

# HISTORICAL SOCIETY

of Medicine Hat and District Newsletter



Local Jazz Band  
5879-01

## President's Message

*Medicine Hat and District Historical Society*

**Next Meeting:**

**AGM May 26th, 2022**

**7pm @ Esplanade Cutbanks Room**

First, I must say that we, as a society, have seen and experienced an event that has had global implications and has created tragedies for all who were so adversely affected.

Our Society has dealt with the challenges presented by stressing our goal of protecting the health and safety of our members through understanding and compassion. We have had disagreements at time though the primary goal of our executive and board has remained true to our cause and we have achieved that to the best of our capabilities.

As your President, I bear the responsibility of ensuring the Society functions efficiently and adheres to our secondary goals of the preservation and promotion of the rich history of our city and the district it resides in. Even though we have been unable to conduct regular meetings for our members, there has been considerable work in the background that has produced great results. Many projects have been brought to completion and others are being addressed as I write this. The work continues and will not slow down in the foreseeable future.

It is with humility and pride that I bring my term of office, as your president, to a close. I will not let my name stand for any executive positions saving Past President going forward. It is with great pride that I express to our Executive and Board both past and present my sincere gratitude and appreciation for their support. Without these dedicated people this society would be a just a shadow of itself and simply a name in essence.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the Society, it has truly been an honor working with all of you.

Gratefully yours;

*Wes Krause*

President  
Medicine Hat and District Historical Society

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# Important Message to Members

*The Historical Society needs your Help!*

*Wes Krause & Executives*

We are excited to invite you back to the Annual General Meeting on May 26th, 2022, hosted at the Esplanade Cutbanks Room, at 7pm. It has been a long time since we were able to meet in person, and we welcome the ability to converge with you again. While at this meeting, the Historical Society will see an election of officers which I must address.

We have had great difficulty recruiting members who are willing to serve the society in the capacity of an Executive position. Notwithstanding the current COVID pandemic, it seems many members are hesitant to get involved with our society. The shift in Provincial restrictions should now ease the concern of many of our members.

With this in mind, we have not had a First Vice President, who would normally move into the position of President at the termination of the current term. This presents a very difficult situation for the Society to address. Without a President and First Vice President the society will be unable to fulfill the requirements of Corporate Registry. Currently, we have a Treasurer, and Secretary, both of which are required by the Provincial body. The lack of key executive members threatens the existence of the Society and all the amazing work it does for the community.

If no members step forward for the positions of President and First Vice President by the May Annual General Meeting, we will extend the nomination process until September. **If the positions are not filled by that time the society will need to suspend operations and may very well consider dissolution of the society completely.** At that point the Historical Society will cease to exist and all operations will come to an end with all funds frozen.

The Society needs your help, it is in your hands! The last thing we want to see is the dissolution of our society. Please consider assisting us and taking on a rewarding position on our Executive board. Contact the Secretary Kris Samraj, [krissamraj@gmail.com](mailto:krissamraj@gmail.com), Phone 403-878-7690, for more information.

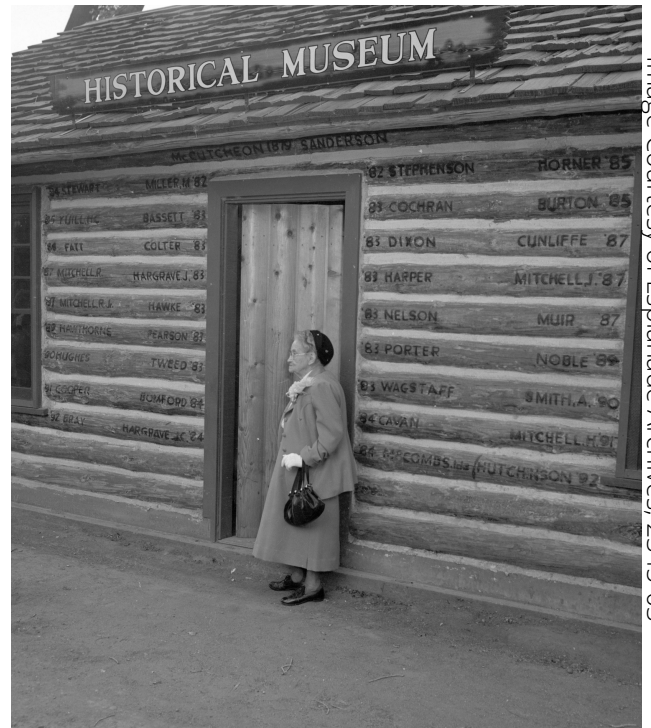


Image Courtesy of Esplanade Archives, 2345-03

# Lew, Bobb, Stan and Wylie

*How one badly-worded Description Changed it All*

*by J. Barrientos*

Within the collections here at the Esplanade Archives, are some 100,000 accessioned and described individual photographs. Some of these descriptions date back to the early 1950s, when they were typed and collected on card catalogues. Once we moved digital, and started our database, these descriptions were all migrated online in a very tedious process. Suffice to say, sometimes these descriptions end up being a little... muddled.

For example, I was searching for local jazz musicians for a project I was working on in the Archives. During my research, I came across the image pictured below. The description read: "Lew, Bobb, Stan and Wylie". It was dated March 20, 1961. In particular, the title of the image read "Wylie's Band." I was intrigued at the image, as it was taken by McCorkle Studios, meaning that the band would have some sort of local connection. But I had never heard of "Wylie's Band". I scoured through the Medicine Hat News during the 1960s, and came up with nothing. I looked for other references to the band in other cities, thinking perhaps that they were on tour and visited Medicine Hat. Yet, nothing came up.

So of course, I did what any right minded archivist would do in this situation -- I turned to Facebook. I posted on a local group, and included the image below. I included the date of the image, and the names "Lew, Bobb, Stan and Wylie" to see if these rung any bells with the locals. I asked if anyone had heard of Wylie's Band, or if they had more information. Not really thinking that I would get very far, I signed off for the day, the thought of the photograph, and of the mystery band, wandering around in my brain.

The next day, I was surprised to see a notification that I had a comment on my post. Not only that, I had *multiple* notifications!

The first clue came in quickly, and made me laugh to myself. Someone noted "I think it should say "Stan Wylie's band." *Of course!* The name Stan Weiler (Wylie) was no stranger to me. Stan Weiler was a well known local artist, who worked with CHAT as an announcer, and was a prolific musician. Once I had this clue, I stared again at the picture of the band, and absolutely, there was Mr. Weiler himself. A small error on the description meant that I didn't even notice he was in the image!

Now I just needed to figure out: who were Lew and Bobb?



# David George Lewis (Lew) Bobb

*Continued, from Local to Global*

*by J. Barrientos*

As it turns out, my questions were answered almost as quickly as I could write them out. Another helpful soul on Facebook pointed out, "That sure looks like my old high school band teacher, Mr. Bob!" And sure enough, I was able to find out fairly quickly that just as "Stan, Wylie" was Stan Weiler, "Lew, Bobb" in the description was actually Mr. Lew (Lou) Bobb.

As I mentioned, I was very familiar with Stan Weiler. Though, I had never heard of Lew Bobb. A quick search in the Medicine Hat News revealed more interesting information. Not only had Mr. Bobb been a teacher at C.H.H.S, he also had his own musical group called the "Lew Bobb Trio" which headlined at the Ember Jazz Club (on Fourth Avenue in the SE Hill). He appeared numerous times in the Medicine Hat News, and was oft described as "much-loved", "lively" and "humorous".

Following Mr. Bobb's life along through the newspaper, I saw that he eventually did move away from Medicine Hat, and continued his teaching career in Toronto. Below you can see a recollection from the Medicine Hat News about Mr. Bobb returning briefly to visit.

Another quick search brought me even more globally, as I was able to find Mr. Bobb's obituary. While it always saddens me when I find someone I was researching has passed away, imagine my surprise when I learned that Mr. Bobb went on to be a published author, an aviation pilot, and spent his later years in New Zealand, where he became what might be described as mildly famous. His obituary even had a post office box to direct fan mail to, after his passing. I put together a short write up, included some images, and mailed away to the fan



The Ambler - Northumberland, UK - February 4, 2013

Medicine Hat News - Dec 29, 1962

**RENEWING ACQUAINTANCES**  
 Lew Bobb of Toronto and formerly of Medicine Hat is spending the Yule holiday in the city renewing acquaintances. Mr. Bobb taught school in the city before moving to Toronto last September where he accepted a teaching position and is furthering his musical education.

club, to let them know that Medicine Hat was still thinking fondly of Mr. Bobb all these years later. While I have yet to hear a response from across the world, I was fascinated to learn of Mr. Bobb's wonderful global connections.

From a badly worded description, to finding Mr. Bobb; a New Zealand Royal Navy veteran, jazz musician, walking enthusiast, council school survivor and all around wonderful Medicine Hat character. All in a day's work.

# Stampede On High

The Women Who Were Stampede Pole Sitters

by J. Barrientos

Stampede Pole Sitter, ca.1951



Image 0090.0001

Another project I was working on in the Archives was a historic sign being erected for the site of the 'old' City Hall building, at the site of what is now BATUS park. While I was combing through images of City Hall, I came across something that caught my eye. A large striped pole, dug right into the ground next to City Hall. I had never seen the pole before, but was inclined to do a little more digging (excuse the pun.) What I found was an interesting story of the women who were Stampede Pole Sitters.

During the weeks leading up to the Medicine Hat Stampede, a large pole was erected in the ground above the downtown sidewalk of City Hall. Way at the top, was a woman--usually wearing cowboy attire--and a telephone.

The woman's job was to telephone everyone in the City of Medicine Hat, and personally invite them to the Stampede. That's right, her job, way up at the top of that pole, was to personally invite *every single citizen of Medicine Hat* to come to the Stampede.

While it's difficult to know is for how long the gimmick of the 'pole sitters' went on for. Information from the newspaper seems to indicate it did happen for a number of years, and added to "drum up interest" in the Stampede.

I'm not certain how the woman got up to the top of the 50 foot high pole, as pictures don't seem to indicate stairs mounted to the outside of the pole. In the image below you can see workers on a 20 foot ladder barely reach to the halfway point below the platform.

On the street below, while the woman was making her thousands of phone calls high in the air, you could purchase your Stampede tickets at a small log structure. The images we have are from the 1950s, though perhaps it did continue into the 60s. Do you have any memories of the Pole Sitters? Did you receive a phone call inviting you to the Stampede? An interesting piece of history on high in Medicine Hat.



Penthouse Pole Sitter

Archives Image 20001-01

# Membership Dues

## *Join the Historical Society of Medicine Hat and District*

Membership dues for 2022-2023 are now due. Any members who paid for 2021 will have their memberships extended through to the 2022-2023 year, due to our lack of meetings in 2021.

Your \$10 membership to the Historical Society of Medicine Hat and District allows you to cast your vote on deciding factors at our meetings, as well as receive 5 editions of our Smoke Signals Newsletter via email or printed copy.

You can pay your \$10 membership dues by cheque by mail to the address below:

Please make cheques payable to:

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

401 1 Street SE  
Medicine Hat, AB  
T1A 8W2



*In Memoriam*  
*Kathleen Carlyle*

1930 ~ 2022

Anyone who had the pleasure of knowing Kathleen was struck by her deep and abiding devotion to those she loved. She will be forever missed as a member of the Historical Society, and as a caring community member of Medicine Hat.



## Word of Thanks

The Historical Society of Medicine Hat and 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 at the Archives, please call 403-502-8582, or email Jennifer Barrientos at [jenuatr@medicinehat.ca](mailto:jenuatr@medicinehat.ca). The Archives are located at 401 1 Street SE, Medicine Hat, AB T1A 8W2, and as always, are free for you to use.

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

## Executives

### **Wes Krause**

### **President**

Tom Hamp  
Vacant  
Earl Morris  
Kris Samraj  
Judy Morris

Past President  
1st Vice President  
2nd Vice President  
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