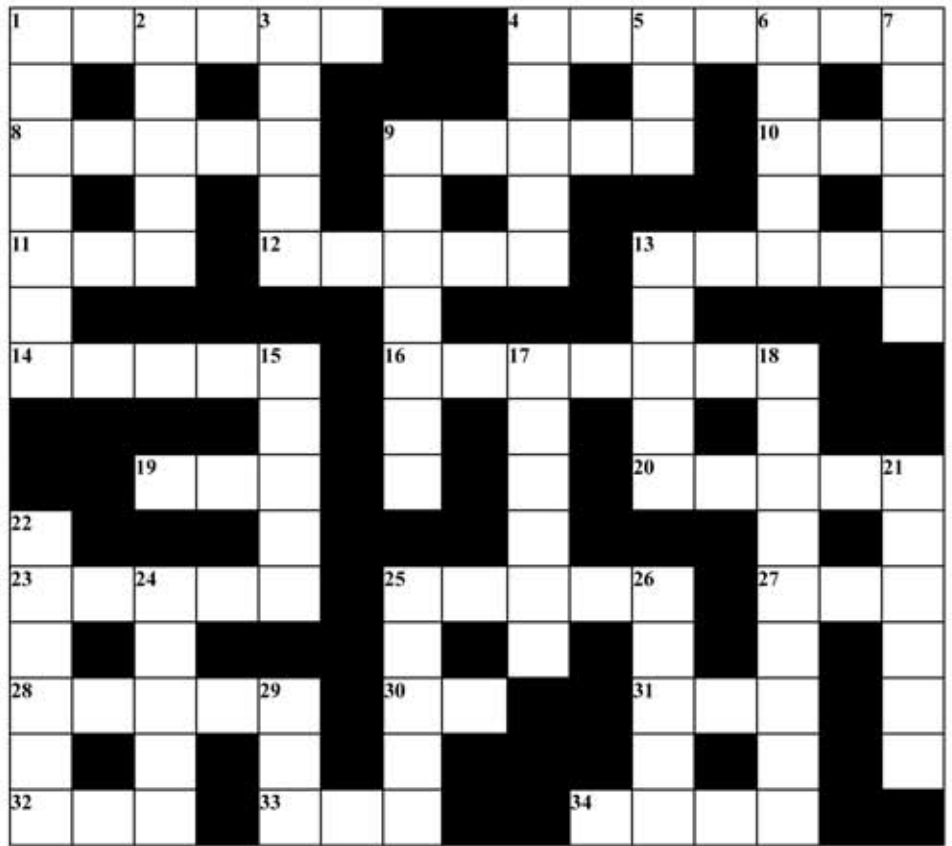
Glenbow Museum and Archives
Stockmen's Memorial Foundation
Sure Print & Copy, Cochrane
Town of Cochrane
Tremar Computer Solutions

Local History Crossword

(Solution on page 2)

Across

1. Calgary's unique _____ Music Museum
4. The Royal _____ Museum in Drumheller
8. A manufacturer of computer chips
9. Fixed a piano
10. A marble
11. A mineral that has played a large role in Calgary's economy
12. The young _____
13. A place to eat
14. Alberta's Lt. Gov. Norman _____
16. Calgary historian, Harry _____
19. An important period of time
20. Studies, peruses, evaluates
23. The _____ Trail on Cape Breton
25. The _____ Bill Pond west of Bragg Creek
27. A society word for 'formerly'
28. A teacher or instructor
30. James Bond's early foe, Dr. _____
31. Mormon Church (init.)
32. A cinder; tree
33. Sixties' film star, Sandra _____
34. Sole, alone, barely



Down

1. Calgary's famous westerly wind, the _____
2. Nascent or initial
3. _____ ranch, founded by John Craig and Alexander Stavely Hill in the 1880's, near Claresholm
4. Kensington's main drag, _____ Street
5. Calgary's 33rd mayor, _____ Sykes
6. Once a major downtown shopping mall, the _____ Centre
7. The Brown-_____ Park S.W. of Calgary
9. Bound; fasten
13. Calgary's 37th mayor, Al _____
15. Calgary's 31st mayor, J.W. _____ MacEwan
17. The _____ Arts Museum at the University of Calgary
18. A neighbourhood in SW Calgary
21. The mad barber of London, _____ Todd
22. Nova _____
24. Famed outlaw _____ Cassidy
25. Calgary's first female school trustee, _____ Foote
26. Early Calgary lawyer, Paddy _____
29. Calgary street car, the _____ Line, to Bowness

— Jennifer Prest

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Newsletter Submissions: The deadline for the Summer issue is May 17, 2010.

Please send your article and/or photos to Bill Longstaff at ballot@shaw.ca.

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, P.O. Box 4035, Station C, Calgary AB T2T 5M9

Associate membership	\$15.00	Family membership	\$25.00	Affiliate membership	\$55.00
Annual Subscription	\$25.00	Annual Subscription	\$25.00	(school, museum,	
Total	\$40.00	Total	\$50.00	library, historical society)	
Purchased together	\$35.00	Purchased together	\$45.00	Associate membership	\$120.00