



Volume 51 no. 4
March 28, 2019
Barbara Watson - editor

S M O K E S I G N A L S

Historical Society of Medicine Hat and District

General Meeting
Thursday, March 28, 2019
Public Library Theatre, 7:00pm

Programme:
Pioneer Village



Austin's General Store in Pioneer Village

Historical Society of Medicine Hat and District
401 First St. S.E., Medicine Hat, AB T1A 8W2
Membership is \$10 per person.
This includes 5 editions of
SMOKE SIGNALS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Stepping in for Wayne Craven this month is our Vice President, Wes Krause. He chaired our executive meeting, and at the end added a bit of history that has touched every Medicine Hat resident. Research had led him to the bubble wrap. That seems frivolous, but we found it not only amusing but also intriguing. Apparently bubble wrap was first designed as a textured wall paper. People who worked with it soon saw its potential for wrapping computers that needed to be shipped from here to anywhere. The most recent use or application is as an exceptionally entertaining toy. You can pop it all you want and it never runs out and then makes a crazy sound (doorbell, dog. It ranked among the most popular toys in, I'm going to say the world, because it's amazing how plastic makes its way to the farthest reaches of the earth. I have some bubble wrap with my wrapping cache and will haul it out when awareness of political conflict becomes overwhelming. It might be a clever way of staying out of those heated conversations at the local coffee shop.

Living History Project Report

The Rural and Ranch Video Project (Laurel Schlaht, Pat Cook and Frank Webber) has been proceeding as summarized here:

- Helen Gilham (Suffield Block Farm Expropriation; interviewer Laurel Schlaht)
- Dave Spencer (Historic 76 Ranch at Stair (Redcliff area); interviewer Allan Jensen)
- Evelyn Hausauer (Irvine & District Agricultural history; interviewer Laurel Schlaht)
- Everett Burk (All-Around Cowboy; interviewer Pat Cook)
- Marilyn Burke (Western Sculptor & Rancher's Daughter; interviewer Laurel Schlaht)
- Ben Hern (Rancher – Bindloss Area & 1977 Canadian All-Around Cowboy Champ; interviewer Don McLennan)
- Don McLennan (former Medicine Hat Stampede President; his life growing up on a large ranch along Red Deer River west of Empress, Alberta; interviewer Laurel Schlaht)
- Doug Ellis (Ranching Life; Ancestor was brought to Canada by Sir Lister Kaye to work at 76 Ranch - "Stair"; interviewer Laurel Schlaht.
- Lyle Taylor (Upcoming - Medicine Hat Feeding Company; interviewer Dave Spencer)
- Gena LaCoste (Upcoming - Western Painter & Historic Armstrong Ranch (East& West Ranch; interviewer Tom Hamp)

The 10-interview project is expected to be finalized over the next several months. Hats off to Laurel and her team for a great set of interviews. We anticipate their broadcast on Shaw over the next several months.

We are awaiting response for a possible 3 additional video interviews/projects; details of those will be made known as soon as we have confirmation.

Medicine Hat and District Historical Society Executive

Past President: Tom Hamp
 President: Wayne Craven
 First Vice President: Wes Krause
 Second Vice President: Earl Morris
 Secretary: Kris Samraj
 Treasurer, Finance, and Budget: Larry Godin
 Programmes: Allan Jensen
 Casino: Judy Morris
 Director at Large: Len Sharland
 Historian: Lorine Marshall
 Newsletter Editor and Membership: Barbara Watson
 Bookkeeper: Brenda Bryce

PROGRAMMES

1. March 28, 2019
 Topic: Pioneer Village (Medicine Hat Exhibition grounds)
 Speakers: D'arci Lawrence and Natalie Weir
 Public Library Theatre - 7:00p.m.
2. May 23, 2019 - **Annual General Meeting**
 Esplanade studio theatre - 7:00p.m.

Casino News: Please mark September 12 and 13, 2019 on your calendar and consider strongly volunteering to work at the Casino those days. We earn a substantial amount of money this way, which goes to our operating budget. Thank you, Judy Morris, for continuing to organize this event. Contact Judy as soon as you can to commit to contributing this valuable fundraising effort:

403 529-9231 - ejmorris@shaw.ca.

In Memoriam:

Angela Stubbs: passed away in Mexico

Angela Jennifer Stubbs, 76, formerly of Medicine Hat, beloved wife of the late Graham Stubbs, passed away on Saturday, February 23, 2019 while on vacation in Mexico. Upon her return to Canada, a service, followed by the placing of Angela's ashes will be held at the Pattison Funeral Home and Hillside Cemetery, where she will rest with her husband Graham. Arrangements will be announced when completed. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the gofundme set up by Angela's family to help bring her home to rest. <https://www.gofundme.com/angela-stubbs-mum-medical-assistance>. To e-mail an expression of sympathy, please direct it to: pattfh@telusplanet.net subject heading: Angela Stubbs, or you may visit <http://www.pattisonfuneralhome.com> and leave a message of condolence.

Funeral Arrangements are by the PATTISON FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATORIUM 540 South Railway St. SE, Medicine Hat T1A 4C2

Carol Ann Ross: passed away in Palm Springs, California

1940 ~ 2019

It is with heavy hearts that we announce that Carol Ann Ross passed away peacefully at the Christian Science Broadview Nursing Facility in Los Angeles, California in the early morning of Tuesday, March 5, 2019, at the age of 78 years. A Celebration of Carol Ann's life will be held at a later date and will be announced at that time.

(Condolences may be expressed by visiting our website at <http://www.cooksouthland.com>) Honoured to serve the family is

Cook Southland Funeral Chapel, 901 – 13th Street S.W. Medicine Hat, Alberta T1A 4V4 Phone 403-527-6455

*Both of these ladies worked on the **War Brides** book. It is still available through Lorine Marshall. The stories gathered by co-writers Angela, Carol Ann, Doreen Hortness, and Kath Kilcullen, were a worthy history of Medicine Hat. The book was sponsored by the Medicine Hat and District Historical Society.*

Winter Dreams

It is almost Spring as I compose this little essay and will be Spring when you receive our newsletter. Our winter has been particularly nasty with temperatures of -36 making my car brakes almost non-functioning. I did not know that the brake fluid could get so cold that liquid would turn to chewing gum. The temperature stayed stubbornly in the very low double digits, and I stayed at home. My mind drifted to the delight of warm weather and to golfing. I have a few clubs, a little rolling thing for the bag, a few golf balls gathered on walks at Police Point Park, but I do not golf, anymore.

I am writing about golfing because on my winter walks at the Medicine Hat Mall an acquaintance gave me a great idea for a historical tidbit for this month's Smoke Signals. She said that I should write about the oldest golf club in Medicine Hat and interview some die-hard golf people.

At this point the Medicine Hat Golf and Country Club is the oldest and was established in 1913. It is a beautiful course, which I actually tried for the first three holes, before it dawned on me that this walking in the brilliant sun with the wind blowing tiny rocks from the sand traps, and

a few mosquitoes feeding on my precious blood, was not for me. The foursome became a happy threesome having cheerfully waved their slow fourth goodbye.

So, what made those three - typical golfers - carry on with an intent to get the ball into the little hole faster than their pals? What is this handicap thing anyway? Are serious golfers, or goofs as P.G. Wodehouse calls them, honest when stating their handicaps, honest when counting their strokes, and honest when hitting a ball from somewhere in the rough? And does it really matter if you add a few honest strokes to your tally? To many it is extremely important. There is also competition for the bag of goodies if you win at a friendly tournament. I receive these goodies from a relative who does not want them. There is enough brand shampoo in my bathroom to last until summer, thanks to my relative's winning scores. It is time for that eager, focused relative to brave the brilliant sun, the mosquitoes, and the wind, so that I can hope for more hair product.

The description above is somewhat cynical, but some of our young golfers have gone into competition to win scholarships with their skills and dedication to the sport. One young lady won a scholarship to Tulane University. She encountered greater challenges than mosquitoes. There were occasional alligators on the course. Or were they crocodiles? Do you remember the Happy Gilmore movie and the man with the wooden hand? Crocodile!

A hugely successful writer called P.G. Wodehouse wrote many hilarious stories about golf. I would love to quote the whole book, but will choose a few sentences that show you his attitude to this game that makes many people confirmed addicts to the sport.

"The trouble about reaching the age of ninety-two, which I did last October, is that regrets for a misspent life are bound to creep in, and whenever you see me with a furrowed brow you can be sure that what is on my mind is the thought that if only I had taken up golf earlier and devoted my whole time to it instead of fooling about writing stories and things, I might have got my handicap down to under eighteen." The Golf Omnibus: P.G. Wodehouse; ©1973



Playing the ball where it lies as imagined by Pelham Grenville Wodehouse and drawn by Paul Cox.

A CONTINUED REQUEST

*In order to keep up with current regulations, we ask that you fill out the following form. It will ensure that we deal with your contact information in an appropriate manner. **FOIP***

About 6 people have handed in the forms. Thank you. If you are **not** one of the six, please consider filling out the form and getting it to us.

Barbara

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION & PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT

The personal information is collected under the authority of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, Section 33c. I authorize that the following personal information may be used for membership purposes only and will not be made public.

Name:	yes	no	
Residence address:	yes	no	
Residence phone number:	yes	no	n/a
Cell phone:	yes	no	n/a
Business phone number:	yes	no	n/a
E-mail address:	yes	no	n/a
Date:			
Signature:			

Membership Dues

Thanks to those who updated their memberships to the end of May 2019. If you have not done so, please use the form at the end of this newsletter to complete your payment. Cheques are ideal, but cash is fine if attached to the form, please, to make sure your money is connected to your name.

Please do **not** hand your fee to your best friend to give me. If you cannot give it to me or to someone working the desk with me, mail it in with the form. The address is on that form. I have a few receipts to hand out. Stop by at the meeting to pick up yours. BMW

The Historical Society of Medicine Hat & District partners with the Esplanade Archives in *preserving* and *promoting* our rich *heritage*. The Archives are a valuable resource for family research and local historical information. To make an appointment, the Archives may be contacted at 403 502 8582 or at 401 First Street S.E. Medicine Hat, AB. T1A 8W2, also at kimunr@medicinehat.ca

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The Historical Society of Medicine Hat and District website: www.histsocmedhat.ca

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Membership form:

Please Print (or use copperplate script. How I wish someone could!)

Name.....Tel. #.....

Address.....
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.....

Postal Code.....Email.....

Fees attached for.....person(s) at \$10 per person for a total of \$.....

Date..... Signature.....

Please make cheques payable to:

Historical Society of Medicine Hat & District
401 First Street SE,
Medicine Hat, AB, T1A 8W2

Any member wishing to receive the newsletter by email, kindly contact Barbara Watson - barbara.watson78@yahoo.com