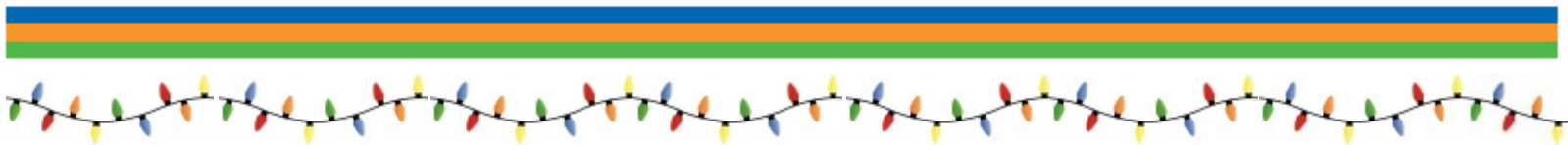




Heritage News

Discover Crowsnest Heritage



ISSUE #20

December 25, 2011

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WELCOME

As you wonder what to do with yourself or family members during this end of year, don't forget that many heritage venues will be open, if not for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Years Day, many of the others. Also, memberships make wonderful stocking stuffers.

This year, the Peel's Prairie Province Collection, housed at the University of Alberta, has given us a gift. They have put several vintage Crowsnest Pass newspapers online, including The Bellevue Times, The Blairmore Enterprise, the Coleman Bulletin, the Coleman Miner, the Frank Paper and the Frank Vindicator. A listing of the issues available are given, and an engine searches individual issues or the entire collection. It is accessible at <http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/newspapers/>. In celebration, this month's Feature Article uses several images from these newspapers.

Please consider contributing an article for the Crowsnest Heritage Newsletter in 2012. If you have no experience writing, I would be happy to work with you to ensure you tell the story the way you want to. Just jot some ideas down on a piece of paper and contact me.

I hope you all have an enjoyable and safe end of year celebration.



Blairmore Enterprise. Dec. 22, 1921

Editor: Claire Allum
 cnheritage@shaw.ca
 A Crowsnest Heritage Initiative Project.

If interested in submitting an article, news piece, or update, please send it to cnheritage@shaw.ca.

WHAT'S OPEN

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Hwy 3 Crowsnest Pass 403-562-7388

THE FRANK SLIDE CENTRE. The Frank Slide Interpretive Centre is open year round 10:00 am to 5:00 pm . Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (7-17) \$5, Under 7 free, Families \$22.

Closed: Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.



Hwy 785 403-553-2731

HEAD-SMASHED-IN (UNESCO World Heritage Site) Along with its displays the centre has audio-visual presentations, a cafeteria featuring bison burgers, a gift shop filled with First Nations handicrafts, and hosts tour groups and runs educational programs. Open daily 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Contact: info@head-smashed-in.com. Admission: Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (7-17) \$5, Under 7 free, Families \$22.

Closed: Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.



Cardston, Alberta 403-653-5139

THE REMINGTON CARRIAGE MUSEUM. The Museum has the largest collection of horse-drawn vehicles in North America with over 240 carriages, wagons and sleighs. The 63,000 square foot facility features video displays, a fire hall, a carriage factory, a restoration shop, a working stable, carriage rides, carriage rentals, a restaurant and a gift shop. There are free guided tours. Group tours and educational tours are offered. Open daily 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Contact: info@remingtoncarriagemuseum.com. Admission: Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (7-17) \$5, Under 7 free, Families \$22.

Closed: Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.



THE CROW'S NEST MUSEUM. Open year round. Along with its displays and archives, it hosts a Gift Shop and runs tours and educational programs. Contact: cnmuseum@shaw.ca. Tuesday to Saturday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (6-16) \$6, Under 6 free, Families \$24.

Phone for information on open hours during the holiday season.

502 1st St. S., Lethbridge 1-866-320-3898



GALT MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES. The Museum is open all year round. Monday to Saturday 10:00 am to 4:30 pm, Sundays and Holidays 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Adults \$5, Seniors (65+) \$4, Youth (7-17) \$3, Under 7 free, Families \$12.

Closed: Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

1037 Bev McLachlin Dr., Pincher Creek. 403-627-3684



KOOTENAI BROWN PIONEER VILLAGE. The Museum is open Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$7, Youth (7-17) \$7, Under 7 free.

Closed: December 24th until January 8th.

130 9th Ave. SE, Calgary 403-268-4100

Glenbow Museum

THE GLENBOW MUSEUM. The Museum is open all year, Mondays to Saturday 10:00 am to 5:30 pm, Sundays 12:00 pm to 5:30 pm. Adults (18+) \$14, Seniors (65+) \$10, Youth (7-17) \$9, Students (with ID) \$9, 6 and under free.

Open Friday, December 23rd 9:00 am to 8:00 pm, Saturday, December 24th 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Closed Christmas Day. Open Boxing Day 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Open New Year's Day 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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KOOTENAI BROWN MUSEUM



PRAIRIE GRASS TO MOUNTAIN PASS.

The Kootenai Brown Museum is re-issuing the local history book for the Pincher Creek area, "Prairie Grass To Mountain Pass." It will hit the streets in mid July 2012. This volume is divided into close to forty chapters representing the communities of Pincher Creek, Cowley, Lundbreck, Twin Butte and the rural localities now encompassed by the Municipal District of Pincher Creek.

Prairie Grass to Mountain Pass was originally published in 1974, but has long been out of print. This new limited edition will likely be the final printing of this important historical work.

Featured in this close to 600 page, two-column, publication will be 100 community histories and 700 genealogies, many not included in previous efforts, from the early days of the Pincher Creek district. Businesses, community groups, and families who had a pioneer connection with this area between its establishment in 1878 and 1910 are chronicled in this volume. A second volume, still forthcoming, will highlight those agencies and people who arrived here between 1911 and the end of the Second World War in 1945.

You can order your copies directly through the Kootenai Brown Pioneer village by dropping by our offices at 1037 Bev McLachlin Drive, via Canada Post at PO Box 1226, Pincher Creek, Alberta. T0K 1W0, or by email to fswuth.kbpv@gmail.com. If you pay for yours before February 1st, we can offer it at \$90.00 per copy, packaging it with two other book discounts: "Pincher Creek's Ill-Fated Railway Industry" at \$11.00 and "Where The Rivers Meet" at \$10. Postage and handling are extra.

BOMBER COMMAND MUSEUM OF CANADA

1729 21st Ave. (Hwy 2 S) Nanton 403-646-2270



- Sunday, May 6th Salute to the Air Cadets
- Saturday, June 2nd Planes, Trains and Elevators
- Saturday, July 28th Joe English Memorial Fly-by

Lancaster Merlin Engine Run-ups.

May 6th, June 7th, July 7th, August 6th, August 18th and September 22nd.

Please confirm engine run-ups and their times by visiting the web site before the event: <http://www.bombercommandmuseum.ca>

GALT MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES



SCOTCH + BURNS Saturday, January 21st.

Join us for our annual celebration of the birthday of Scottish poet Robbie Burns. Starting at 7:00 pm join in piping in of the haggis, odes to the bard, and enjoy performances by dancers, and singers too.

Scotch Tasting [tickets at the event] with Kyle Bains from Andrew Hilton Wine & Spirits lasts until the Scotch runs dry. Oh, and try haggis too! You don't have to be Scottish to attend! Scotch tasting starts at 6:30 pm.

Tickets at the door, per person:
\$3 public | \$1 Annual Pass Holders
free for children 6 and under

**Winter Memories
(Reprinted from "The Turtle Times" Winter 1990)**

A glance out the window on a clear winter morning reveals a shining pink light reflecting from snow-covered peaks. Early winter travellers through the Crowsnest Pass were no doubt awed by the world beauty of the landscape, although the journey would have been made in considerably less comfort than it is today! A horse and sleigh provided the most practical transportation for families. Many will remember that newspapers were stuffed into boots to keep the frost away during those chilly rides. Horses then also delivered the added advantage of being able to find their way home in a blinding storm.

Blizzards, epidemics, winds, fires and even winter floods tested the tenacity of early residents in their beautiful Rocky Mountain home. The village of Blairmore was only five years old when a fire swept down the main street in January of 1906; a warehouse filled with hay, a spark and a swift wind spelled disaster for an entire downtown block. Two hotels were destroyed along with a grocery store and Blairmore's only liquor store. Downtown Bellevue was also the site of a winter fire in 1921—the young town's second major fire in only five years. In its wake, a store, theatre, bakery, Oddfellows Hall and the Methodist Church were left in ruins.

Late in the fall of 1918 an influenza epidemic swept through the Pass. The entire town of Blairmore was quarantined and Coleman school children stayed home during November while the school was used as a temporary hospital.



A "Shaganappi Cutter" in the Beaverlodge area of Alberta. n.d. Glenbow Museum Archives NA-649-19. It was a home-made box built over the front bob of a sleigh.



The Czechoslovakian Victory Parade, Frank, Alberta, November 1918. By T. Gushul. Glenbow Museum Archives N-3903-95. Note the riders to the left and right are wearing masks to protect against the influenza epidemic. The Zinc Smelter is in the background.

come into The Pass from highly infected districts, and it is because of this and the fact that a number of local individuals have shown an utter disregard for quarantine and health regulations that such drastic action has become necessary.

The local authorities are determined to enforce the quarantine regulations, and as we go to press we learn that three parties have been convicted before Justice Pinkney of having broken quarantine, two of whom were assessed \$10.00 and costs each. The other member of the trio was charged with having left a room at the Alberta hotel, where he had been isolated under quarantine, and moving to a shack elsewhere in town where several men were baching. He was after several hours located by the police and placed under arrest. For this criminal offence he was assessed \$15.00 and costs, in all about \$22.00, and was ordered back to isolation. We understand that there are others who will have to answer somewhat similar charges.

So far but forty-one cases have been reported in Blairmore, but all show signs of improvement, and there is every indication that the local authorities have the epidemic well under control; but there is need for precaution on the part of every citizen.

At Coleman several new cases of influenza have been reported today, but so far no deaths have resulted. The public schoolhouse has been converted into an isolation hospital, where all members of the teaching staff, as well as other ladies of the town are voluntarily rendering assistance. At Hillcrest and Bellevue quite a number of cases are reported, but none of a serious type.

The winter of 1933 brought floods to Blairmore when ice damned the Crowsnest River and forced water into the town. It was December 25th when cellars began to fill; many a family's Christmas was spent drying out their belongings. Early on New Year's Day in 1934, blasting broke the ice dam, allowing the river to once again flow within its banks.

Town of Blairmore is Quarantined

At a meeting of citizens held last night in the interests of the public health, resolutions were passed, requesting as follows:

"That the Municipal Health and Relief Committee order the closing of all places of business, except public eating places for the purpose of eating, on Saturday, November the 2nd, at 6 p.m. and thereafter at 1 p.m., indefinitely.

"That the proper authorities within the town take immediate steps to enforce strict quarantine against the Canadian Pacific Railway until the present epidemic is abated.

"That the Municipal Health Committee enforce the most complete quarantine possible within the Town of Blairmore.

"That the Mayor appoint such special constables as may be required by the Chief of Police for the proper enforcement of quarantine and health regulations."

Since the above meeting was held, we understand that an order has been issued to the C.P.R. to allow no passengers to leave or board trains at Blairmore until further notice, and that the same has already become effective. Special constables have been appointed to guard against parties coming into town by other means without special permission, and to see to the proper enforcement of quarantine and health regulations. It seems that during the past few days a number of parties have

A MERRY CHRISTMAS (?)

Battling snow, wind, water and frost every day was the experience of most of the residents and business people of Blairmore during the Christmas week.

Business was seriously handicapped through the storms, homes and business places suffered from a water deluge, filling basements to an average depth of from two to six feet, flooding furnaces, drenching coal and wood supplies and other goods ordinarily stored there. Some of the main street stores suffered seriously, some to the extent of thousands of dollars. Among the heaviest sufferers were Thompson & Co., Mark Sartoris, Plunkett & Savage, P. Chardoi.

and some other stores along the east end of Victoria street. Considerable damage also resulted to the water works, and a large number of house connections were put out of commission, and in most cases it may be months before service is restored.

The town's fire department worked heroically under the direct supervision of Mayor Knight, who stayed with the rescue gang from the start. On Sunday, with an east blizzard sweeping in with a 30-below temperature, it became necessary to resort to the rum ration as men battled with powder and dynamite to release water that had become choked in the main river. Following about thirty hours work at that point, pressure was considerably released and water has since been receding from flooded premises. At time of going to press, the town's efforts are being confined to Lyon Creek, which became blocked at several points, causing water to seep into main street premises. Danger has now practically passed, as far as east Blairmore is concerned, and citizens hope to be in a position to enjoy their Christmas some time in 1934.

Water is reported still on the rise in east Blairmore, and plans are now under way to cope with the situation.

Blairmore Enterprise December 28th 1933, pg.1.

The winds through the Crowsnest Pass are known to be gusty, occasionally strong and sometimes...Raging. In November, 1936, a windstorm whipped down the valley, uprooted trees and blew away roofs. The windy winter of '36 was followed the next year by one of the coldest winters on record. Residents remember it as a time when outdoor work was "frozen to a halt."

During February of 1948, fire claimed downtown Coleman. The Coleman Fire Department, volunteers and the Blairmore Fire Brigade unsuccessfully battled 80 km winds while the fire, fed by paint, turpentine and exploding bullets, demolished the theatre, hardware store, community hall and barbershop.

Not every winter brought calamity; there was time for fun, laughter and the discovery of winter recreation. Ice skating was a popular pastime, remembered for the bonfires that lighted the night and provided welcome warmth. Open air rinks were followed by covered arenas. Curling and hockey teams were soon organized. Skiing on the Pass Powderkeg ski hill began in 1938.

As the years have passed, winters have been warmed by colourful carnivals held in the Bellevue arena, plays performed by the Coleman Players and travelling entertainers hosted by the Blairmore Opera House. The annual Kiwanis Music Festival, organized by local Lions' Clubs, has long signaled the end of winter—a time when residents flock to enjoy the fruits of many rehearsals.

When winter winds howl, you may be tempted to retreat to the warmth of your fireplace. But, you also have the opportunity to create some winter memories of your own. Take advantage of all a Crowsnest winter has to offer.



The Turtle Times was a publication of the Frank Slide Interpretive Centre and supported by Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism, Historical Resources, Historic Sites Service.



Douglas fir showing results of prevailing westerly winds, Lee Lake, Alberta, September 1941. Glenbow Museum Archi Archives NA-4450-13.

CROWS' NEST PASS SKI CLUB IS ORGANIZED

With their immediate aim being the providing of safe ski trails and the securing of an instructor so that members generally, juniors especially, can be trained for skiing, the Crows' Nest Pass Ski Club was organized at a well attended meeting held at the Greenhill hotel during the week.

The following officers were elected: J. A. Brusset, hon. president; T. J. Costigan, president; Miss D. Evans, vice-president; P. Owen, secretary; treasurer; Mrs. Claxton, Messrs. L. P. Robert and W. Innes, executive.

It was revealed at the meeting that a large amount of work, such as cutting trails, had been done during the summer months by individual skiers. On the hill south of town, a ski trail about three miles long and twelve feet wide had been cut, while on Goat Mountain a similar trail was being blazed.

At another meeting, to be held shortly, a tentative constitution will be drafted and submitted for consideration of the members.

Blairmore Enterprise October 21st 1938, pg. 1.

Preparing For Winter

BY LORETTO C. LYNCH

An Acknowledged Expert in All Matters Pertaining to Household Management.

Too often winter approaches only to find the home maker totally unprepared for it. Unfortunately, therefore, there is very often much unnecessary distress as well as expense during the cold season. The thrifty housewife goes over her home thoroughly during the fall days and makes a note of needed repairs or alterations. So, whether you own the home in which you live or rent it, you should take stock of its condition. For instance, is the heating plant in working order?

Where it is possible, the coal supply should be acquired as far in advance of actual winter, as possible. It is good forethought to make a fire in the early fall just to test out the equipment.

Then there is the matter of weather stripping and double windows in the really cold climate. Experts tell us that there is a great saving in fuel where these appliances are used. The handy man of the house can easily measure for and apply weather strippings. It takes, however, a professional to make really effective double windows.

It is the part of wisdom to have the roof of the house gone over very thoroughly for leaks. Gutters and leaders should likewise be gone over.

When taking down the hangings and curtains of summer they should be cleaned, aired wrapped and labeled so as to be available at a moment's notice when the warm days return. Summer clothing should be gone over, and only what is really available for further use should be granted storage space. There are many poor folks in the warmer parts of our country who might be able to make immediate use of summer attire you no longer want.

Porch furniture should be cleaned and wrapped either in newspaper or burlap. If it needs repainting, fall is a good time to paint it. A stiff brush and some soapy water to which has been added a little ammonia will prove effective in cleaning reed or willow furniture.

Care must be taken not to store porch pillows as they are taken from the porch. The covers should be removed, carefully laundered, wrapped and labeled. The pillows themselves may be washed by swashing about in hot soapsuds until the dirt is thoroughly loosened. The pillows should be well rinsed and hung on the line to thoroughly dry. Winter covers may be put on these pillows.

The thoughtful housewife will see to it that every member of the household is provided with rubber overshoes and rainproof coats far in advance of the real cold days. It is well to print name and address in indelible ink on the lining of the school child's rubbers. Go over the umbrellas and see that they are in usable condition. These suggestions will help make the household run more smoothly during the cold days to come.

THE CROWNEST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

"Board Nominations"

The Crowsnest Historical Society is calling for the nomination of individuals who would be willing to serve as volunteers on their board. Elections will take place at their Annual General Meeting in early March. The Crowsnest Historical Society works to preserve heritage material within the Crowsnest Pass and educate the public about its value and importance. They also own and maintain the Crowsnest Museum, Archives and Gift Shop. Please contact John Salus johnsalus@shaw.ca or 403-563-4181.

"Memberships"

Please renew your membership to the Crowsnest Historical Society for 2012. A membership makes a great stocking stuffer gift. cnmuseum@shaw.ca 403-563-5434.

THE CROWNEST MUSEUM

"Calendars"

Historic Crowsnest Pass 2012 Calendars are for sale at the Crowsnest Museum for \$10. These calendars are sponsored by local businesses and contain reproductions of early Crowsnest Pass images housed at the Museum. cnmuseum@shaw.ca 403-563-5434.

100 YEARS AGO: 1911

- **Dec. 15th.** British suffragettes began a new tactic, destroying mailboxes in order to attract attention to their cause. Emily Wilding Davison saturated a piece of linen with paraffin, set it on fire, and placed it into a public mail drop. By July, the group began setting fire to unoccupied buildings.
- **Dec. 21st.** Messrs. Thomas Cyr and H.J. Matheson of Blairmore and H.S. Pelletier of Monarch announced the development of a new townsite near Crows Nest Lake. It is to be called Lake City and is 1/2 a mile west of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company's station at Sentinel. Blairmore Enterprise.
- **Dec. 21st.** Explorer Hiram Bingham returned to the United States and gave reporters their first interview concerning his expedition to Peru, including his discovery of Machu Picchu.
- **Dec. 28th.** Notice is hereby given that an application will be made to the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Alberta to incorporate A Company under the name of "Crows Nest Pass Electric Railway Company," with power to construct and operate an Electric Railway, from a point at or near Crows Nest Lake, in the said Province, in an easterly direction to a point in the Valley of Cowley, in said Province. Blairmore Enterprise.
- **Jan. 1st.** Born: Kim Philby (Harold Adrian Russell Philby), British intelligence officer who passed secret information to the Soviet Union until defecting in 1963.
- **Jan. 6th.** At a meeting of the Geological Association of Germany, at Frankfurt, Alfred Wegener first presented the theory of continental drift.
- **Jan. 11th.** Many of our citizens are very indignant over the way some of the local hockey players acted here on Friday evening by importing some professionals to engage in a game against Pincher Creek. The result was...that because of Coleman's conduct there would be no play and that the visitors would be rewarded the game by default. Blairmore Enterprise.

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