

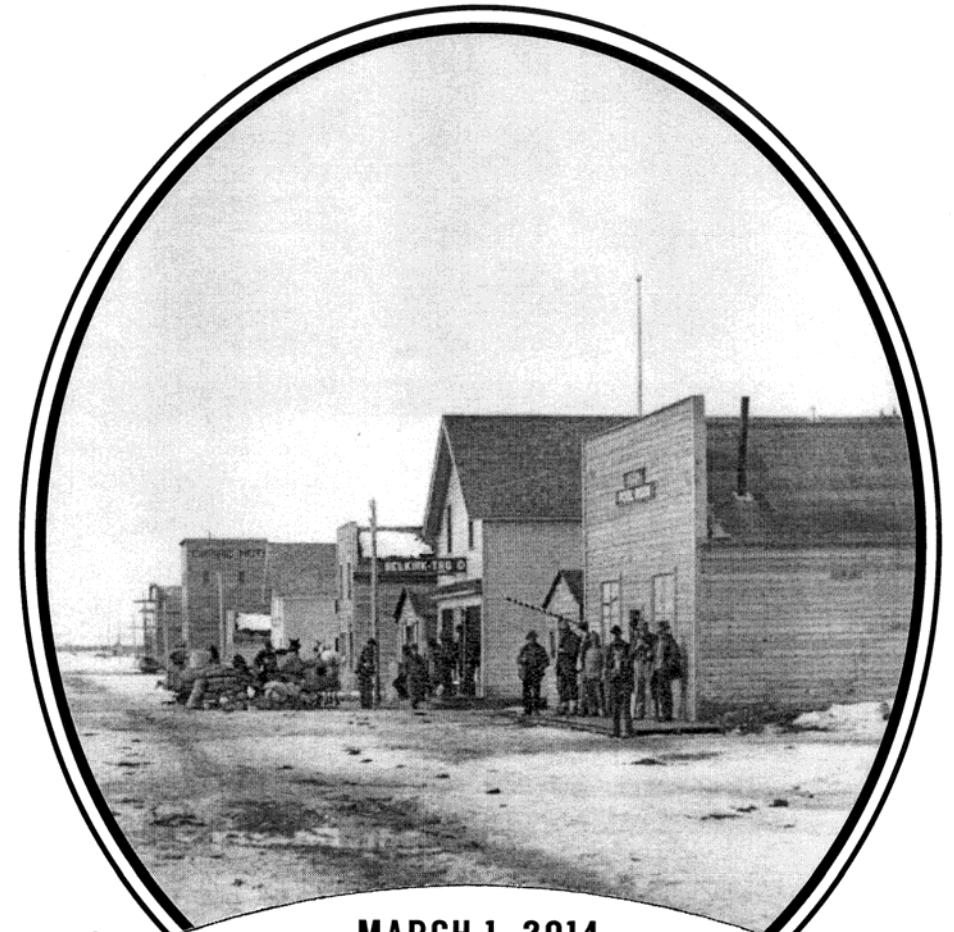
LIFE OF THE SOUTH PEACE RIVER COUNTRY OF ALBERTA. THESE RECORDS ARE DONATED BY FAMILIES, BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS; AND THEY INCLUDE TEXTUAL RECORDS, PHOTOGRAPHS, FILMS, SOUND RECORDINGS, PLANS, DRAWINGS, AND MAPS. SOUTH PEACE REGIONAL ARCHIVES WAS ESTABLISHED IN JANUARY 2000. THE

THE MANDATE OF SPRA IS TO ACQUIRE, PRESERVE AND MAKE ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF ON - GOING VALUE WHICH REFLECT THE POLITICAL, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL

TELLING OUR STORIES

ARCHIVE NEWS

LOCAL HISTORY



VOLUME 5 MARCH 1, 2014 ISSUE 2

PRODUCED BY

SOUTH PEACE REGIONAL ARCHIVES

IN ALBERTA, OUR MANDATE: FIRST REGIONAL ARCHIVES

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Take Note

South Peace Regional Archives Society

Annual General Mtg.

Saturday, March 15, 2014 at 10:30 a.m.
In the Grande Prairie Museum Community Room
Lunch and presentation to follow

Happy 100th

Grande Prairie!

Watch for the following SPRA contributions:
Monthly Displays in the City Hall foyer showcase
100th Anniversary Cemetery Tours, June 11 & July 16
Storytelling Tours in the Heritage Village, August 2-3
Film and Story Tea Featuring the Archival Film
 “Grande Prairie: A Way of Life”, October 5

Thanks to the 100th Anniversary Committee for
sponsoring these events.

This Issue of Telling Our Stories

is sponsored by

the Dalen family of

Grande Prairie

On the Front Cover: The business section of Grande Prairie City on the north side of Richmond (100th) Avenue between 102 Street and 100 Street, taken in 1914. Visible, right to left is the Pool Room, Medlock’s Barber Shop, Selkirk Trading Post, Thompson’s Hardware, the Union Bank, and the Empire Hotel. SPRA 024.01.01.24, Holroyd Drugs fonds.

March 1, 2014

Dear Members and Supporters;

Welcome to the “new look” for “Telling Our Stories”, created by Fine Arts student Simone Bowes. Thanks to Simone, we now have a set of coordinated brochures and posters in a retro theme.

As we were going to print with this newsletter, we learned of the death of Paul Pivert, a huge supporter of this Archives. We included a memorial to Paul on the last page of the newsletter as well as on our website and Facebook Page. The Facebook notice has been viewed by 16,696 people to date, evidence of how much Paul was liked and respected.

2014 is the 100th Anniversary of Incorporation for the City of Grande Prairie and we are pleased to feature them in this newsletter. It is also the 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War I, so we will be including stories from our World War I collections throughout 2014. If you are interested in more World War I stories from the Peace, we invite you to attend our AGM on March 15th and hear SPRA member Dr. Duff Crerar relate one of our local stories.

Since we are on the topic of celebrations, Archivist Leslie Gordon has given some hints, in her column on “What Archives Do and Why”, about how to prepare for those anniversaries by archiving material and doing some research.

We are excited to include three submissions from members and researchers in this issue. Wanda Zenner’s “The Ultimate Sacrifice” tells of her family’s participation in World War I, and Joan Bowman’s article on “Ethel Turner” is in response to a photograph in the December newsletter. Perhaps you can help the researcher of “The Children’s Blizzard” in her search for Nellie Van Schaick’s family.

The last article, now known in our office as “The Coca-Cola Rant” closes the newsletter with some laughter, thanks to regular columnist, Kathryn Auger.

We hope you enjoy it all!

Sincerely, Mary Nutting, Editor

TELLING OUR STORIES

PUBLISHED BY

South Peace Regional Archives Society

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Our Vision: Preserving and Sharing the Past.

Our Mission: The purpose of South Peace Regional Archives is to gather, preserve, and share the historical records of municipalities, organizations, businesses, families and individuals within the region, both now and in the future.

An Interview with Jack Mackie

Jack Mackie arrived in Grande Prairie during World War II. He had been sent up from Calgary by Concrete Products and Supplies to replace the main drain at the Grande Prairie Airport. That project took more than a year and by that time the Mackie family was settled. They liked it here so well that Jack quit the company and started Mackie’s Concrete Works. Ten years later he was on Town Council and in 1957 he became Mayor after Bob Millar resigned. Here are some of his memories about serving on council, taken from an interview with Margaret Heath, ca. 1990.

In 1957, I was the mayor of Grande Prairie, Ralph Norton was chairman of public works, George Didow was chairman of water works, Art Whitlock was in charge of public buildings and events in town, George Repka looked after sports and recreation, and Bert Tieman looked after Pioneer Lodge, children’s programs and the Peace School of Hope. That was a real good council. Everybody did their work and when we went to a council meeting, we had our committee meetings and everything before. It didn’t take long to go through a meeting. We knew what was going to pass and what wasn’t. They were all good men.

I’ll tell you a story. [In 1956] we built, or the government built, a new courthouse, and we decided to move the old courthouse across the street on 101st and 99th. So we bought those two lots [where Nordic Court is now]. Bob Millar, the Mayor, had Windsor Motors across the street, and I knew he would be curious about what we were doing so I said to Art Whitlock, “When you put up those forms, don’t cut off the 2x4s for a day.” They were using sixteen foot 2x4s to put in an eight foot basement, and the old courthouse was a two story building. I said, “When Millar comes over there and wants to know what is going on, tell him, ‘We’re going to run the basement up a story on top and put the other building on top, and we will have the first three storey building in

town.” Well, Millar pretty near went wild. There were lots of things like that we pulled. But Millar was a good mayor.

When Millar left, the council appointed me because I had been there longer than any of them. I wouldn’t have missed that experience for anything. But, I had a heart attack, and didn’t want to run again, so George Repka took over from me. He beat me in an election. He did a good job of campaigning. I didn’t go out campaigning, at all. Not in very good shape and I expected him to beat me, but I had to run against him, so there would be some opposition. I think George was there for ten years as mayor. The City Hall was a ramshackle old building, not enough room, and had to be torn down. We put it to a vote and the plebiscite was turned down. So then we took it to a second plebiscite and it was turned down again. Two nights after the second plebiscite, the building burnt down. Now, everybody blames everybody else for it. It burned down, anyway, and we got a new City Hall.

When I was on council, Dick Beirsto came to me one day and said, “There’s a half section of land that two widows own, south of town. We could buy that for five thousand dollars a quarter.” Well, I got all excited about it and went and looked at it. I wanted to move the town south, and I thought that would be a beautiful place for City Hall. But, I couldn’t get the council to go for it. So, we never did. They said, “People can’t walk a way down there to pay their taxes.” I said, “They don’t pay their taxes at City Hall, anyway, they go to the bank and pay them.” I would have been tickled to death if we could have had a quarter section to put city administration on. Everything there. It would have been starting from scratch, and get a good plan. It would have been a good deal. I would have liked to have seen that.

(cont’d on page 19)

Featured fonds: Town of Grande Prairie

Town of Grande Prairie fonds. — 1917-1951. — 1.62 m of textual records. — 1 map and 1 blueprint.

Agency History

In 1909, Edmontonian W.A. Rae made a visit to the “grande prairie” in the Peace River Country and was impressed by the agricultural and resource potential of the area. A site on the central south of the prairie, with timber to the south and good prairie land to the north, close to the waterways of Bear Creek and the Wapiti River and marked with the survey stakes of the Canadian Northern railway appealed to him. He returned to Edmonton and formed the Argonaut Company which eventually purchased 80 acres beside the proposed railway and established the townsite of “Grande Prairie City.”

By 1911, there was a small community at Grande Prairie, with a post office, store, bank, livery barn, two stopping places, two churches, the Royal North West Mounted Police barracks, and the Dominion Land Survey Office. By 1913, this had expanded with the addition of a school, a hospital, two new hotels, the Selkirk Trading Company, and a Hudson’s Bay Store. That same year saw the first issue of the Grande Prairie Herald, and the first representative from the community sent to the Provincial Legislature.

The hamlet was incorporated as a Village in 1914, and electricity arrived in 1915, courtesy of the Joseph Voz’s Flour Mill. When he could not meet the demand for electrical services, the citizens of the village formed the Grande Prairie Electric Company and purchased a power plant. However, the town was yet without a railroad, and everything had to come in over the Edson or Long Trail. Finally, in 1916, the railway reached Grande Prairie, providing transportation to market for agricultural products and opening the floodgates for settlement.

Growth slowed for a few years during WWI, when the area lost many of its British-born bachelors to the war effort, but tripled in one year after the war was over. By then, many of the amenities of a modern community were available: drug store, jeweler, cigar store, bakery, hardware stores, and a barber shop. In 1919 the population reached 1000, sufficient to apply for town status. About this time, Richmond Avenue was extended around the corner into “Carriage Lane”, running along the ridge of Bear Creek (now 102 Street), and fine residences were built overlooking the creek valley.

By the early 1920s, the familiar pattern of “boom and bust” was already in effect. The town was overdeveloped, with too many lots and too many developers, when the recession of the early 1920s began. The town seized a large number of lots for failure to pay taxes. Some of those were redeemed from tax sale by their owners, some were sold to new owners, but many were held by the town throughout the 1920s, and gradually sold in the boom during the latter half of the decade. Although the town struggled through the years of the Great Depression to collect taxes on many properties, by the end of the decade progress had been made, as evidenced by the addition of the Library and CFGP radio.

Although far removed from the material devastation of WW II, Grande Prairie saw plenty of war action. Its airport was a key link on the American air route to Alaska and Russia, and as many as 500 Canadian and American Air Force personnel were stationed there. In the decade after the war, Grande Prairie experienced a modernizing boom, as did many other Canadian communities. The town was introduced to local natural gas for heating, door to door mail, traffic lights, dial telephones, and television. Once again, construction boomed and people flowed in. By 1958, the population had increased to 8,000 people and the town achieved city status.

Scope and Content:

The fonds consists of records reflecting some of the activities of the Town of Grande Prairie from 1917 to 1951. The majority of these records are connected most specifically with the office of the Secretary-Treasurer and relate to town governance and finances. The fonds is arranged in four series: Provincial legislation, Financial records, Tax records, and Correspondence files.

The provincial legislation series consists of a copy of "The Town Act, 1927" and a 1929 amendment. The Act would have been referred to by town council and the secretary-treasurer in governing the town.

The financial records series consists of a Waterworks Management ledger in use from 1917-1919. The ledger enumerates waterworks material, labour, sewer, water line, engineering, street work, water main, fire apparatus, and debenture costs.

The tax records series consists of one book of Tax Certificates dating from 1919-1928, one book of Certificates of Redemption dating from 1920 to 1922, and five books of Tax Sale Certificates from 1921.

The correspondence series consists of records created, received, or collected by Secretary-Treasurer Robert Keys (ca. 1922-1951), and his predecessors, John H. E. Fitzallen (ca. 1919-1922) and Helen G. Ford (ca. 1922). The records cover a wide variety of topics including tax assessments and appeals, property, purchase offers on land owned by the town, public notices and announcements, town expenses and work, tenders,

utilities, provincial laboratory water analysis reports, the airport, child welfare, mother’s allowance, indigent relief, the old people’s home, town committees, government programs, job applications, product orders, law enforcement, the fire brigade, and health inspections.

Custodial History

The records were donated to the Grande Prairie Public Library, possibly with the Charles Spencer book collection, in 1952. How the records came into the possession of Charles Spencer, if this is indeed how the library acquired them, is unknown. In 2008, GPPL passed the records on to South Peace Regional Archives.



The 1924-1925 Town Council (above) were all businessmen in the town: Mayor William Sharpe, the Massey Harris Implement dealer; Frank Spicer, a baker (nick-named “Sweet Crust Spicer”); Charles Stredulinsky, a tailor; Ed Crerar, a barber and farmer; Dewar Thomson, the manager of Crummy’s General Store; H.L. Shaver, a building contractor (partner to Charlie Turner); and Ike Nelson, owner of the Nelson & Archibald General Store. In this era, council was elected every year. SPRA 1999.16.1

City of Grande Prairie Building Identification Contest

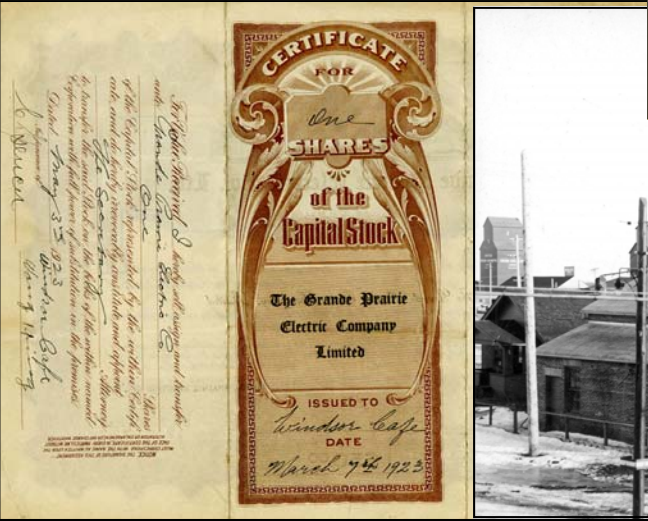
This aerial was taken by Paul Pivert in 1968. Can you match the 20 Grande Prairie landmarks at the bottom of the page with the numbers on this photograph? If you want to see the photo in higher detail, it pops up on the home page of our website (www.southpeacearchives.org). First prize draw is a one year subscription to this newsletter, and we will publish the names of everyone who gets all the answers right. Did I miss any major landmarks? Send us an email at spra@telus.net and tell us what you remember. SPRA 190.02.01.0181.13



- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> IGA Foodliner | <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial Building | <input type="checkbox"/> Montrose Junior High School | <input type="checkbox"/> Presbyterian Church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1952 Grande Prairie High School | <input type="checkbox"/> 1929 Grande Prairie High School | <input type="checkbox"/> ALCB Liquor Store | <input type="checkbox"/> Montrose Elementary School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NAR Railway Station | <input type="checkbox"/> RCMP Barracks/Granco Real Estate | <input type="checkbox"/> Central Park Lodge | <input type="checkbox"/> County High School Dorm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grande Prairie & District Co-op | <input type="checkbox"/> Old Immigration Hall (an apt in 1968) | <input type="checkbox"/> County Administration Office | <input type="checkbox"/> Warehouse by the tracks (Marshall Wells ?) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Windsor Ford Ltd. | <input type="checkbox"/> Grande Prairie Court House | <input type="checkbox"/> Royal Canadian Legion Hall | <input type="checkbox"/> Grande Prairie Public Library |

The Grande Prairie Electric Company

The first electrical power in Grande Prairie was produced by Joseph Vos’ Flour Mill in 1915. This source was very limited and by 1918, there was high demand for better services. Because the Village did not have the finances to install an Electrical Plant, 93 residents, the who’s who of Grande Prairie, formed the Grande Prairie Electric Company. They installed an Electric Light Plant which operated from sundown to midnight and from 5:00 a.m. to sunrise. The rate was 25 cents per kilowatt hour.



The company tried to finance the capital by selling additional shares, but in six months ran up an \$8,800 deficit. Rather than let the plant be seized by the manufacturer, who had a lien on the equipment, they appealed to the (now) Town of Grande Prairie to take it over as a Municipal Utility. The Town took over the company as of January 1, 1921. After all the debts were paid, the shareholders received 35 cents on each \$1.00 invested. The Town operated the Utility until 1929, when it was sold to Canadian Utilities.

Illustrations: From top, \$50.00 Share Certificate for the Grande Prairie Electric Co. (fonds 329) purchased by Wong Hing, who operated the Windsor Café; photograph of the electrical plant about the time it was sold to Canadian Utilities in 1929 (Field’s Studio 1997.13.85); and the new Utilities building on the same lot in 1965 (Chamber of Commerce fonds 050.08.02.38).

Do You Remember the Alaska Music Trail?

When Pat and Sydney Larter donated the records of the Peace Country Overture Concerts, they included programs for the Alaska Music Trail Concert series for 1970-71, the 21st Anniversary season. Apparently their concerts were held in the Montrose Elementary School Auditorium.

The Concerts began in Juneau, Alaska when Maxim Schapiro, a Russian pianist, and Luigi Siva, a cellist, performed the first concert of the series in 1950. Over the next twenty years, concerts were given in eighteen Alaskan communities and seven Canadian ones, including Grande Prairie.

Does anyone know if that was the only year they came to Grande Prairie, or if this was a regular concert during the 1950s and the 1960s? Do you have any special memories about any of these concerts? This one, with folksingers Evelyne and Bob Beers, fits with my memories of the 70s, but this was the first time I had heard of it.


Alaska Music Trail Concerts

21st Anniversary Season 1970 - 1971

PRESENTS

EVELYNE & BOB BEERS

Folksingers



Tuesday

DECEMBER 8

1970

MONTROSE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

8:30 p.m.

ALASKA MUSIC TRAIL CONCERTS

Tuesday, November 3 — Marilyn Dubow and Idith Zvi

Tuesday, December 8 — Evelyne and Bob Beers

Tuesday, February 9 — Leonidas Lipovetsky

Tuesday, March 16 — Eugene Rousseau

☆

YOUR PROGRAMME SPONSORED BY

CANADA SAFEWAY LTD.

GOLDEN STAR RESTAURANT

HOLROYD DRUGS LTD.

NORTH CANADIAN FOREST INDUSTRIES LTD.

THOMSON MOTOR CITY

EVELYNE AND BOB BEERS

Folksingers

Program

ALASKA, ALASKA (Goodbye Summer) Alaskan
As written and sung by Alaska's great
sourdough singer, Paul Roseland.

MY LOVE LOVES American
As learned from Larry Blisko of Long Island.

THE OCEANS OF ABRAHAM American Indian
Said to have been written by a Cherokee chief, who as a child was driven west from Northern Georgia on the tragic Trail of Tears. Christian-land, and educated in a mission school, he later retraced his journey while going to Washington to make a treaty. The song recalls the scenes of his youth. The melody is German, and commonly used by Mexican Americans in the Southwest, as a fiddle tune and dance, "La Madrileña" or "The Spanish Walls". Bob learned the words and music from his grandfather, George Sullivan.

THE LARKS, THEY SANG MELODIOUS British
As learned from the great Northumberland singer, Louise Killen

TWO FOXES Traditional English

FIDDLER'S GREEN English

THE FOUR MARYS Scottish

DUMBARTON'S DRUMS Scottish
Traced through six generations of the Beers family, and believed brought to America by Annie McManus, Bob's great-great-great grandmother.

THE SEASONS OF PEACE Bob Beers
An Ode to Peace, dedicated to the people of all nations who are at war; a warning, and a statement of faith in the ultimate victory of truth and love.

BROWN GIRL Trinidad
As learned from local singers while Bob and Evelyne were on tour in the Caribbean.

EVELYNE AND BOB BEERS

Folksingers

I'M GONNA TELL Rosalie Sorrells
Originating in the kitchen of the Sorrells home in Idaho, after some light hearted fun. The song quickly spread to others, and is now widely known.

INTERMISSION

SPEED THE PLOW Medley of Irish Jigs

THE LAMPLIGHTER HORNPipe Irish

WHEN THE ICEWORMS NEST AGAIN Young Roseland
From a well-known poem by Frank P. Young, set to music by Paul Roseland. Both men are Alaskans.

MY 30-U.S. ON THE WALL O'Gutter-Pavitt-Roseland
Words adapted by Bob Pavitt from a poem of Pat O'Gutter, and set to music by Paul Roseland. The song relates the bitterness of an old sourdough, who has his fill of women, partners, and even dogs. His one friend is his old 30-calibre rifle, the only pal he can trust.

THE GREAT YUKON Paul Roseland
Based on a true story, this song has 'folk' counter-parts around the globe.

LORENA Bob Beers
Ideas from an old poem, rewritten completely, and set to music.

LASSIE WI' THE YELLOW COATEE Scottish

WHAT IS A YOUTH Walter-Rota
From a period ballad, with lyric and musical adaptations by Eugene Walter and Nono Rota; used in the motion picture "Romeo and Juliet".

TRY TO REMEMBER Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt
Written for "The Fantasticks"

9

Explore Grande Prairie & Environs ca. 1914

In 1914, the newly incorporated Village of Grande Prairie was a long north-south strip on the east side of Bear Creek, from what is now 108th Avenue in the north to 84th Avenue in the south, and from 100th to 105th Street. Let's take a tour and see what was here at that time. This is an imaginery tour so pretend you're back in 1914, although I will mention current landmarks so you know where you are. Most of the roads we are traveling on were the main roads on the 1929 map—I have no information on which roads were there and usable in 1914.

The tour starts on 102nd Street, right beside St. Paul's United Church, facing south. In 1914, there would have been a small log Presbyterian Church here. To our left is a fairly substantial downtown, and to our right the Flour Mill and Lumber Mill beside the creek.

We will head south, down 102nd Street. On our left is the newly-constructed Anglican Church and two blocks to the east, the one-room, log, Grande Prairie School. In between are some industrial companies: Frontier Lumber and a large Farmers' Market.

Continuing south on the Boulevard, you will soon see the Wapiti Club and Rink where you can play tennis, curling or hockey. In 1914, this road was probably not much more than a trail leading to Boody Sprague's cabin, but the lots by the creek had already been surveyed, all the way down to 84th Avenue. The survey plan shows "Grande Prairie Driveway", a 66' wide road down in the valley beside the creek. On the banks above are the "twisties" as we still know them today. Sprague's cabin is still there, and still occupied, opposite 90th Avenue. Continue along the twisties to 86th Avenue and curve east to 100th Street.

At 100th Street, turn right, then left on 84th Avenue. On both sides of the road here, most of these quarters were homesteaded and patented by members of the Metis Community from Flying Shot

Lake: Louis, Peter and Malcolm Calliou, Pierre Belcourt, and Albert Campbell. Later they sold to the Patterson family, whose farm eventually became Patterson Place.

Turn north at Resources Road and head back to 100th Avenue. We are now going through Louis Calliou's land, where the first grain crops on this prairie were planted. When you reach 100th Avenue, you are looking at the Forbes homestead (100-108 Avenues and 96-100 Streets). The only buildings on this land are their home (Montrose House) on the north-east corner of the quarter and the new log hospital where our the hospital still is now.

Looking west, you can see I.V. Macklin's house and barn where Macklinville later developed. Today's Ivy Lake Subdivision is also on his land. Adjoining his land to the north is the Agricultural Society quarter where the July Sports Day and many other sporting events are held and where the baseball diamonds are.

We will turn west and head down Richmond Avenue. The business section starts at 100th Street and continues down to Bear Creek. The first business you see is Patterson's Store and Livery Barn, on the north-west corner of 100th and 100th. Further down is the Pool Room, the Selkirk Trading Post, Medlock's Barber Shop, the Grande Prairie Hotel, and a number of stores and services. *(See cover photo)*

Let's turn north at 101th Street. This is about where the wagon road comes in from Spirit River (also the Edson Trail). At 108th Avenue, turn west again. When you hit 104th Street, you are on an early road which leads from the corner of the townsite to W.H. Smith's butcher shop, about where Centre 2000 is now.

Turn left onto the highway bypass. This road was surveyed in 1914, not in a smooth curve as it is now, but angling down to the creek and up the south bank. There is no reservoir, just Bear Creek winding its way through the marshy flats.

We are now truly in the country, and you can see homes on almost every quarter of land. Often they are accompanied by big barns for all the horses they need for farming and transportation. Many of the people who have businesses in the Village have their homes out in the country, for you can get 160 acres of land for \$10.00, as long as you build a residence on it and break the land for crops.

Crossing today's highway, you can see St. Vincent's Catholic Church, Mission house and cemetery to your left, where Canfor is now. Head back down to 84th Avenue and turn west. This road was also surveyed in 1914, out to the new cemetery.

The cemetery is right on the edge of the Flying Shot Lake Metis Settlement, and their log homes are visible around the lake. Take 116th Street south, then Twp Rd 712 west, and curve through the settlement. You can see Clifford's Store and home and a small Anglican Church on the ridge west of the lake.

Enjoy a 10 minute drive west on Twp Rd 712 because it would not have been here in 1914. You would probably have been following a well-traveled aboriginal trail across country, or following surveyed road allowances across the prairie, and it would have taken you all day. Again, all around you are the homes, barns and outbuildings of the settlers. Many of those who are homesteading are young bachelors. A fair number of them will enlist in the war which has already started, so perhaps some of the homes and buildings are abandoned.

Occasionally, you will see a church steeple, such as the Spring Creek Presbyterian Church south on Rge Rd 73. In this case you will see two, for Spring Creek Anglican is across the road, on the Crane-Bill Ranch.

There are also a few schools. We will turn north on Rge Rd 74, where Wapiti School sits on a couple of acres. This road was not here, even in 1929, but it shortens the route for us today.

As we near the highway, to the left we can see a solitary young tree on the prairie. Now we know it as the old Sentinel Tree. Perhaps there is a grave underneath as local legend suggests.

We reach the highway where, to the west are the communities of Lake Saskatoon, Beaverlodge, Hythe and Valhalla, with their own schools, churches, post offices and stores. We will go east one mile, and then north on the Lakeview Road to see the Hermit Lake Baptist Church built by the prohibitionist Rev. Bagnall, and St. George's Anglican Church, built by Canon Smith. He is from Richmond Hill, London, England, and it is he who has given the name "Richmond Hill" to the landmark that dominates this part of the prairie.

Soon we see the secluded Hermit Lake, surrounded by farms with their log buildings, and turn east on Twp Rd 721. You are now following the same route as the telegraph line from Grande Prairie west. The telegraph is the most rapid form of communication here. It brings in the daily news to the Grande Prairie Herald, so important during this time of war.

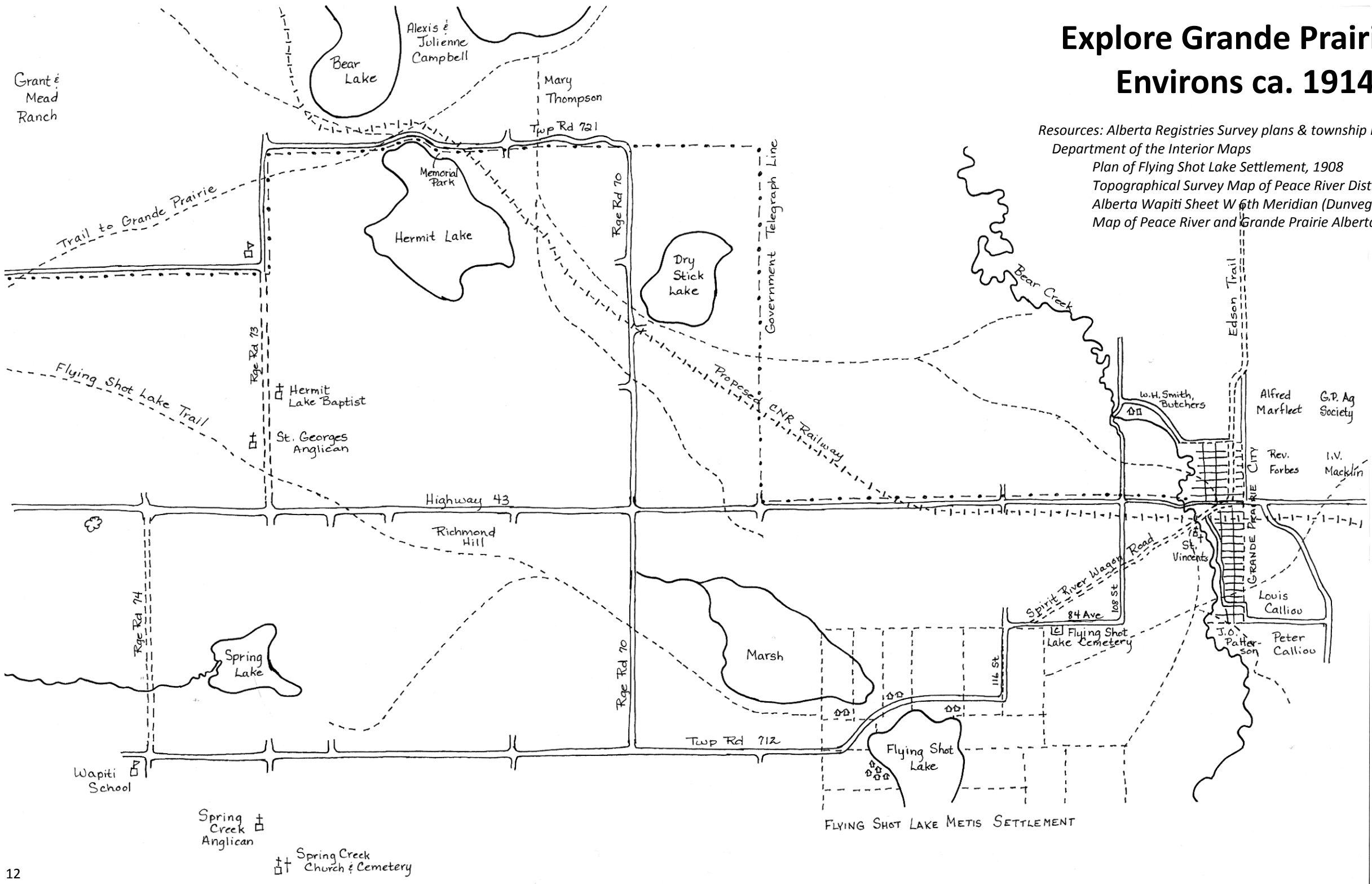
To the north of us is Bear Lake. Perhaps Alexis and Julienne Campbell, a Metis family with 17 children, are still living on the point of land reaching out into the lake. Right beside them, Mary Thompson has started her lovely garden which will be the subject of many newspaper and magazine articles.

Turning south on Rge Rd 70, we head back to the highway and Grande Prairie, reflecting on life in 1914. These people may be busy with a new land and new lives, but there seems to be many get-togethers, concerts, musical and dramatic shows, all covered by the Grande Prairie Herald. Every community seems to have a baseball club and a hockey team who compete in organized tournaments. There are also contests for wrestling, boxing, football, skating and horse-racing.

Grande Prairie in 1914 is a busy and prosperous place. Wonder what it will be like in 100 years?

*Resources: Alberta Registries
Isabel Campbell database
Grande Prairie, Capitol of the Peace.*

Grant &
Mead
Ranch



Explore Grande Prairie & Environs ca. 1914

Resources: Alberta Registries Survey plans & township maps
Department of the Interior Maps
Plan of Flying Shot Lake Settlement, 1908
Topographical Survey Map of Peace River District, 1912
Alberta Wapiti Sheet W 6th Meridian (Dunvegan)
Map of Peace River and Grande Prairie Alberta, 1927

100th Anniversary of World War I

Merlin Hamilton Rae, Boy Soldier

Merlin Hamilton Rae was born April 27, 1901, and first arrived in Grande Prairie with his parents in 1908 when they were scouting for a site on which The Argonaut Company could build “Grande Prairie City”. Merlin’s father, William Archibald Rae, was one of the founding members of the Argonaut Co. The Raes returned to Edmonton for the winter, but came back in 1909 and here they stayed.

When World War I began in 1914, many of the young British bachelors who were homesteading in the Grande Prairie area enlisted and were off to war. Imagine the fervour with which they talked about fighting for their country, and how it impacted 13 year old Merlin.

You had to be 18 years old to enlist as a regular soldier in the Canadian Army, but many legitimately enlisted at 16 years of age as ‘boy soldier’, ‘boy drummer’, or ‘boy bugler’. Merlin joined the 66th Battlalion as a Bugler Boy in September 1915, stating his birthdate as April 27, 1899 on the Attestation papers. The 1911 census, however, lists his birthdate as April 1901. That means he was only 14 years of age when he joined.

Originally boy soldiers were employed to free up the men for active fighting. Their task was to sound the officers’ commands of ‘advance’, ‘retreat’, ‘halt’, etc. with a drum beat or a bugle call. In the confusion of battle, musical notes were easier to understand than bellowed orders. Buglers also announced schedules in camp such as Reveille (wake-up call) and Taps (final call of the day and the one which honours fallen comrades). Canadian battalions were allowed two boys per company of soldiers, and since each battalion could have eight to

ten companies, there were often about 20 boy soldiers in each battalion.

Unfortunately, Merlin was killed in battle just a year after he enlisted. His name is commemorated on the Vimy Memorial with the inscription: “In Memory of Private MERLIN HAMILTON RAE 101357, 31st Bn., Canadian Infantry (Alberta Regiment) who died age 15 between 24 September 1916 and 30 September 1916. Son of William A. and Madeleine Rae, of Kississing, Manitoba. Remembered with honour. “

Merlin’s father, W.A. Rae, went on to become the Peace Country MLA in 1917.

Copy of Last Letter Written by Merlin Rae Just Before Going into the Trenches	
The following letter was the last received by Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Rae, of Grande Prairie from their son Merlin H. Rae, who was killed recently in action. The letter was written "Somewhere in France" and is dated September 16th.	Canadian orchestra. He is looking fine. We have been up to the lines on working parties. The towns were levelled to the ground. If you did not know it was there you could never tell it. There are lots of shells bursting around here.
Dear Parents:--	The reason I did not have my picture taken was because I had it spoilt and had to have it clipped right off. Dad is very foolish if he joins the army and is not altogether fit for wet and dampness. It would be a piece of foolishness.
I received your welcome letter a couple of days ago. That is the first for quite a while. (due to the delay in mail service). We join our own battalion sometime tomorrow. Just now we are an entrenching battalion. I saw Bill Hanmigan two days ago. He is looking pretty good. They went into the trenches today. Edgar Ellis, Jimmy Scott and quite a few of the boys were there. Ray Steves is back in England with shell shock. I will send you some postcards of where I am next time.	I am feeling fine and could not be better. I received your registered two days ago with Mother's, Dorothy Hamilton sent me a letter also and said she did not want me to go to the front. Before I go back I am going to have a German helmet and more souvenirs, too.
I had a letter and parcel from Helen Rathsay when I was in Belgium. I have not received any letters from Mrs. Wilson yet. I forgot I saw Herman Klukas with Bill. He is looking fine as ever. Bill Hinton was down at Le Havre when I was. He is playing in the	There are lots of prisoners here. They came in lately. I have not much more to say so I will close now, hoping every thing is well. Your loving son, M. H. Rae.
	P. S. Give my love to Gordon and please excuse my writing.

The Ultimate Sacrifice

By Wanda (Johnston) Zenner

The 100th anniversary of the commencement of WWI along with the 75th anniversary of the commencement WWII represents an opportunity for Canadians to reflect on the country’s proud military history. Both conflicts are among the most important chapters in world history, touching the lives of countless families and communities across Canada. We must ensure those who served and those who continue to serve our county in an effort to uphold the values of freedom and peace are honored. The sacrifices and contributions of the veterans are never to be forgotten.

My family was one of the many Canadian families who certainly felt the aftermath of the war on a personal level. My great-grandfather, David Johnston had four of his six sons join the forces in WWI. One was a prisoner of war for 3 ½ years, another son died and is buried in a Belgian cemetery. His youngest son attempted to enlist but was rejected due to poor eyesight. The family felt blessed that three of the four came home. My father, Willis David Johnston (named after his uncle who died in WWI) enlisted in WWII, thereby continuing the family history of military service.



The oldest son, Hugh “Norman” was recruited by the Edmonton 101st Fusiliers “D” Company in August 1914. He was subsequently taken to Valcartier, Quebec where he was transferred to the 9th Battalion. He sailed aboard the S.S.

Zealand and arrived in Plymouth, England in October 1914. As the 9th Battalion had been dispersed, he was transferred to the 3rd Battalion. After four months of training, the 1st Canadian Division crossed the Bristol Channel to France in February 1915. On April 22, 1915, Norman was at the front for the “Second Battle of Ypres”. The Germans, in an effort to eliminate the salient, released 160 tons of chlorine gas which drifted into the French and British trenches. The Canadians were the only division that was able to hold the line.

On April 23, 1915, Norman suffered a gunshot wound to the left chest area, fracturing a rib and perforating the left lung. From there he was taken prisoner and transferred to a POW camp in Stendal, Germany. Camp life was documented as very harsh with shortages of food and illnesses being rampant. Once armistice was declared, Norman was a repatriated prisoner of war and arrived in England on January 2, 1919, following which he sailed for Canada and was discharged in Edmonton in April 1919. Norman received the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, and the Victory Medal. Norman passed away on August 8, 1942 at the age of 53 from heart failure and is buried in the military section of the Edmonton Cemetery. There are no pictures of Norman in uniform – possibly due to the fact that he was a prisoner of war.



The 2nd oldest son, Willis David was also recruited by the 101st Edmonton Fusiliers in August 1914. He was sent to Valcartier, Quebec where he was transferred to the 9th Battalion. He sailed on the S.S. Zealand and arrived in Plymouth England in October 1914, following

which he was transferred to 1st Field Butchery CASC, arrived in France, and began front-line service. He was promoted to the rank of Corporal in May 1915. In 1918-1919, a flu pandemic known as the “Spanish Flu” crossed Europe. The close troop quarters increased the soldiers’ susceptibility to the disease. Willis was listed as “dangerously ill” in his service records and passed away on January 3, 1919 at the age of 27. He is buried in the Kortrijk (St. Jan) Communal Cemetery in Belgium, an area that was under German control at one time during the war. The family of Cpl. Willis Johnston subsequently received a scroll and note of gratitude from King George of England. Willis’ name is listed in the “Book of Remembrance,” which has a

record of all the Canadian and other forces of the British Empire that gave their lives in the Great War. Willis received the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal, and a sports medal that must have been issued by his unit. In November 2007, the Canadian Fallen Heroes Foundation, whose mandate is to memorialize the lives of those who were lost in WWI, presented a framed picture of Willis complete with a biography to his great-grand niece, Wanda Zenner. The picture is proudly displayed at the Bezanson Legion.



The 4th oldest son, William Earl, enlisted on March 13, 1916 in Edmonton with the 194th Battalion. He arrived in England aboard the S.S. Olympic on November 1916. In February 1917 he was transferred to the 2nd Battalion Canadian Machine Gunners Corps and served in France. Upon demobilization, Earl was discharged in Toronto in May 1919. He received the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. Earl died on June 9, 1942 at the age of 47 from heart failure in Los Angeles, California. His body was cremated and his ashes interred in his mother’s plot (Jane Anne Johnston), Maitland Cemetery, Goderich, Ontario.



My grandfather, Charles Bell, the 3rd oldest son enlisted with the 48th Highlanders in May 1917. He was transferred to the 5th Res. Battalion Central Ontario Division. He arrived in England aboard the S.S. Scotian in December and subsequently sent to France. He was discharged on demobilization in Toronto in June 1920. Charles received the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. He passed away on April 8, 1966 at the age of 72 and is buried in the Goodwin Cemetery.

The youngest son, Elmer attempted to enlist in March 1918, stating it was his 19th birthday, however that would only have been his 17th birthday. Unfortunately, the medical board had to reject his application as he had a defect in one of his eyes.

The April 2nd, 1918 issue of the Grande Prairie Herald reported:

“One point of patriotism that should not be overlooked is that shown by a young man from Glen Leslie who came in on March 30th his 19th birthday and offered his services to the country. After signing up it was learned that he had one brother a prisoner of war in Germany and three others fighting in the trenches at the present time. On going before the medical board it was discovered he had a slight defect in one of his eyes. The boy left the medical board broken hearted. This shows the true patriotic spirit of some farmers’ sons in comparison with others who are using any old subterfuge in evading their duty.”

Another article of interest was published in the July 13, 1915 issue of the Grande Prairie Herald, seen here on the right.

TWO MESSAGES
FROM THE FRONT

Two Johnston Brothers Write to Sister in Grande Prairie. One a Prisoner.

Miss M. E. Johnston of Glen Leslie is in receipt of two messages from her two brothers at the front—one, a letter from W. D. Johnston who is with the Canadian expeditionary force in France, and the other from H. N. Johnston who is a prisoner of war in Germany.

As evidenced by the letter, the Canadians are not in the least sure of the treatment which they may receive at the hands of the Germans.

1st. Field Battery,
1st. Div. Sup. Col.
June 5th., 1915.

Dear Sister and all the family :-
I received your card from Edmonton all right but your letter to Norm I never received as he was captured before that time. About a month or more ago, he and some more of the 9th. Battalion were cut off. I saw yesterday where you had received word that he was missing. For several days I have been going to write and tell you that he would be a prisoner, but I wasn't just sure how the Germans would deal with him—as we never take any German prisoners. In their start with the Canadians, they crucified some of our men, but as we payed them back in the same way they are using our men first rate now. I have been waiting for word from Norm before I wrote as I didn't know how he would make out. I got the card today saying that he was wounded but doing well. At the time of sending the card he was in a hospital at Köln, Germany, but expected to be sent to Berlin.

I have been feeling pretty shaky myself but am coming around all right again.

Hoping this finds you all well,
I remain,
W. D. Johnston.

—POST CARD—

At last I am able to write to you and let you know that I am all right or nearly so. My main wound is in the chest and lung. I am doing fine. Getting the best of treatment and care has made me nearly all right but my lung and side are still pretty sore.

H. N. Johnston,
Canadian Prisoner of War,
Coln, Germany.

What Archives Do and Why We Do It

by Leslie Gordon, B Sc, MAS

Author’s Note: You may have noticed a theme running through this newsletter (unless of course this is your favourite column and you always skip the rest of the content to read it first!). Grande Prairie is celebrating 100 years since it was incorporated as a village! It’s an exciting occasion and reason to celebrate. Mary thought a column from me on the relationship between archives and anniversaries would be appropriate. I’m calling this issue’s contribution “Archives: A Resource to Celebrate.”

There’s always a scramble when it’s time to celebrate an important anniversary. And I’m not just talking about husbands (or wives) who have forgotten to buy a card or gift and fear the retribution to follow. Companies, organizations, and municipalities celebrate anniversaries too. They aren’t often looking for the perfect gift, but more often special projects to commemorate the milestone event. Those projects often have an historical focus, looking back at where the organization has been and how far they have come. A written history might be prepared, a special photographic display put up, an oral history project conducted or something else (you may have heard about Grande Prairie’s “Century Play”). For a good number of these projects, historical records are helpful, if not essential components.

So where should one look for the historical records necessary to celebrate an anniversary? The Archives is a good place to start. We have many resources available to help celebrate anniversaries and create commemorative products. The most forward-thinking organizations who have valued their records over the years and have already deposited them at the Archives are in the best position to celebrate their anniversaries. By the time they need them to celebrate, their records are processed and rehoused with a finding aid available online. Some of the photographs may already be scanned and ready for



Did you know that the Grande Prairie Golf and Country Club is celebrating 85 years in 2014? They have already archived some records with us and there are also photographs like this one in other collections. SPRA 2013.090.08

reproduction. Finding the information required is relatively easy. Other organizations are not in such good shape. They will likely need to search their own offices, or in the case of volunteer groups, members’ basements, first to see if there are any records there. They may quite possibly find forgotten and neglected records. On the other hand, they may not. Whether they do or don’t, a trip to the Archives can be fruitful. Even if an organization has not donated their records to the Archives, we can still provide assistance in finding the records necessary to support an anniversary celebration. Because this is a community where things are interrelated and intertwined, the records of other groups and individuals can be quite helpful; it just requires more digging. For instance, a business can be helped by the records in our Chamber of Commerce fonds or the Panda Camera photograph collection. An organization can try looking at the records of individual members or possible participants. Family fonds provide a wealth of

information for just about every kind of anniversary celebration because families are the core of the community, are involved in so many things and take photos of anything and everything.

Whichever category your organization falls into, it is important to remember that time will be required to do the research at the Archives to find information and photographs and assemble them. Please don't leave it too late. Celebrating an anniversary takes lots of preparation time. Don't expect to walk into the Archives one afternoon and walk out with a history book or display a few hours later. Have a good idea of what you are looking for and the kind of project you want to do before coming in. Call ahead so we can be prepared for your request and be thinking of resources we can point you to. The Archives won't do the work for you, but we do have lots of resources available and ideas of what other groups have done for celebratory projects.

Those organizations that have to struggle to find the records necessary to celebrate an anniversary in style should learn for next time. Anniversaries tend to repeat themselves. If your group is celebrating 50 years now, they will at some point be celebrating 100 years. Don't burden some poor member of the future; deposit your records now so that they won't have to scramble to find things then.

The Archives can also be a support on the other end of your anniversary celebrations. Did you create some anniversary product or do some anniversary project that should be kept? Archive it with us to ensure that it is preserved and available, not just to your group, but to other interested members of the public. Share your efforts with the community. Did you write an anniversary book? We would love to have a copy of it, as well as take the records documenting its creation. Did you do an oral history project? We would love to be the repository for the original recordings and associated records (permission forms, interview questions, committee records, etc.). Did you create a



The Grande Prairie Guild of Artists is celebrating 30 years in 2014. They have recently donated a large quantity of historic records, including this photograph. (Guild of Artists photograph)

photograph display? We would love to take your planning documents and photographs taken at its unveiling, etc. Did you host a banquet or other special event? We would love to accept records created in the planning stages and at the event itself. Did you unearth a time capsule? We would love to take some of the records it contained. The Archives is a home not only for the records needed to celebrate anniversaries, but also those created by anniversaries.

The Archives is also more deeply connected to some anniversaries and may have events or projects that it is involved with directly. For example, for the City of Grande Prairie's 100th Anniversary, we have been involved with contracts to create anniversary products, including a walking tour of downtown with the Downtown Association and Image Design. We were also contracted to create a photograph display in the lobby of City Hall. On our own we are doing a series of rotating displays on city organizations and families for the display case at City Hall, a special walking tour of the Grande Prairie Cemetery featuring prominent (and not so prominent) citizens of the past, and a story-telling tour of the Grande Prairie Museum buildings during the Homecoming Weekend in August. We have also created a 10 minute slideshow of city highlights from the past 100



Official war records are national records and therefore not at SPRA, but many local boys enlisted and several of them have collections at SPRA. See a sampling of these records in our new exhibit. SPRA 194.03, Ed Heller fonds

years, which is available free to any groups who would like to pick up a copy for use at events, etc.

2014 is also the 100th Anniversary of the start of World War I. The commemorate this event, we are using some of our WWI records in a display in the Grande Prairie Museum's visual storage area and in a slideshow for our annual general meeting (March 15) and featuring the stories and records of WWI veterans as a sub-theme of this year's newsletters.

The Archives is the place to be for any anniversary, whether you need records to use in a celebration, you are finished your celebration and need a home for the products, you think your anniversary is a big enough deal that the Archives should get involved directly, or you want a really cheap place for an anniversary date (just kidding).

And even if your anniversary is not upcoming, don't wait. Don't wait for an anniversary to do something with your historical records or you will risk not having them when you need them. Bring the material to the Archives now, while it still exists and is accessible and in good shape. That way, when you need it, it will be here; a resource to celebrate.

Jack Mackie (cont'd from page 3)

We had a heck of a time about parking on Main Street. If you live in Edmonton and you park two or three blocks from where you are going, you don't think anything about it. But, if you live in Grande Prairie and can't park right in front, people don't like that. Well, we finally got it through council—parking meters on Richmond Avenue. And some of these storekeepers were pretty upset about it. The morning after we put them in, I walked up town and there is a car sitting in front of Bob Bedell's place. The meter has nothing in it. I said, "Is that your car, Bob?" "No," he said, "not my car." So, I go up to the other end of the block and there is Clay Butchert, a car sitting in front of his place. I said, "Is that your car Clay?" "No, I don't know whose it is. I think, it's a farmer." Finally, I said, "Do you know what I think? That's Bob Bedell's car, and your car is in front of his place." So, I immediately phoned the guy and said, "Put a ticket on each one of those cars," but they were gone before he got there.

Jack Bird ran a big grocery store where CIBC is now. His family were wholesalers in Vancouver, so he got his stuff cheap, and he was tough competition. You paid cash for every thing you got there. Miles Marcy was working for me and he went in to get a loaf of bread on his way home. Bird said, "No, if you don't have a dime, you can't get it." Miles started to the door and he said, "Just a minute, young fellow," he says, "I got a dime in my pocket. I'm going to lend it to you. You buy the bread, but you will pay for it." Well, that is the way he operated and he did a wonderful job. But, there are things like that, I think of them all the time. And most of them good thoughts.

My wife and I have enjoyed this country very much. And the hospitality shown by the people. The best move we ever made was to leave the south country and come here.

To listen to Jack's whole interview, go to <http://www.youtube.com/user/sprarchives> and choose his entry from the line-up there.

The Children’s Blizzard: A Research Request

by Judy Hurdle

The following excerpts from Leslie’s email are an interesting example of the kinds of research which an Archives can support. Judy Hurdle is a researcher from Illinois who has been looking for information on Nellie Van Schaick and her family.

August 9, 2013—I have a couple of questions regarding the Van Schaick family. Herbert filed on South African scrip S.E. 34 and N.E. 27-71-7-W6th on 27 Oct 1911. Is it possible to know from whom he purchased the S.A. Scrip and are there GPS coordinates which would locate this land?... You have wonderful information online and I am totally enjoying my research. I plan to use several of your photographs in my family history and will be sure to give your site credit for each one. Thanks so much for your help.

Regards, Judy Hurdle, Illinois, USA.

August 12, 2013—Leslie, you are fount of information and I am so grateful for all your help. Yes, I would like the copies of the diary which pertain to the Van Schaicks and the letter from Floyd. I will pursue the other leads you gave me. It should keep me out of trouble for awhile! You can let me know the total I owe when you get it altogether. I can’t thank you enough.

Regards, Judy Hurdle

After several more exchanges with Leslie...

August 29, 2013—In case you have wondered why I am pursuing these Van Schaicks so much—I [am interested in the story of] a young boy, Guy Van Stearns, who is Nellie Van Schaick’s brother. He died after being caught out in a blizzard in South Dakota in 1888. He left his father and sisters (one of them was Nellie) to try to get help for them as they were lost and disoriented in the storm. He died after his legs

froze, then broke and had to be amputated. It’s a pretty gruesome story. The blizzard was rather famous and called the Children’s Blizzard because so many school children died. The blizzard struck midday when many children in South Dakota and Nebraska were in school and then had to try to get home. The Stearns family were all at school—their father was the teacher and the three children with their father got lost in the storm on the way home. Anyway, it seemed to me that I should learn what happened to the sisters whose lives were saved by his actions—hence my search in Alberta for Nellie and her family. I found a newspaper article where Nellie had cared for a man whose legs were frozen in Alberta—must have brought back memories for her. The Canadian records and the people I have contacted have been wonderful to help me piece together their story. I cannot thank you enough for your patience and kindness. I will share my finished product when I get it put together (the newspaper articles are so time consuming!) I visited Alberta as a child but would love to come back and see the sites of my research.

God bless. Regards, Judy

December 11, 2013—You are welcome to use any of my emails and welcome to use my name in your newsletter. The story continues to grow about the blizzard and it’s aftermath. I have gotten some more information about Nellie and the blizzard from a relative from British Columbia. Perhaps someone up there may read the information and supply more information about the Van Schaicks. I’m so grateful for your help. People in Canada have been so generous with their time and help. Again, I am sorry for the delay in answering you. I will share what I have if I get the time to put it together.

Regards, Judy Hurdle

Reader Response: Ethel Turner

by Joan (Turner) Bowman

Hi Mary:

I enjoyed reading the "1920s Flapper Dress" story in the recent Archives newsletter. The Ethel Turner pictured on p. 7 of that newsletter was my Father's sister. Was she a Flapper? - I have no idea. My father always spoke of her fondly and never got over losing her at a young age. Dad (Ellis Ross Turner, 1906-1995) was an old-fashioned gentleman, so I am sure if Ethel was a Flapper, he would have said something about her appearance or behavior. When I say old-fashioned, Dad always tipped his hat to any lady who may walk by, or stood up and gave a nod to any lady entering a room where he may be.

You may like to read the attached story which is one that I sent with a picture of Ethel to the Glen Leslie Historical Society, at their request, to put in the history collection of their Church and Cemetery.

Joan



Right, Ethel Turner photo from December newsletter. SPRA 2011.44.13

Ethel Turner was the second teacher at the Somme School in the Glen Leslie District east of Grande Prairie, AB. She came to the area in July 1920 and began teaching that fall at the Somme School. The following year, Ethel’s teaching career took her to the Buffalo Lakes District, north and west of Grande Prairie, where she taught at the Chatham School (1921-1923 as per the local history book “Buffalo Trails”).

Ethel May Agnes Turner was born July 11, 1899 in Chilliwack, BC, to Sam and Agnes Turner. She was the only daughter of a family of nine children. At the age of three, she moved with her parents and siblings to Calgary, AB. In the summer of 1920, she left her teaching position in Fort Macleod, AB and ventured north to the Glen Leslie district to be near her parents who had moved to the Old Bezanson Townsite earlier that year. Ethel’s teaching career then took her to the Buffalo Lakes area in 1921 where she found love. On July 13, 1923, she married William E. Grearson, a well known Buffalo Lakes farmer. Ethel’s happy life ended suddenly July 8, 1929, leaving a new born baby girl and two little girls ages three and five without a Mother. This was a sad and shocking time for all the family, friends, neighbors and past students. Ethel is buried in the Emerson Trail Cemetery south of Sexsmith, AB.

Ethel’s daughters grew into fine young women and all became school teachers. Dorothy currently resides in Edmonton, AB, while Edith lives in Surrey, BC and Ethel in Coquitlam, BC.

Written October 10, 2013

By Joan (Turner) Bowman

Daughter of Ethel Turner’s brother, Ellis Turner

Coca-Cola Rant

by Kathryn Auger

This Coca-Cola advertisement appeared in the Ladies' Home Journal, the description under the photo reading, *"Such deliveries as this in the Peace River Country of Canada reflect the interesting fact that today Coca-Cola is on sale in 76 foreign countries."*

The ad occasioned a passionate rant from editor J.B. Yule in the December 13, 1929 Grande Prairie Herald: *"Now, the Coca-Cola people often carry full-page ads in the leading magazines, so there was nothing remarkable.... But what did appear rather remarkable, or we should say ridiculous, was the nature of the text and the equally ridiculous picture so far as subject was concerned...."*

Just what the gentleman was doing with Coca-Cola in such surroundings was hard to make out, unless he intended to go over the ground again and was about to cache something much stronger than the label would indicate. Such things have been done in the Far North before—and even in the Peace River Country....

Where is the man who has ever travelled in the Far North could ever be refreshed with Coca Cola when he paused? No, ad writer and artist, you have this thing all wrong—it simply can't be done. This might be all right in the effete East, but in the great north country, where men are men, travellers wouldn't even hesitate if theirs was nothing stronger than Coca Cola.

After going over some of the finer points of the ad, Yule concludes: *"All of this, people of the Peace River, in*

face of the fact that we are well into December and there hasn't been enough frost yet to make ice in the rinks. Can you beat it? Now there may be those in this great Peace River country who may be wrathful over the ad. So far as the writer is concerned, considering the beautiful weather we are enjoying, he cannot find it in his heart any antipathy against the misinformed ad writer and artist.

All the scribe has to say is that we would advise our friends who collaborated on the ad in question to lay off drinking Coca-Cola and try a few "touches" of the Cream of the Heather. There are many good brands. Take your choice.



Where only huskies can haul
... because all men desire
the pause that refreshes

SOMETIMES it is so cold that the atmosphere, on a clear day, shakes with frost, fine as diamond dust. Every particle of moisture in the air has turned to ice. Deep snow stretches endlessly in white brightness. It is up in the Peace River Country of Canada—where you've got to dig snow before wheels can turn. But Coca-Cola's deliveries continue—on dog sleds with the cases covered with

quilted tarpaulin and heated underneath with charcoal burners. For man does not outrun the need for the pause that refreshes.... North or south, summer or winter—ever the call comes to pause, relax and refresh yourself. And Coca-Cola, always served ice-cold, has proved itself the one great drink whatever the weather. With its tingling, delicious taste and cool after-sense of refreshment, a short pause

can be as wholesome and refreshing as a long rest. Over eight million times every day in the year Coca-Cola repeats the proof that there's no other drink so universally desired. THE BEST SERVED DRINK IN THE WORLD A pure drink of natural flavors served ice-cold in its own bottle—the distinctive Coca-Cola bottle. Every bottle is sterilized, filled and sealed air-tight by automatic machines, without the touch of human hands—insuring purity and wholesomeness. The Coca-Cola Company, Atlanta, Ga.

OVER 8 MILLION A DAY

New at the Archives

Thank You Donors!

The collections at SPRA have all been donated by individuals, organizations, and municipal governments. You are our only resource for the preservation of the history of the south Peace. Here are a few of our recent donations.

Moyer's School Supply Catalogue
Anne Parsons

White Studio Photographs
Jim White

1913 Grande Prairie Agricultural Society Prize List
Karen Gorman

Cemetery photographs & indexes
GP Branch of the AB Genealogical Society

"From Caterham to Canada"
History of the O'Connell Family, Rio Grande
Corinne Cowan

Kinsman Scrapbook
Barb Borstad

"Life Stories from the George & Nellie Balisky Family"
Paul Balisky

Spirit River Land Ownership Map ca. 1935
Roy Grimm

Submissions to this Newsletter

SPRA Society encourages submissions in the form of stories, poems, memories, letters and photographs. Do you have a story, or does someone you know have a story about the past in the south Peace? Submit it to us by mail or e-mail, or call us at 780-830-5105.

The Perfect Introduction

If you hear someone say: My uncle (grandfather, great-grandmother) homesteaded in this area in the 1920s. I wish I knew more about him/her, or could find some stories or photographs of him/her.

You can say: Why not phone the archives? They can show you where to find homestead records, census records, cemetery records, and maybe even some stories, photographs and newspaper clippings about him/her. They often partner with the genealogy society, who can help you look for older records.

Problems With Alberta On Record?

The provincial archival databases have recently changed, and we are having some problems uploading material to them. Check out the new version at <http://www.albertaonrecord.ca>, but if you can't find what you need, please don't hesitate to ask Archives staff for help. You can give us a call at 780-830-5105 or visit us at the Archives. It's a good idea to phone ahead to make sure someone is available.

Are You Enjoying This Newsletter?

Would you like to receive it mailed to your home four times a year? It's free when you are a member of the South Peace Regional Archives Society. See the Membership Form on the back of the newsletter. You can also give memberships as gifts to friends or family.

Benefits of Membership

- Be actively involved in preserving the history of this area.
- Have a voice in keeping archival collections in the Peace River Country.
- Become more aware of the issues and types of collections in archives.
- Receive a quarterly newsletter and notice of meetings and events.

**South Peace Regional Archives
Society Membership/Renewal Form**

Date: _____
Name: _____
Address: _____
Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

Interested in being involved as a
_____ volunteer
_____ board member

There are two types of membership:

Full membership--get involved in the society,
attend meetings, vote on issues and run for office.

Associate membership--receive communications
(like this newsletter) to stay informed about issues
and happenings at the Archives.

This membership is _____ new _____ renewal

Full Membership
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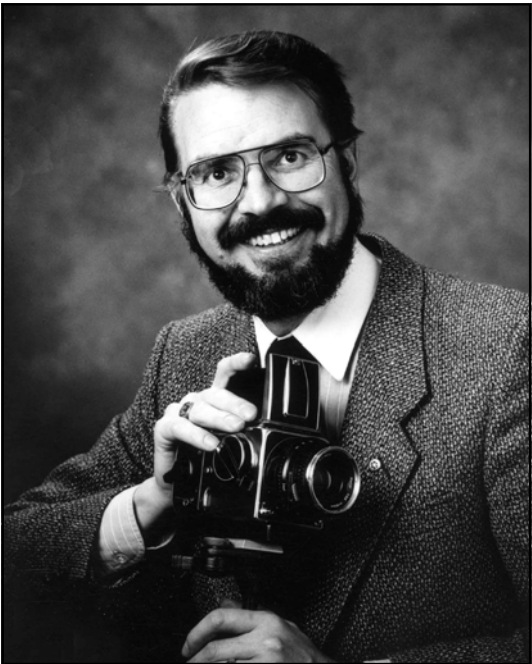
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Fax: 780-831-7371
E-mail: spra@telus.net

In Memoriam



It was with deep sadness that South Peace Regional Archives learned of the death of local photographer Paul Pivert on the evening of February 17, 2014. Paul was a huge supporter of this Archives and donated his tremendous photograph collection to us a few years ago. He was helpful and accommodating whenever his photographs were needed to illustrate a story from the past, and always ready to visit. In 2012 SPRA awarded him an honorary membership and the Beth Sheehan Archives Award to recognize his significant contribution to the history of the area.

Thank you, Paul, for being a part of this community and giving us a permanent record that will continue into the future. We will miss you.

South Peace Regional Archives
is funded by
City of Grande Prairie, County of Grande Prairie, MD
of Greenview, MD of Spirit River
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