



Volume 52, no. 1  
September 13 and 26, 2019  
Barbara Watson - editor

# **S M O K E   S I G N A L S**

***Historical Society of Medicine Hat and District***

**Elizabeth St. School:** 826 - 11 ST SE Room 1

Friday, September 13, 2019

**Esplanade** - Studio Theatre

Thursday, September 26, 2019



Focus: Hope Johnson (image - Dan Quinsey)

**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

*S M O K E   S I G N A L S*

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

### **Medicine Hat and District Historical Society Executive**

Past President: Tom Hamp  
 President: Wayne Craven  
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 Secretary: Kris Samraj  
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 Programmes: Allan Jensen  
 Casino: Judy Morris  
 Director at Large: Evan Tonin  
 Director at Large: Laurel Schlaht  
 Historian: Lorine Marshall  
 Newsletter Editor and Membership: Barbara Watson  
 Bookkeeper: Brenda Bryce

### **Historical Contribution** from Wes Krause.

*It's early, but we don't meet again until November, so we might call it Halloween in September. Wes has traced this story back to 800 AD. That is a tremendous investigation, quite amazing, and definitely intriguing.*

### **Trick or Treat!!!**

The vast majority of the traditions commonly associated with Halloween today are borrowed or adapted from four different festivals, namely:

- The Roman *Feralia* festival, commemorating the dead
- The Roman Pomona festival, honoring the goddess of fruit and trees

-The Celtic festival *Samuin*, meaning “summer’s end”, (also called “Samhain”) which the bulk of Halloween traditions ultimately stem from

-The Catholic “All Soul’s Day” and “All Saints’ Day”, which was instigated around 800ce by the Church to try to replace *Samuin*.

The practice of wearing costumes or masks during this sort of end of Autumn celebration comes from a Celtic end of year (they celebrated their New Year on November 1) *Samuin* tradition. During *Samuin*, young men impersonating evil spirits by dressing up in white costumes with blackened faces or masks. It was believed that during the transition from one year to the next, the realms of the living and the dead would overlap allowing the dead to roam the Earth again. Thus, by dressing up as spirits, they were trying to fool actual spirits into thinking they were as well, which is particularly helpful when encountering evil spirits.

Beginning in the 8th century, the Catholic Church was trying to provide an activity that would hopefully stamp out the old *Samuin* traditions. They came up with “All Hallows Even (evening)”, “All Soul’s Day”, and “All Saints’ Day”. Many of the traditions of *Samuin* were then adapted into these festivities and by the 11th century, the Church had adapted the Celtic costume tradition to dressing up as saints, angels, or demons during this celebration.

As for the trick or treating, or “guising” (from “disguising”), traditions, beginning in the Middle-Ages, children and sometimes poor adults would dress up in the aforementioned costumes and go around door to door during Hallowmas begging for food or money in exchange for songs and prayers, often said on behalf of the dead. This was called “souling” and the children were called “soulers”.

The earliest known reference to “trick or treat”, printed in the November 4, 1927 edition of the Blackie, Alberta Canada Herald, talks of this,

“Hallowe’en provided an opportunity for real strenuous fun. No real damage was done except to the temper of some who had to hunt for wagon wheels, gates, wagons, barrels, etc., much of which decorated the front street. The youthful tormentors were at back door and front demanding edible plunder by the word “trick or treat” to which the inmates gladly responded and sent the robbers away rejoicing.”

An example of a relatively recent (19th century) souling song is as follows:

A soul! a soul! a soul-cake!  
 Please good Missis, a soul-cake!  
 An apple, a pear, a plum, or a cherry,  
 Any good thing to make us all merry.  
 One for Peter, two for Paul  
 Three for Him who made us all.

Bonus Facts:

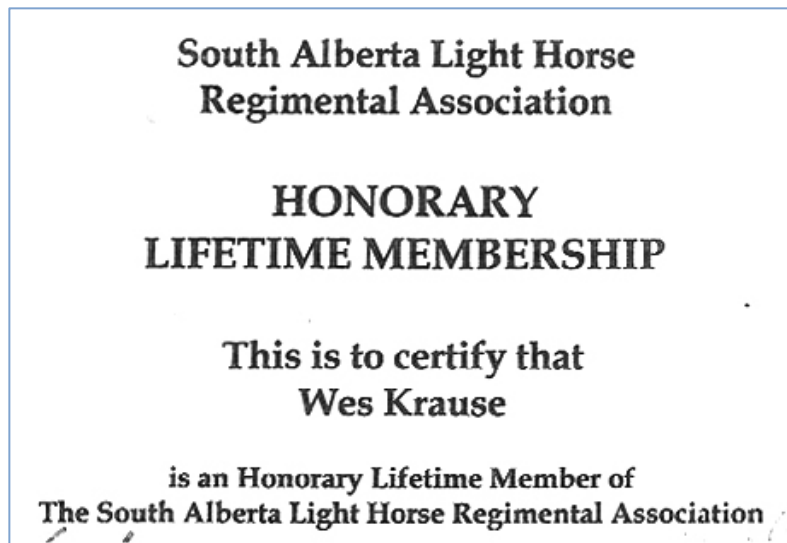
- In parts of Mexico, rather than saying the Spanish equivalent of “trick or treat”, “dulce o travesura” (literally “candy or mischief”), it is common to say ¿Me da mi calaverita? (“Can you give me my little skull?”)

- During *Samuin*, it was also traditional to leave a place and food at the table for deceased loved ones temporarily returned from the grave.
- The word Halloween originally came from the Middle English '*Alholowmesse*', meaning "All Saints' Day". The night before *Alholowmesse* was called "All Hallows Even (evening)" which was eventually shortened to "Hallowe'en" until it just became "Halloween" in the 20th century.
- In North America alone around \$3 billion is spent on Halloween costumes.
- Haunted house attractions bring in about half a billion dollars annually.
- Halloween candy sales average around \$2 billion per year in the United States. Chocolate candy bars are consistently rated as the #1 treat to get, with the Snickers candy bar being most preferred. In addition, Reese's peanut butter cups and candy corn are among the most sold Halloween candy items.
- Over 35 million Halloween cards are given every year, producing close to a gross of \$100 million.
- As you might have guessed from these numbers, Halloween is the second most commercially successful holiday world-wide after Christmas.
- Around 35 million children in the U.S. between 5 and 13 years old go trick or treating every year, which is around 90% of all children in that age group.
- Around 50% of adults in the U.S. will dress up for Halloween and about 67% will attend a Halloween party or go trick or treating with their children.

Enjoy the fall and do not forget to feed the Halloween revelers.

Excerpts from "Smithsonian.com" and "today I found out.com".

**Thank you for your research, Wes, and congratulations on this award. We salute you!**



**PROGRAMMES:** This month we have two programmes, which is why the newsletter is early. You are receiving it as a paper letter because of the receipts I am sending to you as well.

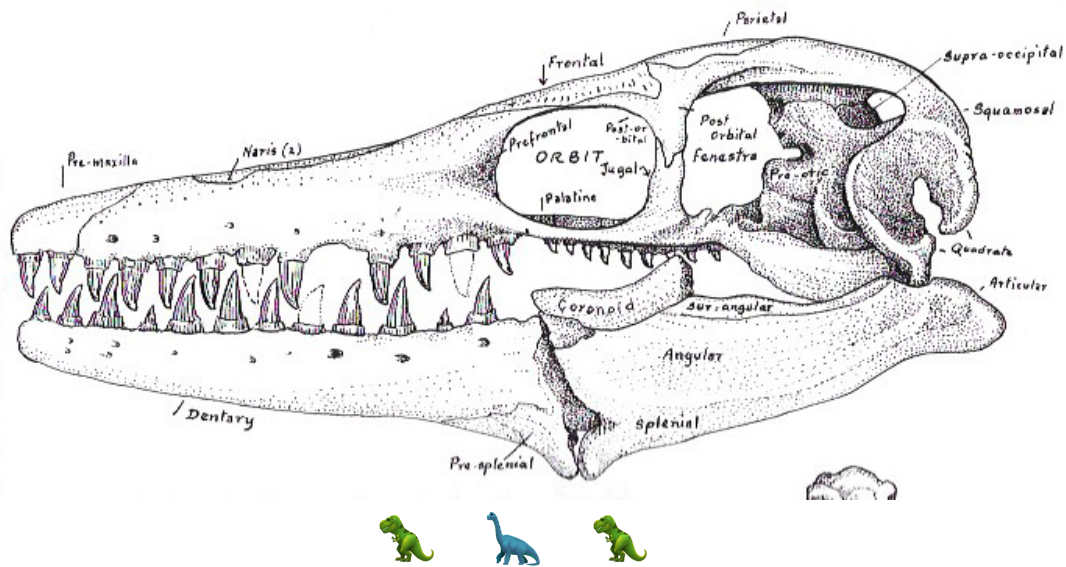
1. **Friday September 13, 2019 - Margaret Crawford**, a member of our club who has many family ties to Medicine Hat, asked us to arrange for an opportunity to introduce visiting cousins from Ireland.

“Some members of the Stewart/ Bassett families would like to make a presentation to the Medicine Hat Historical Society and members of the public on Friday, September 13, 2019 at the Elizabeth St. School at 1:30 p.m.. Our talk would include our family connections to the Slacks, Stones, Bells/Richardsons, Beckers and Crawfords—all families who had roots in the Hat several decades ago. There will be time at the end for questions and mingling.”



2. **September 26, 2019.** In our regular meeting **Darren Tanke** will present his *Hope Johnson* book, a work that has likely taken blood, sweat and tears to produce. I am not exaggerating, perhaps a little dramatic, but it is important to recognize the time and energy that goes into such an enterprise. Darren is a senior Technician at the Royal Tyrrell museum in Drumheller in charge of fossil preparation. It was here that he met Hope Johnson and in the badlands around the city that they pursued a shared passion for paleontology. Allan Jensen, whose determination to have Darren make this exciting presentation to our society, will tell us more as he introduces Darren.

Below is one of Hope Johnson's exquisite drawings.

Figure 15. Skull terminology, illustrated with the mosasaur *Pli*

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### Don't forget:

**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](mailto:ejmorris@shaw.ca).

### Summer events:

*Lorine's cemetery walk* - the weather was great. Lorine's research and respect for her subjects made the presentation so valuable, as always.

*Living history* - By the time you receive this newsletter, the interviews will have been completed. If you have missed any of them, you can arrange to see them at the Esplanade archives. Just make an appointment for a private showing. You can also purchase any one of them.

Dave Spencer  
Marilyn Burk  
Don McLennan  
Gena Lacoste  
Doug Ellis

**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*

As they come in, I hand them to Larry Godin, our treasurer.

If someone wants to tabulate the requests on these forms, please let Larry know.

**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.

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

**Membership Dues**

**Time to pay your memberships to May 2020. You will be receiving recent and past receipts in a letter. I will do the same next September, all to empty my little file folder.**

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 [jenutr@medicinehat.ca](mailto:jenutr@medicinehat.ca).

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**The Historical Society of Medicine Hat and District website:** [www.histsocmedhat.ca](http://www.histsocmedhat.ca)

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**Paint&water2Membership form:**

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

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

Address.....  
.....  
.....

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](mailto:barbara.watson78@yahoo.com)