

TELLING OUR STORIES

Volume 9

SEPTEMBER 2018

Issue 4

**TRAPPING IN
TEEPEE CREEK**

**HOLLYWOOD
HUNTS:**

*THE AMERICAN SPORTSMAN
VISITS THE SOUTH PEACE*

**FISHING IN THE
ARCHIVES**



**SOUTH PEACE
FISH & GAME**

A PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTH PEACE REGIONAL ARCHIVES



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Cover: Jack Spangler Holding a Fish, 1930 (SPRA 630.08.015b)

Note on Photographs: Photographs featured in *Telling Our Stories* are unedited, apart from minimal cropping. In cases where substantial cropping may impact the context of the photograph, this will be noted in the caption.

A Publication of the South Peace Regional Archives

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.

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Letter from the Editor

As the temperature drops and the leaves begin to yellow, the South Peace prepares for fall. For some people, the season signals the start of the harvest. For parents, it brings joy as children return to school. But for many in the South Peace, the fall also marks the beginning of another season: hunting season.

Since people first inhabited this area, we have been hunting, trapping, fishing, and game keeping as a means of sustenance, employment, and entertainment. In this issue of *Telling Our Stories*, we explore these activities and how they have shaped our relationships with fish and game in the South Peace.

Archives staff and our two guest contributors have worked hard to bring you the articles within these pages. I hope you will take the time to read all of them. Looking for somewhere to start?

Visit the wilds of Teepee Creek with stories of trapper Karl Gerlish (pg. 6). Pack your hunting gear for a trip into the mountains with Jerry Stojan and *The American Sportsman* (pg 10). Fish through the Archives with research tips from our Archivist (pg. 12). Learn proper ostrich riding form on a Scottish Game Farm (pg. 16) and, finally, uncover an early Indigenous hunting and gathering technique on the banks of the Wapiti (pg. 23).

This issue, I also challenge you to share *Telling Our Stories* in a new way. Bring it to your hunting camp. Pass it along to a fishing buddy. Gift it to someone in your life who may not know about the Archives! I know they will enjoy it.



Alyssa Currie

SPRA Executive Director

Take Note

The Indigenous History Committee meets 10:00am on the last Wednesday of every month. If you are interested in attending or if you would like to volunteer, please contact us at (780) 830-5105.

Culture Bites are back! In September 18th, Archivist Josephine Sallis will share stories about Canada and Grande Prairie in 2018 at the public library.

Come on out to the Grande Prairie Museum on the evenings of 12 and 13 October. The Archives is partnering with the Museum to present Folktales and Folklore, an evening of atmospheric tales told while touring the Heritage Village. The stories are based loosely on local archival records. More information will be available in an upcoming blog post and on our Facebook page.

The Archives will be offering archival workshops again this year. Preserving Your Family History” is taking place 26 November 2018. Please call the Museum to register at (780) 830-7090.

Territory Acknowledgement

We acknowledge with respect that the South Peace Regional Archives is located on the ancestral and traditional lands of many Indigenous peoples. This territory is covered by Treaty 8, signed in 1899. The continuing relationship between Indigenous peoples and this land contributes to the rich knowledge and culture of the South Peace region.

We are grateful to serve the people on this land and honor the Calls for Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Working in the Woods

Alberta Forestry Service in the Dave Schenk Collection

In 1930, the Alberta government officially took ownership and responsibility of the natural resources within the province. The Alberta Forest Service (AFS) was established to formally manage the public lands, forests, and wildlife.

AFS staff members called Rangers implemented the government’s policies and protections for the forests: an immense responsibility. In addition to their better-known forestry duties, rangers were responsible for the administration of trap lines and enforcing game and fisheries regulations. In northern and remote regions of Alberta, rangers’ duties varied from issuing licences to tagging beaver pelts.

Dave Schenk (1931-2017) joined the Alberta Forest Service in 1956. His career with the AFS spanned more than thirty years and numerous forest areas, including Grande Prairie, South Wapiti, Woking, and Edson. He worked first as an Assistant Ranger, then as a District Ranger, before moving to the Land Management Department.



Above: Dave Schenk and Henry McCullough in Dead Horse Meadows, 1961 (SPRA 256.03.30, cropped)

The Dave Schenk collection (SPRA 256.03) documents his duties with the Alberta Forest Service including forestry road work, film tours, fire fighting, and game patrol. Dave’s work with the AFS often brought him to remote stretches of wilderness, such as the Sheep Creek area where he patrolled the hills to monitor game populations and verify licenses for any hunters or trappers he encountered. The Dave Schenk collection not only documents his career, but also provides insight into the reaches of the Alberta Forest Service.

For more information on the history of Rangers in Alberta, see: *The Alberta Forest Service, 1930—2005: Protection and Management of Alberta’s Forests*, available online. Photographs of Dave Schenk appear on pages 87, 114, 195, 201, and 338.

Right: Henry McCullough and Dave Schenk on the extreme south end of the Wapiti forest district in the Sheep Creek area, 1961 (SPRA 256.03.29)



Trapping in Teepee Creek

Stories of Karl Gerlish

Guest Contribution from Gordon Mackey

In this article, Archives member Gordon Mackey shares his memories of Karl Gerlish: a local trapper who lived near Teepee Creek during the summer and maintained a trapline during the winter. Text and painting reproduced with permission of Gordon Mackey. All rights reserved.

Karl Gerlish was an immigrant from Germany. He was one of my Grandpa Mackey's best friends. He lived in the Teepee Creek area, somewhere south of Teepee Creek, but I was never at his place. He was mainly a trapper. I met him at Grandpa M's when I was barely old enough to remember things, and after Grandpa M died, he still visited Grandma and Arthur, and occasionally a passing visit at our farm. He was liked by all.

Karl's personal history is a bit vague. He was married and had a family in Germany. How and when and why he came to Canada, I don't know. Presumably it was after WW I. Karl didn't talk about WW I at all, so I know nothing about his activities then.

He went back to Germany at least once, I think it was with the intention of re-uniting himself with his family, but the last time he came back to Canada, he was resigned to live here for the rest of his life.

After teaching school for 4 years, I ended up back in

Grande Prairie with the start of my family, in 1965. Finding out that Karl was still alive and in the Pioneer Lodge, I started visiting him, and became his friend. I would take him out in my car occasionally for a short drive, and after I moved out to the farm west of the Grande Prairie airport, I would bring Karl out for the occasional supper. Karl loved hibiscus flowers, growing them in his room.

Karl played the mandolin, but after his fingers became to weak to play, he gave his mandolin to me. I discovered the neck was warped, and it was not possible to play it. From that introduction, though, I became interested in the instrument, and bought one for myself. His mandolin was donated to the Teepee Creek Museum.

Karl talked about his trapping days quite a bit. His trapline was somewhere towards Peace River, I believe, and he, along with 2 other trappers, built a sizable cabin near where all three traplines met. The traplines were essentially a large oval circuit. Each man had about 4 other smaller cabins/shelters on their traplines, a day's travel between them. The three trappers would head out with their dog teams, on their own traplines, collecting the animals trapped, re-setting the traps, skinning them in their little cabins, feeding the meat to their dogs. When they got back to the main cabin, they would stretch and salt their pelts, then prepare for another trip along their trapline.

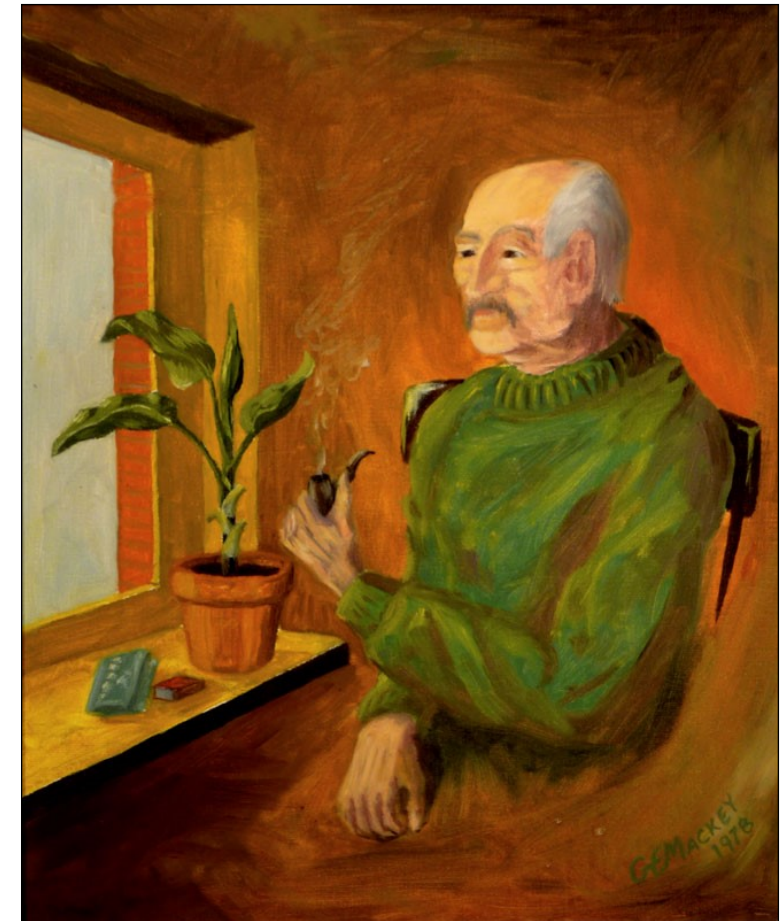
Using dog teams was essential for their travel. They

had slashed narrow trails through the forests, but whenever possible, travelled on the ice of large creeks and rivers. Karl said he never tried to steer his team when travelling on moving water, as the lead dog could somehow sense if there was thin or soft ice, and would swerve to avoid it.

Karl maintained that the wolverine was the most dangerous animal out there, for it had no fear and would attack any size of animal. They, being the largest of the weasel family, were also very smart, and could sense and avoid traps. *(Note: this was in the days of leg-hold traps, which are banned these days I think.)* Anyway, Karl discovered that wolverines were sufficiently curious, and he started cutting down trees several feet above snow-level, putting his baited traps on top of the tall stumps. The wolverine would climb the stump and put a paw on top, getting trapped. That was the only method Karl used that trapped wolverines.

When the idea for engine driven sleds came about, a few machines were built here and there in the north. I remember that Rodacker's Welding built one in Grande Prairie, and the early Ski-Doo's patterned themselves after the pioneer ones. They all had 2 skis in front and a track behind, but the tracks of the first ones were just 2 roller chains with pieces of angle-iron welded across to provide both grip and support against sinking in the snow. The old ones didn't all have a proper hood or cover for the engine, but did have a box for hauling stuff.

One of Karl's trapper friends sold his dogs and bought



Above: Karl Gerlish painted by Gordon Mackey

an early snowmobile. He loved his new means of travel, but didn't survive the first trapping season. He just disappeared. Karl and the other trapper believe the machine went through the ice on a river, but nothing was ever found to confirm what happened.

After Karl died, I did an oil painting of him mainly from memory, and eventually donated it to the Teepee Creek Museum.

Share your stories with us and they may be featured in a future issue of the magazine. See page 26 for more details.

Sam Baptiste Wilson

A Legacy of Stories

Samuel “Sam” Baptiste Wilson of Grovedale is remembered as a skilled hunter by the people who lived by the Wapiti River near Grande Cache; yet few records exist in the archives that record his life. We do not know his date of birth (although he was likely born sometime in 1895), his parents, genealogy, or his personal appearance. However, anecdotes from his life are scattered throughout our records and can form a better understanding of who he was.

In an interview conducted by Jim Nelson, Norman Eng mentions the Wilson family several times during his description of his time living in the Two Lakes-Kakwa area. According to Norman, the Wilsons were among the Indigenous peoples that were “not certified” because they chose not to take treaty. The Wilsons, like many other Indigenous families residing in the area, were forced to relocate from the Jasper-Banff area after the government began instituting the parks.

Norman reflected on his memories of Sam with fondness, stating that he felt as if Sam had adopted him.

Sam would check in to see if Norman needed anything when he went into town, helped him on the farm, and took him hunting. He recalls that Sam had once stated he had never gotten lost—

that he could recognize the trees, remember his way back to the creek, and would always know where he was. This surely would have been a crucial skill for any hunter or trapper navigating the bush. (*Interested in the full interview? Visit the Archives to listen to fonds 133.*)

Not all of Sam’s outdoor adventures were positive; in 1940, he was attacked by a bear. A headline on the front page of the Herald-Tribune dramatically reads: “Indian of Pipestone Creek Has Narrow Escape From Death, Attacked By Bear.” The article summarizes the events in a very succinct manner: “Shot Animal In Its Den and Broke Its Lower Jaw—Missed Second Shot and Third Mis-Fired—Bear Threw Him Down and Lacerated His Head and Face, and Tore All Clothes Practically Off Him” (4 Jan 1940).

The event took place on December 1st, 1940 when he had been out hunting sixteen miles south of the Wapiti. It’s suggested that if he had not managed to make that first shot,

Sam Wilson would not have been able to live to tell the tale. Thank-

fully, he was brought to the Grande Prairie Municipal Hospital by A.L. Osborne and J. McCullough. His son Harvey avenged his attack by killing the bear that had injured him.



Herald-Tribune, 11 January 1940

Stanley William Bird

Correspondence from the Homestead

Stanley William Bird was born in Dorset, England ca. 1899 and came to Canada with his parents in 1908. The family lived in Nakomis, Saskatchewan until 1914, when Mr. Bird took a homestead about twenty miles southwest of Watrous, Saskatchewan. There is little information about Stanley Bird’s youth, just that he worked for the Texas cattlemen who grazed their herds in southern Saskatchewan.

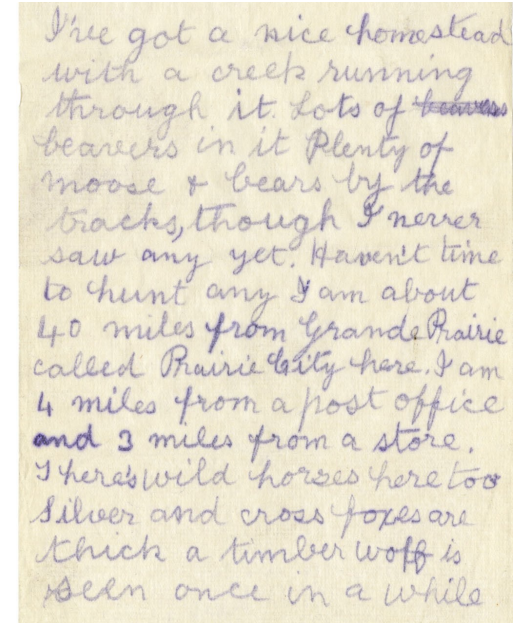
In May of 1918, Stanley filed on a homestead in the Northfield/LaGlance area, on the southwest quarter of 6-75-8-W6. This was “about 40 miles from Prairie City, 4 miles from a post office, and

3 miles from a store.”

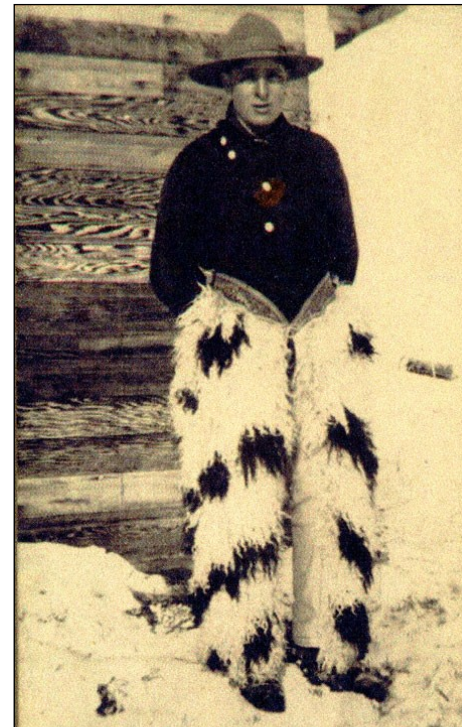
Over the course of the summer, he corresponded with his father and sister Peg. Stanley wrote of his day to day activities, described the houses in the area, shared news about the unsolved murders of 1918, and in one letter described the diverse local wildlife:

“I’ve got a nice homestead with a creek running through it. Lots of beavers in it. Plenty of moose and bears by the tracks, though I never saw any yet. Haven’t time to hunt any. I am about 40 miles from Grande Prairie called Prairie City here. I am 4 miles from a post office and 3 miles from a store. There’s wild horses here too. Silver and cross foxes are thick. A timber wolf is seen once in a while.”

After spending the summer on his homestead, he returned to his father’s home in Saskatchewan for the winter. Somewhere along the way he contracted the Spanish Flu and died on Christmas Day, 1918.



Above: Letter written by Stanley William Bird, dated 27 June 1918 (SPRA 594)



Above: Stanley William Bird in sheepskin chaps and cowboy hat, 1918 (SPRA 594.01)

Hollywood Hunts

The American Sportsman visits the South Peace

Jerry Stojan emigrated from Czechoslovakia with his parents in 1926. Jerry married Irene Lenoir of Ontario, and they had two children, Charles and Linda. Though Jerry spent many years occupied as a farmer and horseman, he also enjoyed time as a hunter and avid outdoorsman. In his later years, Jerry pursued a career as a hunting guide and outfitter.

Jerry's team packed horses into the mountains southwest of Grande Prairie and established base camps before hunting season. The Kakwa-area mountains where Jerry brought his clients were home to big game animals such as sheep, caribou, elk, moose, and bear. He often worked with local guides, including Roddy Moberly and Alex Moberly. Jerry's clients harvested animals both for their meat and trophies.



Above: Article from the Daily Herald-Tribune, 16 October 1969. (SPRA 2018.036)

In 1969, Jerry coordinated two hunts for the American Broadcasting Corporation to be featured in the television series *The American Sportsman*. In a letter to the show's producers, Jerry committed "30 head of horse (10 saddle and 20 pack) tents, heaters, camp cook, spotter, packers, food bedrolls etc. as per [their] telephone conversation" for the hunt. The episodes would feature singer Vic Damone hunting bighorn sheep and actor Horst Buchholz hunting moose.

On October 10th, the Daily Herald-Tribune reported "the stars are whizzing through [the] city airport" as these two celebrities crossed paths in Grande Prairie: Damone leaving after a successful hunt and Buchholz arriving to begin his own. The article boasted that "every other hunter that has gone to the camp has got his animal, with the help of Indian callers; and

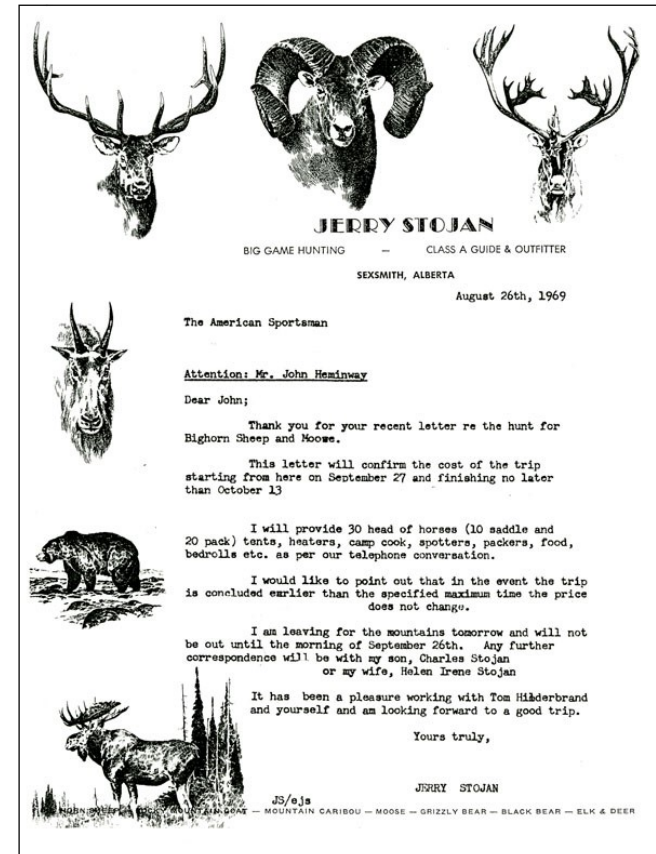
Right: Still from *The American Sportsman*: Jerry Stojan (left) and singer Vic Damone (SPRA 2018.040, contrast adjusted)

under the watchful eye of the Stojans it is hard to imagine anyone not getting a moose." Horst Buchholz was indeed successful hunting a moose.

Airing throughout the United States, *The American Sportsman* episodes emphasized the beauty of the Albertan Rockies, the thrill of hunting big game animals, and the knowledge of the local hunting guides. Observing a herd of caribou with Vic Damone, Jerry explains "they're starting to move down to the winter range. They normally range about ten, fifteen miles west of here and they migrate about sixty miles off to winter range down on the Kakwa River." Later, approaching the bighorn sheep shot by Damone, Jerry demonstrates how to determine its age by counting the growth ridges on its horns: "every year they'll grow during the good feeding season and in the winter, they create a ridge. That's how you count them."

When the episodes originally aired, Jerry travelled to the United States to watch them; later, he was provided with 16mm film copies of the episodes

Below: Reproduction from Jerry Stojan's slide collection: Roddy Moberly (left) and Horst Buchholz (right) display the antlers from Buchholz's moose. (SPRA 2018.040.23)



Above: Letter from Jerry Stojan detailing guiding arrangements for *The American Sportsman* hunt. For privacy reasons, portions of the letter have been redacted. (SPRA 2018.036)

that he shared with friends on a projector. Jerry's daughter, Linda, recently donated these films and contextual archival documents to the Archives, as well as a collection of slides that document Jerry's many years of hunting and guiding in the South Peace. These records will be added to the Jerry Stojan family fonds (fonds 253) to provide a more thorough narrative of Jerry's life and career. They will also demonstrate how a sheep and a moose brought Hollywood to the South Peace and back again.

Archiveology: Fishing Expeditions in the Archives

People often compare research at the Archives to digging for treasure. I think it is a little bit like fishing. The best place to start fishing at the Archives is through our website. Hopefully you already know your way to our little online fishing hole. If not, what are you waiting for? Let's get started. Here is the link:

www.southpeacearchives.org

When you embark on a fishing expedition, you need three things: bait, tools, and a place to fish. When conducting research, your search terms will act as your "Bait." The best way to dig up bait is to annoy your relatives with a lot of pesky questions about your great-grandaunt or that distant patriarch who supposedly robbed a train. All that annoyance activity should help you generate a list of names, dates, and places to research. Every tiny morsel has potential for your bait list.

Next, you need your tools. You will want to take notes as you go otherwise, you may find yourself returning to the same spot to retrieve that fish you lost. So grab your pencil and paper, start up that excel spreadsheet on your tablet, or open that cloud doc on your phone. Be ready to record your catch.

Now you need a place to fish. Ready your bait and cast out into the waters, or in this case, our online research "sweet spots". Last year, over eighteen



Lucy Lundblad taking the girls fishing, May 1940. (SPRA 175.055.05).

thousand visitors from around the world visited our website to fish for answers. There are several prime spots to choose from starting with the finding aids—where we list all the archival collections already arranged and described. These collections include a brief history about the creators and may yield all that you need. There are also several online databases that allow you to "fish" through indices for community history books, reference files, and newspapers, as well as our digitized photographs. Even our most experienced fishers may not realize that the Archives is also home to an expanding library related to the South Peace Region. We keep a list of our reference books online for your browsing pleasure.

In some cases, you may find all you need at our online destination: that story about great-grandaunt Sela's lingerie and haberdashery business in the collection biography or the photograph of that rascally five-times-great-grandpa Johnson on your mother's side (no! your father's side!). It was just what you were fishing for. Your successful foray may also yield bigger bait, for which you will need to take your boat into deeper waters. In this case, deeper waters is the Archives facility itself. There you can cast your line into archival folders, reference files, and photograph collections.

This part of the fishing expedition is often the most rewarding and sometimes the most disappointing. The thrill of seeing new sights does not always make up for the lack of discovery. Not all fishing expeditions are successful in the actual fish-catching department, after all. Sometimes the success is in being able to take part in the excursion.

This process of discovery is one of the beautiful things about archives in a democratic society. Except in collections where personal privacy is a consideration, our records are open to the public. Online resources and on-site collections allow "fishers" of all skill and interest levels to "fish" through the records for information about their families, local history, and government records. We keep a healthy stock of various types of fish – textual documents, photographs, maps, film and audio recordings, to name a few, in order to provide a reasonable chance that you will find the fish you are looking for when you visit our website or enter our doors.

Of course, it helps to have a guide with you when searching unknown waters for records. The friendly staff at the South Peace Regional Archives are happy to show you how to set your bait and where to fish in the hopes that you will reel in the big one. Maybe it will be the catch of the day.



Bill Archer and Murray Carlisle fishing in Contrary River, 1941. (SPRA 399.09.22)

Olwen's Own Words: Canadian Wildlife

In 1933, Olwen Sanger-Davies travelled from England to the Peace Country, to visit her younger brother, Morgan, who lived just outside the town of Grande Prairie. Olwen documented her journey and time in the Peace Country in two scrapbooks, containing approximately 500 drawings and paintings. "Olwen's Own Words" features excerpts and illustrations from these scrapbooks.

Olwen's Scrapbook: A Journey to the Peace Country in 1933 can be purchased from the Archives for \$40⁰⁰ + \$2⁰⁰ GST. Cash and cheques are accepted.

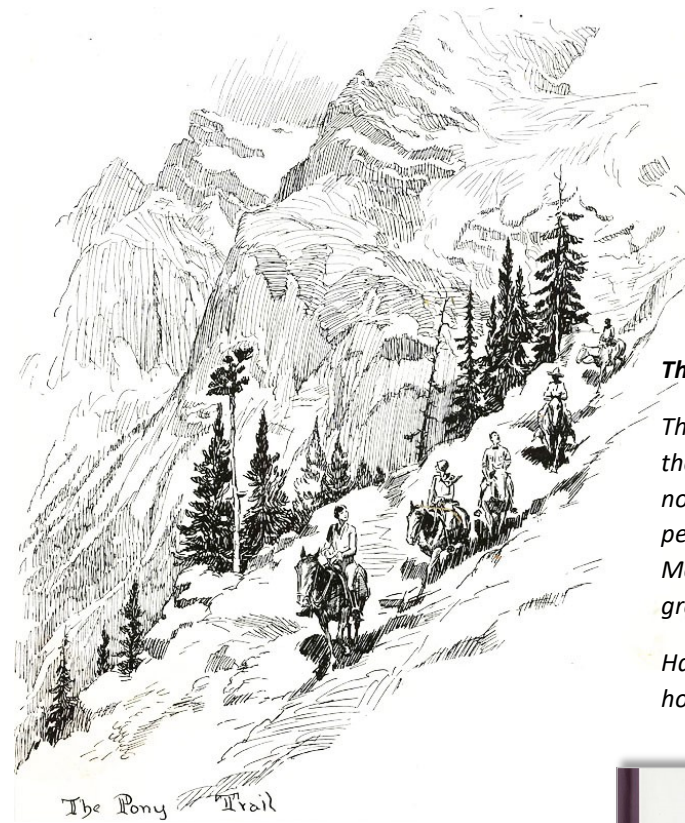
Limited quantities are available.



Wednesday, June 21st

A fine morning, so we went for the day Motor Trip starting at 9:00. It was a lovely drive, first past Vermillion Lake, where we saw the beaver dams and were nearly run into by a mountain sheep and his two friends...

...Soon after leaving Lake Louise we saw a young moose paddling, and got a snap and sketch of him.



Purchase your copy of Olwen's Scrapbook today

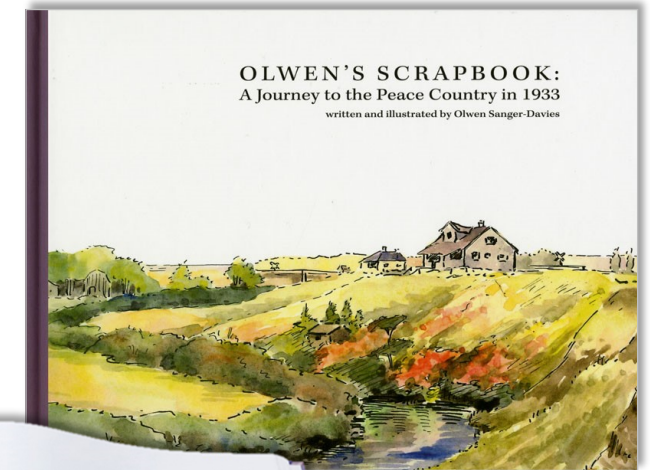
ONLY \$40.00 +GST
while quantities last



Thursday, June 22nd

The pony trails up past the Upper Hot Springs made the slopes comparatively easy going (though we met no ponies). Up and up we wound getting marvelous peeps of the valleys, nice bits of the Rocky Mountains, and also finding various new flowers, green orchids, and a small, pink lady slipper orchid.

Having climbed for more than two hours were horrified to see a notice saying: [3/4 WAY TO TOP]



Don't miss out!
Cash and cheques are accepted.

The Hines Family Album

Early Life on a Scottish Game Farm

Earlier this year, the Sutherland family donated a album containing over a hundred photographs relating to the Hines family life on a Scottish game farm prior to their immigration to Canada. The game was unlike any found in the South Peace region.

Game farms are places where wildlife is raised and kept typically for hunting. It appears that the specific game farm where the Hines family worked also contained a menagerie of exotic animals: for the



Above: Helen Hines (Sutherland) rides "Lizzy" the zebra. Lucy Hines looks on from the window. (SPRA 2018.012.120)

Left: Alfred Hines demonstrates proper ostrich-riding form: tucking your legs behind the wings (SPRA 2018.012.102)

private enjoyment of estate owners and their guests or possibly for commercial display. Menageries acted as symbols of prestige for the upper-classes and provided a glimpse into life in "exotic" Eastern lands. The Hines family album contains images of zebras, ostriches, and llamas as well as a number of photos of the family riding and playing with the animals.

In August, Ross Sutherland and Anne Graydon visited the Archives to meet with staff and provide additional information about the family album and the history it contains. Archives staff will use their stories to describe the photographs in the album.

The siblings remember their grandfather, Alfred Hines as a man who was, at times, quite strict. Ross recalled that his grandfather always made him shine his shoes

when he was a boy; likely a holdover from the time he worked as a bobby. Alfred later went on to run a game farm for the Duke of Winfield in Bedfordshire at the beginning of the twentieth century. It was here that he likely met his future wife, Octavia Beeata Hines, who worked for the neighbours as a scullery maid. Anne recalls that her grandmother hated cleaning fireplaces to the extent that she would not let Ross put a wood stove in their old home.

Alfred and Octavia's eldest children were raised on the game farm, including Helen Sutherland nee Hines: Ross and Anne's mother. By 1912, the family relocated to Regina, SK where Alfred took up a number of jobs including working for the Partridge family farm and the Canadian Pacific Railway. He also worked at the provincial jail. The Hines family album



Above: The Hines family worked on the Partridge family farm in Saskatchewan (SPRA 2018.012.017)

contains a few photos of the family's time in Saskatchewan, including a photograph on the farm.

Helen moved to the Peace Country as an adult after marrying Seath Sutherland, son of George and Pheobe: descendants of British loyalists living in Massachusetts. Helen experienced a more privileged upbringing than most immigrants. Her father had a prestigious job at the provincial jail that afforded the family privileges such as running water. Nevertheless, Helen preserved through numerous challenges to successfully raise twelve children (six daughters and six sons) while homesteading in the Peace.

Helen inherited the Hines family photo album after her father died at the age of 90, and eventually passed it on to her son, Ross. The photographs encased in the album are an important component of their family's journey to the South Peace Region, where they encountered very different "wildlife" than they had become accustomed to on the game farm.

Right: The Hines family album, page 9 (SPRA 2018.012)



Fish and Wildlife



Top left: A small boy with a hunting knife strapped around his waist, holding a rifle over a dead moose, ca. 1915 (Fonds 052, SPRA 1997.45.12)



Top right: Victor and Velma Macklin with pretend guns and dead chickens, 1916 (SPRA 177.017)

Left: Arthur Buck makes a bear cub stand on its hind legs, ca. 1912 (SPRA 298.16)

Below: Ann Miller, Pearl Weber, and Caroline Miller home from a hunt. The women are standing with a moose carcass in front of a log cabin. Ca. 1935 (SPRA 116.09.01.01.138)



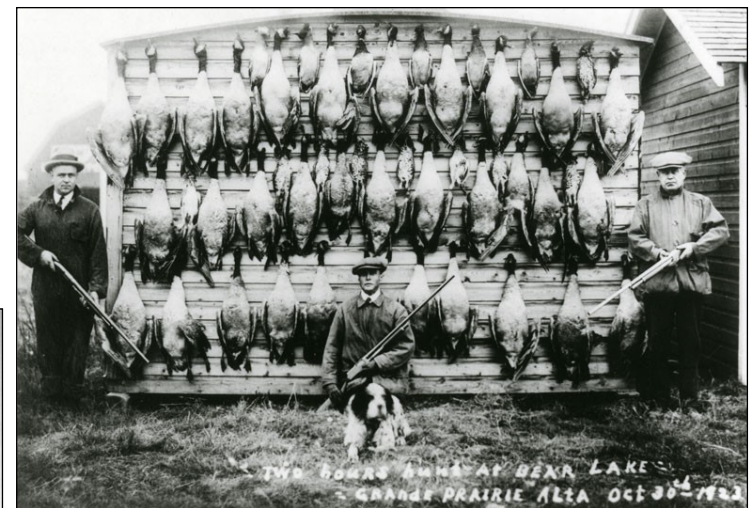
We've selected this issue's featured photographs to highlight hunting, fishing, and captivity of wildlife in the South Peace region.

Top: Two men and a woman pose showing off the birds they have successfully killed, 1915 (SPRA 344.02.13)

Middle: The results of two hours of bird hunting, on October 30, 1923, at Bear Lake, Alberta: 32 geese and 16 other birds displayed by three hunters and their spaniel hunting dog. (Fonds 001, SPRA 1969.59.291)

Bottom left: A happy fisher shows off her catch in front of Keillar's Resort at Sturgeon Lake. (SPRA 175.030.3)

Bottom right: Two men with bear cubs on chains are watched by a young office clerk and two children playing with a go-cart. ca. 1925. (Fonds 052, SPRA 2002.54.33)



Canada 150:

Dunvegan Fur Trade Ledger, 1832 – 1840 and O. H. Johnson’s Diary, 1908

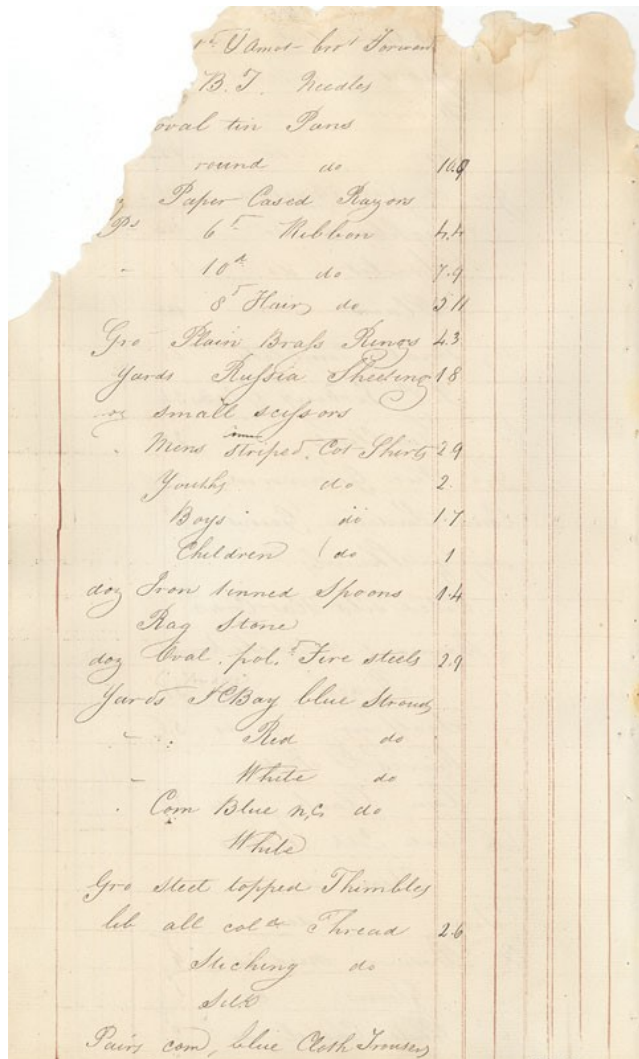
The Canada 150 Project helps tell the story of the South Peace Region through ten documents selected from the Archives collection. Together, these records trace the history of the region starting in 1820. In this issue, we explore the 1832 Dunvegan Fur Trade Ledger and O. H. Johnson’s 1908 Diary.

Dunvegan Fur Trade Ledger 1832 – 1840

The list of accounts in this ledger provide a glimpse into fur trade economics at this remote location. The accounts provide evidence of the details of daily trading – furs and trade goods coming and popular trade items going out. Ribbons, flour, cotton, and tobacco were among the most purchased goods put on account. The ledger also provides insight into the animals of the region by recording which were traded at the post.

In the initial accounts pages, the single most common animal skin being brought in is moose skin, large and small. This begs the question: was moose at the time more prevalent in this region, more so than other fur-bearing animals? Or was moose perhaps a popular food source, enabling the practice of trading the skin for other food stuff or household items a relatively easy way to augment a living? Besides the daily accounts, the middle of the ledger contains rough inventories for furs at the fort. These inventories include moose but also bear,

fox, lynx, and muskrat among others. Comparing the counts over the years can provide some indication of the fluctuations in those animal populations or their popularity as fur. In conjunction with other historical documents, fur trade ledgers can be used to study



Left: a page from the Dunvegan fur trade ledger. Part of SPRA 134 Hudson’s Bay Company fonds

past environments and develop a better understanding of the relative health of wildlife over the course of the HBC’s trading history.

In the ledger, hunting and trapping are central to the activities documented within its pages. The O. H. Johnson Diary of 1908 tells a different story.

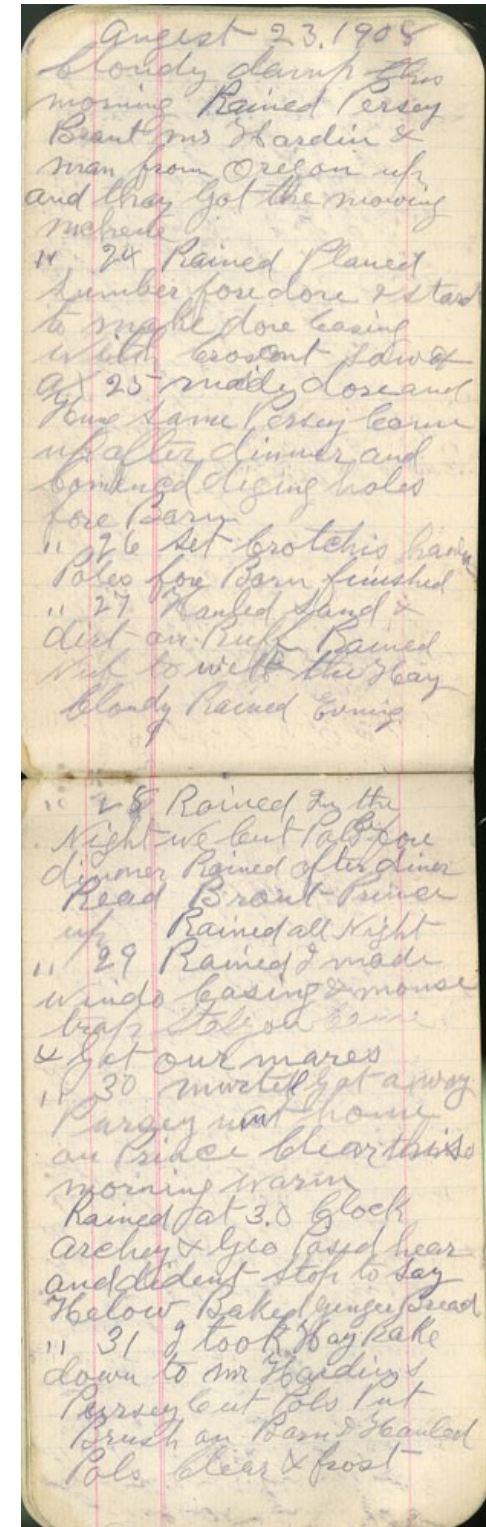
The O. H. Johnson Diary of 1908

Johnson seems a bit sad in the first few entries. The rain probably did not help. According to his diary, it started to rain after 4pm June 1 first and then, “June 2 Rained all day. Cleaned guns and sewed up my overalls and shaved and sat by the fire in the tent. Lonesome day. Greased shoes. Rained 30 hours...” It seems like his last lonely day as the names of friends fill the pages of his diary – Arnold, Mead and Grant, Stone, Rob and George, Edward Waddell, and Germaine. Johnson also makes note of several times that he met local “Indians” and either traded with them, shared food together, or joined them as part of the hunting party.

Hunting appears largely as an opportunistic type of activity. Johnson and the others he works with take their guns with them and shoot whatever happens to show itself at the time, mainly ducks it seems. And no, they don’t shoot *everything*.

At times, there are specific hunting trips noted, such as a friend hunting for bear and four separate mentions of men stopping by Johnson’s place as they hunt for horses. Besides ducks and horses, Johnson notes moose, swans, rabbit, mud hens, and bears. They do not take central place in his diary, however, suggesting that while wildlife and hunting was important to his way of living, it was not primary to how he defined or made that living. It was simply a part of his environment he was able to exploit.

While these two documents demonstrate a different attitude toward wildlife and hunting, each in its own way provides a glimpse into the history of the relationship between people and animals. Each provides evidence for the history of wildlife in the regions they portray.



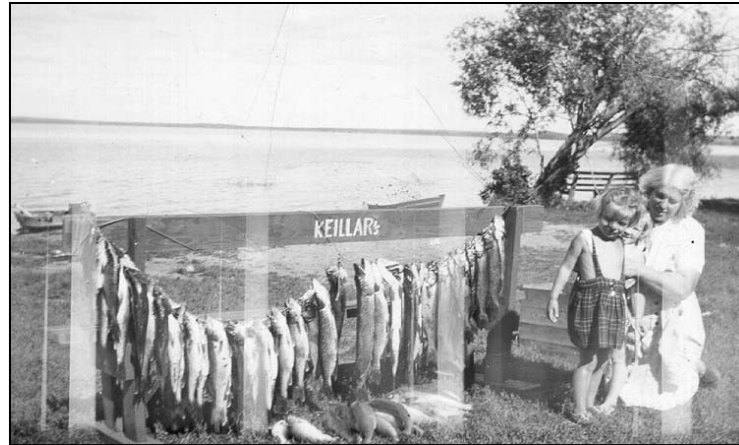
Off the Hook at Keillar's Resort

This information originated from "Journey to the Millennium", a historical display about the Valleyview area housed at the Valleyview Library and Gallery. It also appeared in the September 2010 issue of Telling Our Stories, in "Explore the History of Sturgeon Lake."

Bob Keillar and his wife Kate bought their property on the banks of Sturgeon Lake from Alex Williamson in the spring of 1945. Shortly thereafter, they opened Keillar's Resort: a popular destination for locals and tourists alike. The Resort began with seven little log cabins, which were gradually replaced by more modern facilities. It was a popular resort during the 1950s; Kate Keillar recalls one Sunday when they served "30 gallons of ice cream in cones, 20 lbs. Of wieners in buns and 40 lbs of hamburgers in buns with nothing but an old wood stove to cook on." (175.030)



Left: A view of Sturgeon Lake from the Keillar's Resort (SPRA 0175.030.04)



Above: Jeanie Keillar (L) with mom Kate Keillar, and sister Sadie Keillar (Walker) at Keillar's Resort at Sturgeon Lake in the late 1940s. (SPRA 175.030.5)

The 1930s was a busy time at Keillar's Resort. "Sturgeon Lake Whitefish were considered by many to be the finest whitefish in Alberta. During the 1930s a major winter commercial fishery developed at Sturgeon Lake to supply eastern Canadian and American markets. Whitefish was iced and trucked or flown out of Sturgeon Lake by ski plane. The market disappeared in the 1950s..." (175.055) In 1975, the Keillars sold their property to the Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation.

The Valleyview & District Chamber of Commerce Millenium Photograph Collection includes photographs of the Keillar family and Keillar's Resort. The collection can be viewed online at Alberta on Record or in-person at the archives.

Uncovering the Past

An Early Indigenous Hunting and Gathering Technique

Guest Contribution from Victoria Wanihadie

Victoria Wanihadie is a student and educator of traditional Indigenous knowledge. She is a volunteer member of the Indigenous History Committee.

When people use the term "Buffalo Jump," they are referring to a communal hunting and gathering technique used by my ancestors, where bison are driven over embankments. But the term has problematic political implications, since buffalo jumps were also used to kill bison, one of my ancestor's main staples of sustenance, in order to facilitate starvation of Indigenous peoples. "Buffalo Pound" is now the preferred terminology.

Over 20 years ago, my dad told stories of the Indigenous gathering sites in our area. At the time,



the sites were referred to as buffalo jumps. These two sites that my dad spoke of are located in the mountains. I knew very little of our culture and history, so I tucked that story in the back of my mind.

Then last year, one of my relations from Clear hills - spoke of a buffalo jump on Webster Road. This piqued my interest. I brought a local historian to the nearby site and we sent the land location to an archaeologist. The archaeologist replied with, "The nearest buffalo jump is in and around the Red Deer area."

I brought this to one of the elder's attention and he shared with me the location of a buffalo jump on our Beaver-homeland. He added that, this is one of the ways that our people hunted. Since then, I was informed of three other sites.

Recently, I was invited to participate at one other site along the Smoky River Valley. I was told that it is a buffalo jump site, and I was able to witness four classes of students from different schools participate in a dig. It was an exciting time for many of these fortunate students. A few of the students uncovered pieces of shards from some of my ancestor's tools. The plan for this group of archaeologists, is to dig at the bottom of the embankment next year. There is much of the past that is still left to uncover.

Minor edits have been made to this article for clarity and length.

Left: Local student participate at archaeology dig (supplied by Victoria Wanihadie)

Lady Alberta Guide

An excerpt from Grace Diesel's *Memory Wall*

Grace and Ed Diesel ran a trap line south of Grande Prairie from 1957 to 1976. They started a big game guiding business, and in 1966, Grace obtained a license as an Alberta Big Game Guide. In 1989, Grace published a book of stories and poetry. This story comes from her book, *Memory Wall*. The photographs are shared from the Archives collections.

A Young Hunter's Trophy

Keith was a young "spring bear" hunter from Washington state. He had come up with his uncle who had hunted with us before.

He and I left the "L" cabin one spring morning very early on horseback. We were going over to a sawmill that had shut down previously, and this should have been a good place to find a bear.

On the way there, during an extremely hot ride we saw a bear walk across the old bushy road. What luck! It climbed a huge Bamigilla (Bamb) tree. This is

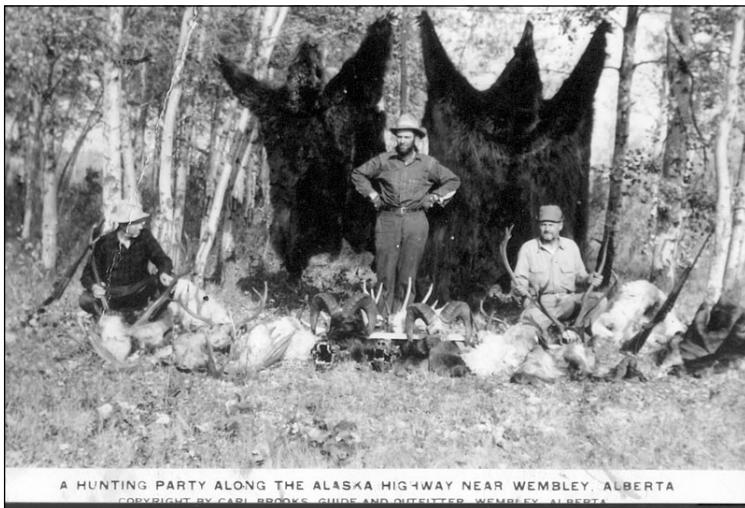
just what we wanted. We dismounted and I tied the horses to a tree, well away from the bear. Keith was very excited but calmly got closer to the tree and took careful aim and shot the bear. Down it fell on the ground at the base of the tree, dead!

What a happy young hunter. We "trophy skinned" the bear hide then salted and rolled it up, tied it and put it inside a large plastic bag and gunny sack. We tried to tie it behind my saddle on the horse but Big Smokey, a huge pinto horse was not going to have anything to do with that bear hide! Around and around we went. Finally I tied his head close to a good sized tree, then took a clean gunny sack and tied it over his head. Only then were we able to put the bear hide behind my saddle. But then the only problem was... how was I going to get on this snorting beast? Being a short person with short legs it looked like I didn't have a hope of getting on Smokey! But Keith fixed that – he just picked me up and put me in the saddle, then untied my horse.

Smokey danced all the way to the sawmill site and then home.

We waited all afternoon at the sawmill but no bear showed up so we were returning to the cabin. On the way back it started to rain and get colder. Soon it was snowing and the wind was blowing very hard. It was a very typical spring day out in that country.

Left: Carl Brooks and his hunting team showing hides and game trophies near Wembley, 1937 (Fonds 154, SPRA 2003.51.19)



Right: Robert Millar on a hunting and camping trip with friends, ca. 1955 (Fonds 143, SPRA 1994.06.090)

As we were riding along the road, both very wet and cold we saw a dark object ambling down the road ahead of us. Could it be a bear or what? The closer we got we could plainly see it was a bear! With the wind blowing so hard the bear didn't hear us, and of course the wind was also in our favour. We rode to within 50 yards of it and Keith shot it right from the saddle – what a shot!

As we skinned it out in the storm Keith said, "Grace, these bear hides aren't the largest 3 year olds, but they are my Best Alberta Trophies. I could never have gotten them by myself and I'm proud you are my guide." This was music to the tired lady Alberta Guide's ears!



To read more of Grace's stories from Memory Wall, visit the Archives reading room. The following libraries also have copies of the book: Grande Prairie Public Library, Elmworth Community Library, Fairview Public Library, and La Glace Community Library.

We would like to gratefully acknowledge the

Edson Trail Historical Society

The South Peace Regional Archives are very grateful for the Edson Trail Historical Society's donation of production records and master copies for the 2005 film, *The Edson to Grande Prairie Trail: One More Mile*. The Society also provided a generous financial donation to the Archives in support of the organization.

The financial donation will be used to support the Archives in making the records in our collection accessible to the public, particularly those related to the Edson Trail.

We would like to gratefully acknowledge the

Bill & Laura Turnbull fund

through the

Edmonton Community Foundation

The South Peace Regional Archives are very grateful for the financial assistance provided by the Bill & Laura Turnbull Fund.

The grant received was used to fulfill our goal of increasing community awareness of the Archives. Recent awareness activities include cemetery walking tour, heritage hunters tours, and ongoing Culture Bites presentations at Grande Prairie Public Library. This fall, the Archives will be providing additional workshops and lectures to the public.

New at the Archives

Thank You Donors!

Thanks to Linda Liland for donating film, slides, and documents that cover the 1969 filming of Jerry Stojan working as a guide on *The American Sportsman*. You can read more about these records in "Hollywood Hunts" on page 10.

Thank you to Gordon McLevin for the donation of two McLevin family albums. These albums add to our existing collection about the family, which until recently, consisted only of a few war records for John McLevin. Now we know a little bit more about this family that contributed both locally through small businesses and community activity and, on a larger scale, with service in World War II.



Many thanks to volunteer Betty Dyck and Mission Thrift Shop who donated a marvelous art collection by local artist, Doris Rausch-Wager. This collection features juvenilia, art school texts, and finished works.. We would like to know more about Doris Rausch-Wager. If anyone has any stories they would like to share, please let us know. We would love to give this collection the context it deserves.

Editor's Note:

Flying Shot Lake School

At the Archives, our goal is to make archival records that document the past accessible. The June issue of *Telling Our Stories* highlights documents related to Indigenous people of this region. It also highlights challenges that may arise when using identity terminology from historic records. "Flying Shot Lake School: Stories from Peggy Mair," mentions that "at that time, it was understood that" the community was established by Métis families. In this context, the term "Métis" reflects language from records in the Archives' collections, most of which were produced by non-Indigenous settlers and community members. It does not reflect a universal identity of the Flying Shot Lake community, now or in the past. The term does not reflect everyone's story.

We hope that *Telling Our Stories* will continue to foster discussion and we will strive to use terminology that is more reflective of how Indigenous peoples from this region understand themselves.

Tell Us Your Story

SPRA is currently accepting submissions for the next themed issue of *Telling Our Stories*:

Travel

Share your stories (max 350 words), artefacts, and photographs related to South Peace residents' travels across Canada and abroad. You could be included in our next issue of *Telling Our Stories*.

Contact: director@southpeacearchives.org
Deadline for consideration: 31 October 2018.

South Peace Regional Archives Society Membership Application/Renewal Form

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

I am interested in being involved as a: volunteer board member

Select your membership:

Yearly membership: receive communications to stay informed about issues and happenings at the Archives, get involved in the society, attend meetings, vote on issues, and run for office.

Lifetime membership: receive all of the benefits of a regular membership, without the hassle of yearly renewal, and know that your membership could have a greater immediate impact.

This membership is _____ new _____ renewal

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Eco-option: I would like to receive a digital subscription to *Telling Our Stories*; I will receive an email link to a full-color copy of each issue. By selecting a digital subscription, I understand that I am opting out of receiving paper issues of *Telling Our Stories*.

Effective 1 December 2017, associate memberships have been discontinued.
Applications and renewals for 2018 associate memberships received before this date will not be affected.

Please pay by cash or cheque to:
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