



Heritage News

Discover Crowsnest Heritage

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Co-Editors

Stephanie Laine-Hamilton,
Isabel Russell and Ken Allred

A Crowsnest Heritage
Initiative Project

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

Issue #36

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This issue of the Crowsnest Heritage Newsletter introduces three new editors - Stephanie Laine-Hamilton, Isabel Russell and Ken Allred, who have taken on the task of filling the big shoes of our former editor, Claire Alum.

Claire has done an admirable job of singlehandedly editing and publishing this newsletter for the past four plus years since its inception. Thank you, Claire, from Stephanie, Isabel, Ken and all of your loyal readers. We hope that we can continue this newsletter in the excellent tradition you established. We will appreciate readers comments (and submissions) to help us maintain an interesting perspective on the colourful history of the Crowsnest Pass and environs.

WHAT'S ON

Museum Sponsored Programs:

- **Connecting Communities Topic 1 - Stories from School** - Think back to the time when you were in school. What books did you read? What classes did you take? What activities were popular? Hear about the modern high school experience and share your own stories. Light lunch/finger



foods will be provided. Please call the Museum at (403)563-5434 to arrange transportation if you require it.

- Sept 10 - 1:00-3:00 Crowsnest Museum
- Sept 22 - 1:00-3:00 - York Creek Lodge
- Oct. 8 - 11:00-1:00 - Bellecrest Seniors Centre
- Oct 22 1:30-3:00 - Crowsnest Hospital
- Sept. 17 - **Connecting Communities - Topic 2 - History How to - Knitting** - Linda of *A Nest of Needles* will be visiting the museum to teach about the different types of yarn, how to cast on, use the knit and purl stitch, and how to cast off to finish a project as you make the nicest dishcloth you'll ever own. Cost per person: \$5.00, includes cost of yarn. Please bring size 4.5-5mm knitting needles if you are able.
- Sept. 26-28: **Alberta Culture Days in the Crowsnest Pass**
 - **Sept. 27** - Frank Slide Interpretive Centre. Free Admission
 - 11am to noon - Picking Stories with Sheldon
 - 1pm - 3 pm - Search for Lost Treasures of the Crowsnest Past
 - 3pm - 5pm - Selection of winner from Treasuries
 - **Sept. 28** - Frank Slide Interpretive Centre - Musical Entertainment
 - Crowsnest Pass Public Art Gallery - 2pm - "M" is for Music" - local talent concert
 - **Sept. 27 & 28** - 1pm - 4pm - Crowsnest Pass Public Art Gallery - "Urban Re-Visited" artist show: Jean Katherine Blackall
 - **Sept. 27 - Harvest of Memories** - MDM Community Centre - Bellevue - The Crowsnest Historical Society invites you to the most exciting event of the fall, and our biggest annual fundraiser: the Harvest of Memories Fall Festival! This gala even features an exciting performance by Al Rypien, live and silent auctions, a wine raffle, and gourmet catering by Country Encounters. All proceeds support the operations of the Crowsnest Museum & Archives. Reserve your table today. Tickets are \$40 per person, \$75 per couple, or \$280 for a private table of 8 (advance sales only). Tickets are available at the Crowsnest Museum, Copy Magic and at Scotiabank. As part of a corporate giving program, Scotiabank will match the cost of each ticket sold at their location with a donation to the Museum. Cocktail hour - 5:30, Dinner - 6:30, Entertainment until late.
 - **October 9** - 10:30 - 11:30am - **Seniors Workshop** - Coleman Seniors Drop In Centre - (65+) Financial Benefits Programs. Please call Kim Lewis at 403-562-8833 to Register.

- November 11: **Remembrance Day** - Bellevue, Blairmore and Coleman Legions, and the Crowsnest Consolidated High School.

FEATURE ARTICLE

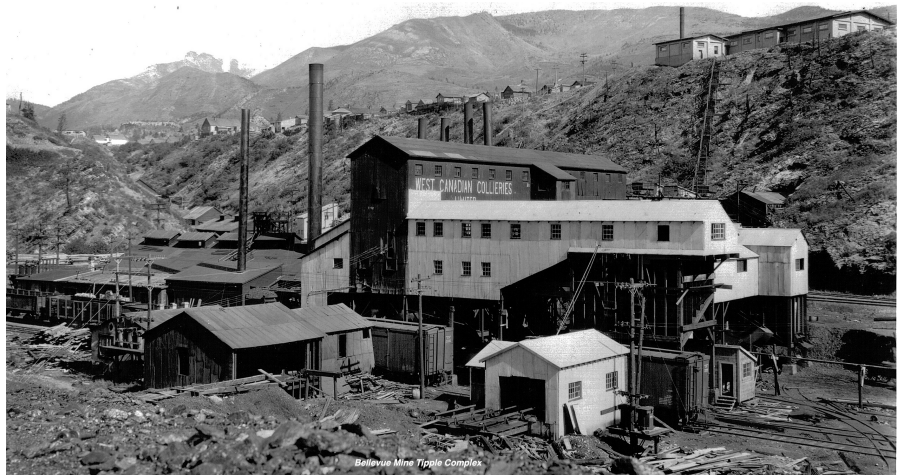
Mining is a Risky Business

by

Ken Allred

Erik woke up with a start - was he dreaming? He thought he heard a loud blast – an explosion, and then the mine whistle. He had had that horrible dream before. But this time it sounded so real.

Erik's mind went back to March 25th when he and his brother-in-law, Fred Lund, recent immigrants from Sweden, had just finished mining out the coal in the room they were working in the Bellevue mine, and were moving the coal into the next room. Erik went back for their tools but just as he entered the room he heard the ominous sound of the



roof cracking; he jumped sideways to the wall but was not quick enough to get out from under tons of falling coal that came crashing down on him. Some hit him on the side, knocking him down and smashing his pelvis. Luckily, he wasn't completely buried under the coal so Fred and his colleagues were able to dig him out.

He lay there for what seemed like hours with the whistle blowing, until the rescue team came and carried him in a stretcher to the surface and then to the hospital. While he was being carried out of the mine he regained partial consciousness, and was heard mumbling "But poor Olga". Olga, his wife, was expecting her first child, and was boarding two other miners to help pay the bills.

The next time he awoke he was in the hospital, a two storey house where one doctor and one nurse lived. Since each miner paid a monthly stipend towards hospital care, medical expenses were prepaid. The doctor attended to him quickly, but, "Oh, the pain – the throbbing pain!"

X-rays were taken and the doctor did his best to set the shattered bones. A week later they took more X-rays but the doc was not satisfied with the setting so he broke the bones again and re-set them. He continued to take X-rays, re-breaking and re-setting the fracture, trying each time to get the broken pieces together. During the last attempt, while on the operating table, Erik's heart stopped and had to be started again. The doctor decided he didn't dare try again to line up the broken bits - Erik's body had taken all it could stand.

The X-rays were sent to Rochester, New York, to see if Erik should be sent down there; Rochester was classed as the best hospital in North America when it came to setting bones. Their reply came back; it would be useless to send him down – the man would never walk again!

Erik was now left to mend as best his body could; not a very bright prospect for a man who had been married for less than a year, and who's wife was expecting a baby in September. The pain and anesthetic had gradually turned Erik's hair from brown to white; each day Olga came to see him, she could see more white in his hair and after two weeks he was totally white.

Religion had been a large part of Swedish upbringing, and March 25 was classed as a very Holy Day – the day of Conception, nine months before the birth of Christ. There was as much reverence shown for March 25th as much as there was for Christmas or Easter. No one should work on this day, so immediately the women felt that the cave in was punishment for disobeying; the men should not have gone to work that day.

Eventually it was decided that Erik might just as well stay at home as there was nothing more they could do for him in the hospital and he might as well lie in bed at home as in the hospital. Erik's bed was moved into the living room so he would have some company. He was determined that he would not spend the rest of his life in bed, so with crutches he started to get around.

On June 19th he had dozed off and Olga had gone for groceries. He woke with a start – that blast – that mine whistle – it was not a dream. He had to see what it was – something terrible had happened. It was 9:30 and he eased himself out of bed – and he walked. It was the first time he had put any weight on his broken leg since the accident. Holding on to the bed and then a chair he walked into the next room and to the window at the rear of the house to see what the whistle was all about. He didn't even think about the crutches.

Looking across the river valley to Hillcrest he could barely make out a large column of dense brown smoke in the air and men running everywhere. Shortly thereafter he saw women hurrying with their small children towards the mine entrance to see what had happened. Something terrible had happened at the Hillcrest Mine.

This was June 19th, 1914, the fatal day of the Hillcrest Mine Disaster, the worst mine disaster in Canadian history. 189 miners died that day! The whistle blew all day!

Epilogue

Erik Hagglund continued to walk with the aid of crutches and then a cane. He and Olga moved back to their farm at Gladstone Valley where Erik operated a sawmill. He returned to the mines in 1921 and continued working there until 1929. In 1927 he built a house on Dairy Road in Bellevue before moving to Waterton Park in 1930, where he built 20 cabins as well as several other residential and commercial buildings.

Erik and Olga Hagglund were the maternal grandparents of the author. Credit is given for the history compiled by Linnea (Hagglund) Goble, daughter of Erik and Olga Hagglund.

This article was originally published in the Crowsnest Pass Free Press on June 19, 2014



The poster features a central black and white photograph of four men in suits sitting around a table, looking at documents. Above the photo, the title "Harvest of Memories" is written in a large, elegant cursive font, with a silhouette of a person riding a horse on a curved line to the right. Below the photo, the event details are listed in a clean, sans-serif font. At the bottom, there is a small graphic of the Crowsnest Museum building and its logo.

Harvest of Memories

HARVEST OF MEMORIES FALL FESTIVAL
SEPTEMBER 27, 2014

THE CROWSNEST HISTORICAL SOCIETY WELCOMES YOU TO THE MOST EXCITING EVENT OF THE FALL, AND IT'S BIGGEST ANNUAL FUNDRAISER: THE HARVEST OF MEMORIES FALL FESTIVAL. THIS GALA EVENT FEATURES AN EXCITING PERFORMANCE BY AL RYPIEN, LIVE AND SILENT AUCTIONS, A WINE RAFFLE, AND GOURMET CATERING BY COUNTRY ENCOUNTERS. ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE OPERATIONS OF THE CROWSNEST MUSEUM.

RESERVE YOUR TABLE TODAY. \$40/PERSON, \$75/COUPLE, \$280/PRIVATE TABLE (ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY)

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT CROWSNEST MUSEUM, COPY MAGIC, AND SCOTIABANK

5:30 COCKTAILS, 6:30 DINNER
ENTERTAINMENT 9-LATE
MDM COMMUNITY CENTER
CONTACT 403-563-5434


CROWSNEST MUSEUM
CROWSNESTMUSEUM.CA

POETRY CORNER

The Burmis Tree

This rocky outcrop you claimed as your own,

Nothing else could love this home.
Stubbornly rooted in weakened stone,
Like the rest of your kind you live alone.

Supple as a willow, twisted as twine,
You have been ravaged by the winds and time.

Now your limbs twist this way and that,
You look like a drunk man chasing his hat.

As a stately tree you are a caricature.

But everyone wants your picture.

So when you pass and are truly gone,
In a million photographs you will live on.

*K. Roome – Roome-inations,
Poems of the Pass and Beyond*

SIGNS OF CROWSNEST PASS



The Crowsnest Heritage Initiative has installed four information kiosks, about fifty signs and over a hundred building plaques, each revealing a small piece of our diverse history. In this issue we recommend McLaren Mill, located in Blairmore on the bike path across from the old demolished hospital. Have you read it yet?

100 YEARS AGO 1914

. 19 June: 217 Miners Entombed : Explosion at Hillcrest Mine Causes Death of Upwards of 200 men. Blairmore Enterprise.

. 26 June: The Hillcrest Disaster...it is generally conceded to have been the worst disaster in the world's history as far as the percentage of population is concerned. Blairmore Enterprise.

. 28 June: 19-year old Serbian nationalist Gavrilo Princip assassinates Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and his wife, Duchess Sophie, in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, triggering the July Crisis and World War I.

. 3 July: The enquiry commission appointed by the provincial government to determine as far as possible the cause and effect of the recent Hillcrest disaster opened in the Masonic Hall at Hillcrest on Thursday before His Honour Judge Carpenter of Calgary. Blairmore Enterprise.

. 24 July: Jury's Verdict re Hillcrest Disaster..."These men came to their death in the Hillcrest mine on the 19th day of June, 1914, as a result of an explosion of gas and coal dust." Blairmore Enterprise.

. 28 July: Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia and its army bombards Belgrade.

. 1 August: The German Empire declares war on the Russian Empire, following Russia's military mobilization in support of Serbia; Germany also begins mobilization. France orders general mobilization. The New York Stock Exchange doesn't open due to the war in Europe, where nearly all stock exchanges are closed.

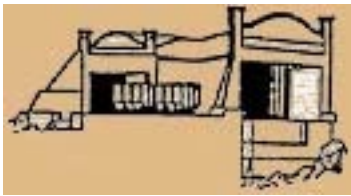
Historical Venues in Southern Alberta



- **CROWSNEST MUSEUM** - 7701 18th Ave. Coleman.
403-563-5434

- As well as exhibits on coal mining in the Crowsnest Pass, there are galleries on Pass life in the early 1900s, natural history, the military, and on Emperor Pic and rum-running. There is a gift shop near the entrance. For tours and educational programs: Contact: cnmuseum@shaw.ca.

- Open : Monday to Sunday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (6-16) \$6, Under 6 free, Families \$24.



- **BELLEVUE UNDERGROUND MINE** - 21814 28th Avenue Bellevue, AB T0K 0C0 (403) 564-4700

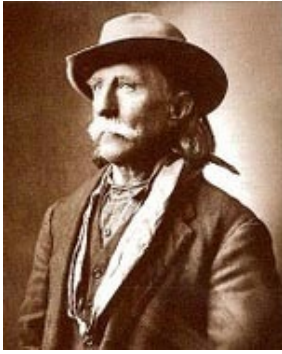
- The Bellevue Underground Mine is the only authentic historic underground coal mine tour available to western Canada. The mine is a museum based, family oriented, historic underground coal mining museum tour site that offers its visitors the opportunity to experience, first hand, what the underground miners from the first half of the 20th century would have experienced as they entered the tunnels of the Bellevue Underground Mine to go to work to each day.

- Open Monday—Sunday 9:30 am—6:30 pm. Last tour 5:30 pm. Adults \$14, Seniors \$13, Youth \$10, Children 5 and under free, Families \$38. Discount pre-booked tours are available.



- **THE FRANK SLIDE INTERPRETIVE CENTRE** - Hwy 3 Crowsnest Pass 403-562-7388

- The Frank Slide Interpretive Centre highlights the rich heritage of the Crowsnest Pass amid the breathtaking beauty of the Canadian Rockies. The Centre is open all year and visitors are greeted by friendly, knowledgeable staff who share the fascinating stories of the Frank Slide through dynamic interpretive programs and presentations. State-of-the-art interactive displays and exhibits throughout the Centre focus on the infamous Frank Slide of 1903 - Canada's deadliest rockslide. The Frank Slide Interpretive Centre is open year round 10:00 am to 5:00 pm (10:00 am to 6:00 pm in the summer) . Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (7-17) \$5, Under 7 free, Families \$22.



• **KOOTENAI BROWN MUSEUM** - 1037 Bev McLachlin Dr., Pincher Creek. 403-627-3684

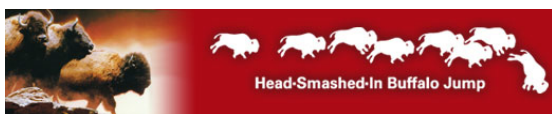
• This year we will be opening a special exhibit to commemorate the 100th anniversary of WWI and the 75th anniversary of WWII. Members of the Pincher Creek Legion, local war veterans and RCMP will participate in our plaque dedication for the exhibit and be available to give tours. There will also be a flag raising ceremony, bouncy tents, obstacle courses, face painting and balloons for kids; a concession with hotdogs, burgers, candy floss and snow cones; and historical tours.

- Established in 1966, the Museum consists of 19 buildings housing over 18,000 artifacts from southern Alberta. The legendary George "Kootenai" Brown lived in southern Alberta and his cabin and some of his possessions form part of the Museum's exhibits.
- Kootenai Brown Museum is open to the public daily from 10 am to 6 pm. Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$7, Youth (7-17) \$7, Under 7 free, Families \$25



• **FERNIE MUSEUM** - 491 Victoria Ave. (2nd Ave.), Fernie, BC 250-423-7016

• The Fernie Museum & Visitor Information Centre is located in one of Fernie's distinctive heritage buildings at 491 2nd Ave. The building itself, an important example of Fernie's rich history, boasts a main floor exhibit hall with the visitor info centre, as well as a lovely Museum Gallery on the 2nd floor.



• **HEAD-SMASHED-IN (UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE)** - Hwy 785 403-553-2731

Hikes to the Dirve Lanes 10:30—3 pm.

- Experience authentic First Nations culture in the open air of our plaza. Our best native dancers perform to the beat of Blackfoot drumming and singing. Hear stories of how drumming and dancing connect us with the ancient buffalo hunting culture
- Along with its displays, the interpretive 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. The Centre can be booked for special events.

- **BOMBER COMMAND OF CANADA** - 1729 21st Ave. (Hwy 2 S) Nanton 403-646-2270
- The Museum is open every day 9 am— 5 pm. Admission is by donation.
- For dates for Lancaster engine run-ups. Go to: <http://www.bombercommandmuseum.ca/index.html>



• **GALT MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES** - 502 1st St. S., Lethbridge 1-866-320-3898

• The Museum is open all year round. Monday to Saturday 10 am to 5 pm, Thursday 10 am to 9 pm,

Sundays and Holidays 1 pm to 5 pm. Adults \$6, Seniors (60+) \$5, Post-secondary students and Youth (7-17) \$3, Under 7 free, Families \$15.



• **FORT WHOOP-UP NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE** - Lethbridge, off Whoop-Up Drive. 403-329-0444

• Fort Whoop-Up existed before there was an Alberta or Mounties; it was a notorious frontier trading post. It lies nestled in the coulees of Indian Battle Park, near the Oldman River. Today, the fort still trades with the aboriginal Blackfoot tribes of Southern Alberta, supplying many ceremonial goods, hides, sweetgrass, and other items.

- The Fort is open daily from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm; Adults \$9, Seniors (65+) \$7.50, Students \$6.50, Under 5 free, Families \$24.50.



• **REMINGTON CARRIAGE MUSEUM** - 623 Main St. Cardston. 403-653-5139

• 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 9 am— 5 pm. Contact: info@remingtoncarriagemuseum.com. Admission: Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (7-17) \$5, Under 7 free, Families \$22.



•**BAR-U RANCH** - 13 km south of Longview on Hwy 22. 1/2 km west on Hwy 540. 403-395-2212 Open May-Sept.

•Nestled between the rolling Porcupine Hills and the towering Rocky Mountains, surrounded by the prairie landscape and shaped by Chinook winds, the Bar U Ranch National Historic Site is one of the first and most enduring

large corporate ranches of the West. Steeped in history, the Bar U commemorates the history and importance of the ranching industry in Canada.

- Admission: Adults (17 and over) \$7.80; Youth (6-16) \$3.90; Seniors (65+) \$6.55; Children (under 6) Free; Family (2 parents and their children under 16) \$19.60.



•**WRITING-ON-STONE** - Hwy 4 South from Lethbridge. Then Hwy 500 West. Then South on Range Road 130A

•Open year round for camping. No reservations are necessary if you wish to use a camp site at the park in the winter. Fees range from \$13 to \$19 a day. Guided rock art tours are only offered from May to October.

- Writing-on-Stone / Áísínai'pi is a sacred landscape. The spectacular Milk River valley contains the largest concentration of First Nation petroglyphs (rock carvings) and pictographs (rock paintings) on the great plains of North America.

ARCHIVES

Copies of this newsletter and archived issues can be viewed at

<http://www.crownsnestheritage.ca/?p=351>

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