



Heritage News

Discover Crowsnest Heritage

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Issue #57, December 2019

With all of the political, environmental and economic turmoil in the world today, many of us wonder what the future will hold – if anything. It must have felt the same for our grandparents and great-grandparents during the terrible, seemingly-endless slaughter of The Great War, followed by the Spanish Flu outbreak and the eruption of labor unrest across the country. 1919 brought Canadian war veterans home to an agitated and uncertain country, but with its citizens hoping for a better future as they rang in a new decade in January 1920. History does repeat itself, as we too hope for a better decade with the imminent commencement of 2020. It gives new meaning to the saying “hindsight is 2020.”

- Ian McKenzie

Self-captioned studio photo; photographer unknown. “Fish-eater” was a slang term for someone from the east coast.

Photo: Crowsnest Museum and Archives (0421a Jean Kerr collection)



Heritage News is a publication of the Crowsnest Heritage Initiative. We are a cooperative committee of local heritage organizations and interested individuals who seek to promote the understanding and appreciation of heritage within the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass, Alberta. For more information on who we are and what we do, click here: <http://www.crowsnestheritage.ca/crowsnest-heritage-initiative/>

This issue was edited and produced by Ian McKenzie and proofread by Isabel Russell and Ken Allred. Inquiries, comments or submissions can be sent to cnnewsletter@shaw.ca. Future contributors should send in their articles in MS Word or something similar, with any photos sent as separate jpeg files. Do not insert photos into your document; we will just have to strip them out and reinsert them into our newsletter format.

Heritage Partner News

The **Crowsnest Historical Society** held its annual Harvest of Memories fundraiser at the end of September, which was very successful despite an unscheduled and unwanted dump of snow.

The Society has acquired the 1953 Prevost bus previously operated by the Crowsnest Shriner's. We hope to include a full history of this unique vehicle in one of our future editions.

Contractors working for **The Municipality of Crowsnest Pass** have completed most of the streetwork within downtown **Coleman National Historic Site**, including new front steps and ramp for the **Crowsnest Museum**. Both the museum and the **Alberta Provincial Police Barracks** saw reduced visitation because of the disruption last summer, as did area businesses.

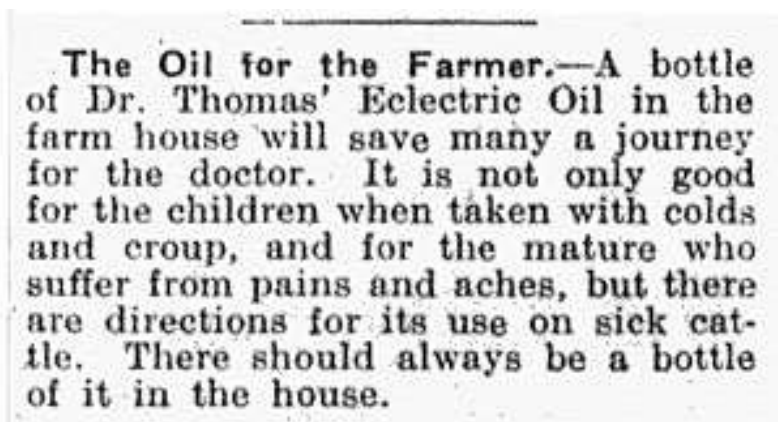
In September the **Municipal Historic Resources Board** held a public seminar on the process for designating heritage buildings, and the role of heritage buildings in downtown revitalization.

The **Crowsnest Heritage Initiative** has settled on a theme for its 2020 Doors Open and Heritage Festival: "(Re)Discover." This theme encompasses the planned 2020 Homecoming event for past Pass residents, which is on the same August long weekend. The principal heritage event will be the 100th anniversary of the Sentinel train robbery and the Bellevue Café shootout.

The **Bellevue Underground Mine** closed its summer season (over 11,000 visits) with its annual Halloween Howler. Almost 200 visitors enjoyed a bonfire, events in the office, and "haunted" mine tours. 3pm - 6pm was for kiddies and the scares ramped up afterwards until midnight.

The **CNP Memorial Society** held a volunteer work-bee at Blairmore Old Union Cemetery last September, trimming branches and revealing once-hidden heritage headstones. The society also made a presentation to town council on priority work required in all of our heritage cemeteries.

The closure of the 1921 **Orpheum Theatre** due to structural issues with the roof leaves the community without a movie house and threatens the loss of yet another heritage building. It also casts a light on another closed theatre – the 1949 **Roxy Theatre** within Coleman National Historic Site.



The Oil for the Farmer.—A bottle of Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil in the farm house will save many a journey for the doctor. It is not only good for the children when taken with colds and croup, and for the mature who suffer from pains and aches, but there are directions for its use on sick cattle. There should always be a bottle of it in the house.

Advertisement in the *Coleman Miner* August 28 1908

The List

Eight former Pass hospitals:

Frank, 1902 (Dr. Malcolmson)

Coleman Miners', 1906 (Dr. Westwood)

Lille, 1907 (Dr. O'Hagen)

Bellevue, 1911 (Dr. McKenzie)

Blairmore State Street, 1913 (Dr. McDonald)

Hillcrest, 1922 (Dr. Rose)

Blairmore Lyon Residence, 1929 (Dr. Stewart)

Crow's Nest Pass Municipal, 1949

Early Crowsnest Pass Photographers

by Vic Bergman

Photographers played a significant role in documenting the establishment and settlement of Crowsnest Pass. The photographic works they left behind provide a glimpse into the past, revealing what life was like in this area during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These images, whether of people, places, or events, are an important historical record of a bygone era. It was a time when residents living in the burgeoning coal-mining communities of Crowsnest Pass held hopes of a bright, prosperous future. Photographers were present from the beginning and recorded many interesting moments in time.

When we think of early Crowsnest Pass photographers, the names Thomas and Lena Gushul come to the forefront. The Gushuls were prolific photographers, amassing tens of thousands of photographic negatives and prints over a fifty-year span. Their photographs still appear in everything from community event posters, calendars, and historical publications, to local heritage kiosks, signs, and plaques.

While the contribution Thomas and Lena Gushul made to this community is unequalled, there were other photographers who also left their mark on the history of Crowsnest Pass. They travelled here from many different places, and for different reasons. Some were prominent, well-known photographers of the day, in search of interesting sights to photograph. Once their work was completed, they left, returning from whence they came. Others were lesser-known photographers – itinerants, travelling from one town to the next, hoping to make a dollar or two by taking portraits of anyone willing to sit for them. There were also photographers who came and stayed, calling Crowsnest Pass their home.

Among the first photographers to visit Crowsnest Pass were George Anderton of Medicine Hat and William Hanson Boorne of Calgary. They came to the Pass in the mid-to-late 1880s, taking scenic views with their cameras in the vicinity of Lundbreck Falls and Lee Lake, and as far west as Crowsnest Lake. Sydney Alfred Smyth of Calgary, known as “The Ranchmen’s Photographer,” came here around the same time. All of these early photographic excursions to Crowsnest Pass occurred before the coming of the railway. The photographers, along with their bulky cameras, tripods, and equipment, travelled here by horse and wagon, passing through the frontier towns of Macleod and Pincher Creek along the way.

Frederick W. Steele, of Winnipeg’s Steele & Company, came west to photograph the construction of the Crow’s Nest Pass Line of the Canadian Pacific Railway between 1897 and 1898. Steele’s company would go on to open branch studios in Calgary, Medicine Hat, Macleod and Fernie.

Oliver William Playle traveled to Crowsnest Pass in 1901, where he photographed the newly-founded villages of Blairmore and Frank. Alberta had not yet become a province and these communities were located in what was then the North-West Territories. Playle hailed from Innisfail, where he operated a photo studio and art gallery with his wife, Sophie. For a brief time he also worked as a photographer in Pincher Creek.

There was one photo studio operating in Crowsnest Pass in the spring of 1903. The team of Marks and Buchanan had recently opened Crown Studio on Dominion Avenue in the new townsite of Frank. By all accounts, they were the first professional photographers based in Crowsnest Pass. The catastrophe that occurred at Frank in the early morning hours of April 29, 1903 provided Marks and Buchanan the opportunity to record numerous images of historical

significance. The disaster made headlines around the world and they were first on the scene to photograph the devastation.

Cecil Henry Prest of Cranbrook, British Columbia was one of the first photographers from outside the area to arrive at Crowsnest Pass in the aftermath of the Frank Slide disaster. Upon hearing the news of the rockslide the very day it occurred, he boarded a train bound for neighbouring Alberta. A month earlier, Cecil had left his job as a bookkeeper at a hardware store and joined his mother, Olive, to keep their family's photography businesses in Cranbrook and Fernie open, following the death of his father William Archie Prest.

Joseph Frederick Spalding, the highly acclaimed photographer from Fernie, visited Crowsnest Pass on numerous occasions. Spalding operated his studio in Fernie between 1904-1924. He was a prolific photographer and captured numerous views of this area before moving to Vancouver in 1924 to become a partner in the Gowen Sutton Postcard Company. In 1928, Spalding left the company and in 1930 he started his own postcard business, The Camera Products Company. A large number of Spalding's Crowsnest Pass photographs found their way onto postcards.



Postcard using a 1903 photograph by Marks & Buchanan, mailed to "Bill" in 1906. The railway tracks are up on the temporary route through the Slide, before regrading. The Frank school is in the centre of the photo, within the old townsite.

Vic Bergman collection

The photographers Moir and Bawden came to the Pass sometime around 1906. While here, they captured a birds-eye view of the town of Frank from Bluff (Goat) Mountain. Some of their other photos were used to highlight Coleman and Blairmore in the 1907 *Crow's Nest Pass Illustrated: Souvenir Edition*, published by the *Fernie Free Press* and the *Frank Paper*.

Another well-known photographer who travelled to Crowsnest Pass was Arthur Rafton-Canning. He operated the British and Colonial Photographic Company in Lethbridge from 1907-1913. Sometime around 1910, Rafton-Canning took photographs of Frank and Blairmore, and while in Coleman he photographed the International and McGillivray mines. One of his photographs taken at "The Cave," along Crowsnest Lake, was featured on a postcard.

George Walter Ingham moved to Crowsnest Pass from Portage la Prairie, Manitoba sometime between 1901-1906. Ingham was a school principal and teacher in Blairmore, and a photographer. In the spring of 1910 he opened a photo studio and gallery next to his home on Sixth Avenue in Blairmore. Ingham operated his studio until 1913 when he sold his business to Joseph Galdzinski, owner of The Star Photo Company of Cranbrook. Galdzinski operated the Blairmore studio as a branch of his Cranbrook operation, but it closed less than a year later.

While George Ingham was a teacher by profession, another local photographer had a different occupation altogether. The 1905 Henderson Northwest Territories Directory listed Sydney Crayford of Blairmore, Alberta as a “contractor & builder and photographer.”

Alfred Frank Ostrander was born in South Marysburgh Township, Ontario, in 1876. In 1901, he was married and living in the village of Waterford in Norfolk County, near Simcoe and Lake Erie, where the Canada Census of that year indicates his occupation as “photographer.” By 1909, Alfred had moved west to Alberta and was residing in Crowsnest Pass. Not long after arriving here, he photographed the Coleman football (soccer) team, winners of the Mutz Cup. In 1910, he purchased a photo tent from George Ingham of Blairmore and was soon conducting business in Coleman. During the autumn of 1911, Alfred rented Ingham’s house and photo studio for the winter, while Ingham was away at his homestead near Calgary. Alfred Ostrander continued to work as a photographer in Crowsnest Pass until about 1917.

Byron Harmon, the renowned Banff photographer, also came to Crowsnest Pass with his camera, taking photos of Turtle Mountain and Frank Slide, Crowsnest Mountain, and the McGillivary Loop, along the CPR line west of Coleman.

Lewis Rice was another professional photographer who visited Crowsnest Pass. Rice was originally from Nova Scotia, where he operated a half-dozen photo studios. He also had his own private railroad photo car, allowing him to travel by rail from one town to another to take portraits inside his ‘studio on wheels’. Lewis moved to Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan in 1906, where he opened Rice’s Studio. Sometime around 1910, Lewis Rice travelled to the Pass and took photos in the towns of Frank and Blairmore.



Rice Studio (Moose Jaw, SK) postcard using a ca. 1910 photograph by Lewis Rice; never mailed. The large building in the centre of the photo is the Imperial Hotel.

Vic Bergman collection

In May 1915, Oscar Brindley leased a building on Main Street in Coleman, previously occupied by the Home Bakery, and opened a photo studio. He had been a photographer in Crowsnest Pass for some time, but until then had made his living primarily as a coal miner. With the opening of his studio, Brindley had hopes of becoming a full-time photographer. Oscar’s aspirations were put on hold, when ten months later he joined the 192nd Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force to serve in World War One. Oscar Brindley’s service overseas lasted less than a year. He was sent home to Canada in September 1917 due to a weak knee, the result of an injury caused during a mine cave-in some fifteen years earlier. Upon Brindley’s return to Crowsnest Pass, he once again was able to concentrate on his photography business.

It was about this same time, another photographer, Thomas Gushul, set up a photo studio in east Coleman’s Bushtown, not far from Brindley’s studio. A few years later, around 1923, Brindley and Gushul entered into a business partnership. They worked together for about a year before Oscar left the photography profession to become manager of the Metropolitan

Life Insurance agency in Crowsnest Pass. The Brindley family left Coleman in 1924, moving to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, where Oscar continued to work for the insurance company. In January 1927 he was transferred to Vancouver, British Columbia, and in November of that year he transferred to Fernie.

On October 14, 1930, while travelling by passenger train from Fernie to Coal Creek, Oscar Brindley stepped from one of the coaches, lost his footing and slipped on the platform, falling to the tracks below. His left leg was run over by the wheels of the train, leaving him badly injured. He had the presence of mind to put a tourniquet on his leg, using his necktie and a stick which he was able to reach. It wasn't until two hours later when someone aboard the returning train noticed Brindley lying on the ground beside the tracks. It was a cold, blustery autumn day, with sleet and rain falling; suffering from shock and exposure, Oscar was taken to the Fernie hospital, where his leg was amputated a few inches below the knee. He survived the accident and moved back to Vancouver the following year. Oscar Brindley, the former Crowsnest Pass photographer, died of bronchiectasis and pneumonia on January 7, 1937, at the age of fifty-three.

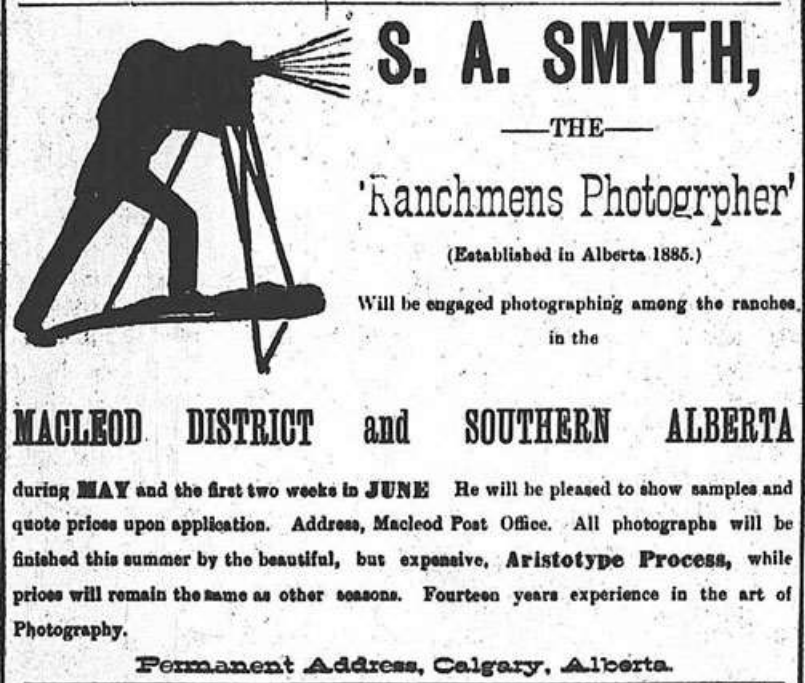
Itinerant photographers would frequently visit the towns in Crowsnest Pass in the early 1900s. Sometimes, they worked out of hotels, renting rooms in which to take portraits of patrons. Other times, they set up makeshift photo studios in canvas tents. They would erect them on vacant lots or at the edge of town, staying weeks or months at a time, before moving on to the next community. The tents were multi-purposed, serving as studio, darkroom, gallery, and accommodation for the photographer.

In October 1910, itinerant photographer Alfred Albert Paull of Rossland, British Columbia, set up his tent in Blairmore for two weeks before being fined \$10.00 for operating without a business license. He had been working in Crowsnest Pass for months, travelling between Bellevue, Blairmore, and Coleman. Mr. Paull took down his tent, paid the fine, and then left for home.

There were many local amateur photographers practicing their hobby in Crowsnest Pass during its early days. One of these was John Kerr of Passburg, best known for his involvement in the development of the Leitch Collieries coal mine at Police Flats in 1907. Kerr was extremely adept at taking pictures, having been a professional photographer while living in Scotland. Throughout his years in Canada, John Kerr continued with his hobby of photography, taking photographs and doing his own processing, developing, and printing.

As can be seen above, there were many photographers who worked in Crowsnest Pass during its early years. The images they created are windows into the past and have contributed greatly to the preservation and understanding of the history of our communities.

Newspaper advertisement in the *Macleod Gazette*, May 18, 1894



S. A. SMYTH,
—THE—
'Ranchmens Photogrpher'
(Established in Alberta 1885.)
Will be engaged photographing among the ranches
in the
MACLEOD DISTRICT and SOUTHERN ALBERTA
during **MAY** and the first two weeks in **JUNE** He will be pleased to show samples and
quote prices upon application. Address, Macleod Post Office. All photographs will be
finished this summer by the beautiful, but expensive, **Aristotype Process**, while
prices will remain the same as other seasons. Fourteen years experience in the art of
Photography.
Permanent Address, Calgary, Alberta.

Two years after construction, the brewery had yet to produce a single pint, despite repeated predictions in the *Blairmore Enterprise*. In February 1913 shareholders ratified a loan from the Royal Bank for \$14,500 and authorized an increase in debt up to \$35,000 if necessary. By October 1913 a reorganization due to 'financial stringency' resulted in new directors, including W. R. Dobbie and F. Collins of Pincher Creek, John Daly of Granum, H. D. MacMillan of Cowley, Colin Macleod and John Swinarton of Macleod, and brewmaster Christian Ernst - a shift of ownership and control away from local businessmen and towards regional hotel owners. The new directors attempted to raise more capital through additional bank loans, including a mortgage at 12% to shareholder Colin Macleod. After having constructed the facility it's possible that the company did not have enough money for the final machinery, bottling, raw supplies, or staff.

= THIS IS YOUR =

OPPORTUNITY

It is by taking advantage of OPPORTUNITY when it comes that fortunes are made
Here is a chance FOR YOU TO GET IN ON THE GROUND FLOOR of one of the BEST PROPOSITIONS in Alberta.

... Blairmore Brewing & Malting Company, Limited ...

A Company incorporated under the laws of Alberta with a capital of

... ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS ...

For the manufacture of BEER and BEER EXTRACTS and all kinds of TEMPERANCE DRINKS
The Company are offering for public subscription

SEVEN THOUSAND SHARES
at the Capital Stock at Par Value \$5.00 Per Share

The average for each share is offered to be paid in 4 equal instalments of one dollar each. The Director has already prepared the necessary contracts for the issue of 7000 shares and arranged to have the Brewery in operation in a very short time. The Company has also obtained in advance of the BEST AND MOST UP-TO-DATE RETURNS on the stock already issued and arranged to have the Brewery in operation in a very short time. The Company has also obtained in advance of the BEST AND MOST UP-TO-DATE RETURNS on the stock already issued and arranged to have the Brewery in operation in a very short time. The Company has also obtained in advance of the BEST AND MOST UP-TO-DATE RETURNS on the stock already issued and arranged to have the Brewery in operation in a very short time.

<p style="text-align: center;">WATER</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>The Company own the Water Rights, with an ample supply of water for all purposes. Through direct flow from the spring in the works for 1000 feet a constant flow of 100 gallons per minute is guaranteed. The water is pure and soft and is of the highest quality. The water is pure and soft and is of the highest quality.</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Water Analysis for Brewing Purposes</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Per Gallon in 1000 parts of water:</small></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"><small>Total Solids of Carbonates of Lime</small></td> <td style="width: 50%;"><small>Grains</small></td> </tr> <tr> <td><small>Total Solids of Sulphates and Chlorides</small></td> <td><small>Grains</small></td> </tr> <tr> <td><small>Total Solids of Phosphates and Silicates</small></td> <td><small>Grains</small></td> </tr> <tr> <td><small>Total Solids of Iron and Magnesium</small></td> <td><small>Grains</small></td> </tr> <tr> <td><small>Total Solids of Potassium and Sodium</small></td> <td><small>Grains</small></td> </tr> <tr> <td><small>Total Solids of Calcium and Magnesium</small></td> <td><small>Grains</small></td> </tr> <tr> <td><small>Total Solids of Calcium and Magnesium</small></td> <td><small>Grains</small></td> </tr> </table>	<small>Total Solids of Carbonates of Lime</small>	<small>Grains</small>	<small>Total Solids of Sulphates and Chlorides</small>	<small>Grains</small>	<small>Total Solids of Phosphates and Silicates</small>	<small>Grains</small>	<small>Total Solids of Iron and Magnesium</small>	<small>Grains</small>	<small>Total Solids of Potassium and Sodium</small>	<small>Grains</small>	<small>Total Solids of Calcium and Magnesium</small>	<small>Grains</small>	<small>Total Solids of Calcium and Magnesium</small>	<small>Grains</small>
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SITUATION:

Blairmore Brewery is situated in the TOWN of BLAIRMORE. A Town that is rapidly growing in importance as an industrial centre. From Blairmore it is possible to reach by wagon the Towns of CARBONDALE, COLEMAN, FRANK, HILLOREST, BELLEVUE, LILLE, PARSBURG, and several other small Mining Camps, all within a radius of about four miles, thus saving a great amount in railway freight. The estimated population of these towns is about 12,000, and the nearest brewery which is about an miles and the nearest to the East about 100. This we are sure can give Blairmore Brewery a decided advantage over any of its competitors, for the trade of The Pass.

<p style="text-align: center;">PRESENTATION OF STOCK</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>In presenting this stock to the public we fully believe that we are producing a stock that will merit the attention of the most conservative investor. We advise you to investigate this proposition as soon as we finally believe that the stock will be well received. Investigation and any other information will be sent on application. Send all orders to:</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>THE BLAIRMORE BREWING & MALTING CO., LIMITED Blairmore, Alberta.</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">APPLICATION FOR STOCK</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>I hereby make application for _____ shares of the Capital Stock of your Company to be issued to my name.</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Full name _____</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Address _____</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Signature _____</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Date _____</small></p>
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Blairmore Brewing & Malting Co., Limited

BLAIRMORE, - - - ALBERTA

Brewmaster Ernst made a shocking discovery on the morning of Wednesday, May 27. Thirty sticks of dynamite had been placed within the building during the night but, due to a faulty fuse, had failed to ignite. About forty feet of burned fuse led from an open window to within an inch of the blasting cap, where it had apparently had gone out on its own accord. This suspicious incident occurred during a brief interval when there was no night watchman. The North-West Mounted Police investigated, but no arrests were made.

The outbreak of World War One in July 1914 was likely the last straw for the struggling company. In August a group of American capitalists looked at purchasing the brewery, but nothing came of this. May 1915 brought a receivership sale which was the end of dreams of a local brewery. This was just before the implementation of prohibition in 1916 which would have presented another challenge.

In 1915 it was rumored that the massive building might be converted to a munitions factory, and in 1919 into a school. Neither happened. The sale of some machinery in November 1921 was followed by the sale of the building to the Lethbridge Refinery Company in August 1923 for a mere \$3000, who removed the remaining machinery and demolished the building. Taxes owing to the Town of Blairmore amounted to \$2500.

Thus the Blairmore brewery joins the Frank zinc smelter and the Blairmore cement plant as businesses which completed massive constructions but failed to be commercially viable.

Book Review

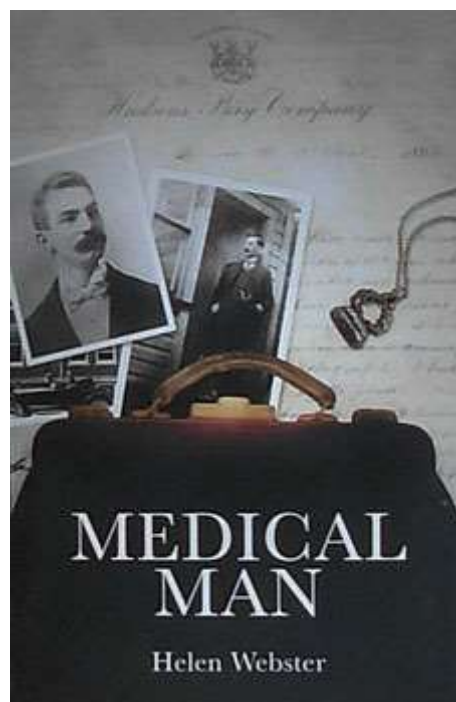
Medical Man by Helen Webster

Review by Ian McKenzie

Author Helen Webster held a book launch for *Medical Man* at the Blairmore library in 2016, which was a pleasure to attend. Her book is a biography of her grandfather, Dr. Robert Ross, but it is written like a novel, with conversations and other aspects filled in to bring color to the events both large and small in this man's life. Although it covers several exciting episodes, the writing is even and restrained, much like a surgeon's calm hand.

Part One, a mere 18 pages, is about Ross' early life, education, and marriage in Ontario. The 350 pages of Part Two covers his time in Alberta, from a young country doctor through experienced middle-age up to an elderly man at the end of his life. Medical procedures are included in some detail and accurately indicate what medicine was like a hundred years ago, but Webster also covers the physical difficulties, moral dilemmas, and personal risk involved in being a western doctor. Also included is the maturing of Dr. Ross' family, with its joys and tragedies.

Of most interest to me were chapters 9 through 16, set in 1910-1919 Coleman. Its stories are based on Ross' case files, notes, and oral remembrances, although in a few places names have been changed (unnecessarily, I thought). A list of true characters appears at the back of the book. There are several interesting points, including the replacing of the hospital's Matron who did not understand the need for cleanliness, and claims that the previous doctor was not a competent surgeon (though a good physician) and had performed needless amputations. No punches pulled there.



There are parallels between Webster's *Medical Man* and Ralph Connor's *The Doctor* (reviewed in issue #55). Both stories start in Ontario and progress to western Canada, with significant chapters set in Crowsnest Pass. Although *Medical Man* is fact and *The Doctor* is fiction, the principal character in each book seems almost too good to be true. Connor invents a Christian role-model for his readers, while Webster is motivated by her love and respect for her grandfather.

Readers with a historical nose will find small errors in the Crowsnest Pass chapters, beginning with the train journey into Coleman. An interesting error is the victim count at the Hillcrest mine disaster (195 and later 196 men; actually 189), but this reflects the numbers that were reported in newspapers at the time, and actually adds authenticity to the story.

Medical Man is a good book with interesting insights, and deserves a spot on your heritage bookshelf. You can purchase it at the Crowsnest Museum gift shop, and elsewhere.

Mystery Towns App: Q&A with Heather Davis

Owner and guide, Uplift Adventures

What is Mystery Towns, and how do you play it? Where in the Pass can you use it?

Mystery Towns is a clue-based game that you play on a smart device, such as a phone. The game is part Amazing Race, part Escape Room, and 100% mystery.

Once you purchase the game, you will be informed of where to start. You will be given a series of clues that will take you throughout downtown Blairmore and maybe to some places that you are unfamiliar with. The game will start with a clue to get your head in the game, then once you solve the clues, the game will direct you through the town.

The game can be played individually or as a group. We recommend playing in groups of two to four people. You can also play as a corporate group and we will start teams at different places along the course.

Have you had any feedback on it?

The one common thing we hear from people is, "That was so much fun."

We do get feedback from people playing the game. Each clue has the option of getting a hint, which adds to your time when you hit that button. We are constantly monitoring this on the back end and evolving the game as more people play it. We don't want the game to be frustrating, but we do want an element of challenge and fun.

Where can you find the app, and how do you load it?

First, you will download the app ("Mystery Towns") on your smart device (downloaded through your app store for free). Next, you will purchase the game at <https://www.mysterytowns.com/adventures/crowsnest/pictures-of-the-past> and you will get a code from your online purchase. This code is used to sign into the game on your smart device. You can now play the game! It is actually quite simple to sign up.

How often will it be updated, for those who want a repeat challenge?

Each game takes a lot of resources to create, so we need to be strategic regarding creation. We would love to create more games in the future, but first we need to see how this game does on the market. Once more people play the game and it catches on, it would be great to create more.

How did the idea come up, and what was involved in adapting it for the Pass?

Last year (2018), Uplift Adventures was doing history tours in downtown Blairmore. We absolutely love the rich history that Crowsnest Pass has, but wanted to create a tour that would draw in more people. We did some research and found Mystery Towns, based out of Canmore. Last September, we met up with the owners of Mystery Towns to find out what it means to bring a game to Crowsnest Pass. This meant that we needed to find the resources to make this game possible.

The Crowsnest Museum and Uplift Adventures partnered together and applied for a grant through the Tourism Growth and Innovative Funds. We were successful so were able to bring this game to the Pass.

To be honest, I (Uplift Adventures) had never written something like this before and was struggling with creating the game. Mystery Towns definitely was helpful, but I needed more help. Creative writing isn't something that I am great at, but I knew the perfect person who is: Erin Fairhurst. Erin came on board, eagerly and promptly. She was such an asset to creating this game, especially with her expertise of writing her own mystery games through her business: Mystery Party Night.

What were some of the challenges, or unusual discoveries that you came across?

As I mentioned above, the writing was a challenge, but once we found Erin, it went smoothly. It just goes to show you how important it is to have the right people for the right job.

We currently struggle with getting the word out and getting people to understand what this game is about and the quality of the game. We can't just tell people it is fun; people need to play the game to find out. Once more people play the game, then people will definitely talk about it and the word will spread. The game is new to Crowsnest Pass and southern Alberta, but it is not new to tourism destination areas. These games are gaining a lot of traction and becoming a fun way for friends, families and corporate groups to enjoy an area.

What is the balance between entertainment and education?

Players do learn about the history of Crowsnest Pass, but it is more like an osmosis process versus a lecture. Players who are already interested in history will likely learn more, as they will read more about the history while trying to figure out the clues. People less engaged in history, will learn less. This game will not replace the quality of information that you will get at a museum or interpretive centre, but it can get people interested in learning more.



Searching out clues.

Photo: Anna Koevoet

The balance is tricky as we wanted people to learn, but we also wanted to make the game really fun. It is up to the individual as to how much they want to learn about the history, and then it is 100% entertaining.

Is this the future of local heritage interpretation?

I think this is complementary to our local heritage interpretation, but not a replacement. People learn in different ways and there are different types of travellers. Some people like to really immerse in the history and that is what an interpretive centre or museum will accomplish. And the interpretive adventures that Uplift Adventures does is a great way for people to enjoy, experience and learn about an area.

This game can be classified as 'gamification' and it is a growing industry with virtual reality and apps. It is another tool in the shed for people to use to learn and have fun.

News, 100 Years Ago

Here's the latest news - from the pages of the 1919 *Blairmore Enterprise*.

October 9: "The case of the Town of Blairmore versus some twenty individuals for recovery of hospital fees in connection with their treatment during the [Spanish] flu epidemic last year ... judgement was rendered in favor of the town for all fees claimed plus the cost of action."

"The name of the Royal North-West Mounted Police is to be changed to that of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police."

October 16: "A grand dance will be given by the Coleman Great War Next-of-Kin Association in the Coleman opera house... in celebration of the signing of the Armistice a year ago."

"It's because of the moonshines that The Pass is to-day the brightest spot on earth."

October 30: "The grand master and other grand officers will visit Coleman Oddfellow's lodge on Monday night next, and will attend a special meeting of Bellevue lodge on Wednesday night, to which meetings Blairmore and visiting members were invited."

"Mr. W. A. Pritchard, one of the labor leaders arrested in Winnipeg some time ago, and released on bail, will address a public meeting in the Eagle's Hall, Coleman, tomorrow... his subject will be: "Hardship endured during the Winnipeg Strike."

November 6: "Someone has suggested that the Blairmore school district should have a lady representative on the board, and it is expected that such a nomination will be made for the forthcoming election."

November 20: "From 34 degrees below zero to a real midsummer temperature was the change experienced in The Pass last week. Ten days ago we had fifteen inches of snow, and today the ground is bare and dry."

November 27: Mrs. Russel: "What is your husband's average income, Mrs. Harper?"
Mrs. Harper: "Oh, about midnight."

December 18: "There is a rumor to the effect that Pick, the Peasant King was held up and robbed on Monday night last between Blairmore and Coleman. The Peasant King says it is a lie and thinks it strange that such a story should have become current. The Peasant King has apparently forgotten that ugly looking bruise on his head. If so he is surely possessed of some forgetter."

Sign of the Times

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.

Coleman has one focusing on the Miners' Union Hospital.



Have you read it?

Our Local Heritage Sites

- **CROWNEST MUSEUM and ARCHIVES** - 7701 18th Avenue, within Coleman National Historic Site. 403-563-5434, cnpmuseum@shaw.ca, website www.crowsnestmuseum.ca. Glimpse the rich social, economic and natural heritage of Crowsnest Pass from 1900 – 1950 with our two floors of themed rooms. Gift shop features local and regional books and other items. Admission includes the newly-restored **ALBERTA PROVINCIAL POLICE BARRACKS** and its exhibits on prohibition, rumrunning and the legendary shooting of Constable Lawson and subsequent execution of 'Emperor Pic' and Florence Lossandro. Open Monday thru Saturday, 9 am - 5 pm. Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (6-16) \$6, Under 6 free, Families \$24, Crowsnest Historical Society members free. Tours and educational programs available.
- **BELLEVUE UNDERGROUND MINE** - access off Main Street Bellevue. 403-564-4700, www.bellevuemine.com. The only authentic historic underground coal mine tour in western Canada, this family oriented site offers the opportunity to experience what the underground miners from a century ago would have experienced as they went to go to work each day. Pre-booked tours are available through the winter; closed over Christmas.
- **FRANK SLIDE INTERPRETIVE CENTRE** - off Hwy 3. 403-562-7388, www.frankslide.ca. 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. Open year round, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm (9 am to 6 pm in the summer). Adults \$13, Seniors (65+) \$11, Youth (7-17) \$9, 6 and under free, Families \$35.
- **HILLCREST CEMETERY PROVINCIAL HISTORIC SITE** - Hillcrest. Visit the mass graves of the 189 victims of the Hillcrest Mine Disaster of 1914, and the many other picturesque graves in this historic cemetery. On-site interpretive signs explain it all. The **Millennium Memorial Monument** is Canada's homage to miners killed across the country. The **park** features interpretive signs about life in Hillcrest and the effect of the disaster, and picnic tables. Free.
- **LEITCH COLLIERIES PROVINCIAL HISTORIC SITE** - Highway 3. www.leitchcollieries.ca. Check out the stabilized ruins of this century-old coal processing facility, explained through interpretive signs, and on-site staff during summer months. Open during snow-free months, admission by donation.
- **COLEMAN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE and MINERS PATH** - downtown Coleman. Take a self-guided tour of this authentic coal-mining town with a free pamphlet and map, amongst buildings from 1903 - 1986 spanning the entire coal-mining period, many of which have interpretive building plaques. Glimpse the ruins of the mine buildings and coke ovens, walk or drive through the 'miners cottage' neighbourhood of West Coleman. Don't forget your camera. An interpretive booklet can be purchased at the museum. Later, walk the pleasant **Miners Path**, retracing the steps of miners on their way to the McGillivray Mine. All free.

Newsletter Archive

All of our past issues are archived on the Crowsnest Heritage Initiative website and can be accessed by clicking here: <http://www.crowsnestheritage.ca/newsletters>. Subscription is free; you will be notified by email when a new edition is available. To subscribe or unsubscribe, just send an email to cnhnewsletter@shaw.ca.