



Heritage News

Discover Crowsnest Heritage

ISSUE #6

OCTOBER 15, 2010

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A Crowsnest Heritage
Initiative.

While there are a few more days of warmth and the leaves are turning, Flumerfelt Park is hosting "Pumpkins in the Park," from 6 pm - 8 pm on Monday, November 1st. Why not arrive early and take a walk down the "Miners' Path" historic walking route. It is the path Coleman miners took each day they walked out to the McGillivray Mine from 1901-1957. It parallels Nez Perce Creek for about one kilometre before it reaches Rainbow Falls.

With the approach of winter, heritage events in southern Alberta wind down. but it is a time when you can still support heritage venues. Consider visiting the Crowsnest Museum or Frank Slide Interpretive Centre gift shops to shop for Christmas presents. Both venues have a variety of books, clothing items, toys, DVD's and souvenirs. The Galt Museum and Archives is offering Movie Madness at the end of the month, a Macabre Museum Exhibit at Halloween and offers Adopt-an-Artifact gifts as "the Christmas Present" for the person who has everything.

This month's issue may look a little different. It was put together in Costa Rica and is being sent to you from somewhere on the high seas between Panama and Ecuador. Next month's newsletter will be in its normal format.

WHAT'S ON

FLUMERFELDT PARK

Pumpkins in the Park: Monday, November 1st, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

BELLEVUE UNDERGROUND MINE

Bellevue 403-564-4700



Halloween Howler: Saturday, October 31st.
Cancelled until 2011.

GALT MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

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

Movie Madness: Thursday, Friday and Saturday, October 28th, 29th and 30th.

Thursday - Bite Night, Dracula Movie Marathon. Doors open at 4:00 pm. \$10+GST.

Friday - Zombies Galore, Zombie Movie Marathon. Doors open at 5:30 pm. \$10+GST.

Saturday - Rocky Horror Picture Show. Doors open at 9:00 pm, screening begins at 10:00 pm. \$18+GST. Includes props and actors in the audience.

Macabre Museum: Sunday, October 31st. 7:00 pm.

Astonishing! Bizarre! Supernatural! Experience the exhibits and artifacts of the Galt in a way you (and we) never have before. Spend Halloween evening in our reputedly haunted building. Readings, unusual experiences and a great night of fun and entertainment you won't want to miss!

Adopt-an-Artifact: November 1st to 30th.

Check our Adopt-an-Artifact site [currently showing 2009 artifacts, bidding closed] to "adopt" one of our artifacts - a fun way to help raise funds for the museum! Photos and information on selected artifacts are featured, along with instructions on how to place your bid. PLEASE NOTE: although you do not gain ownership of the artifact, you will receive a photo and a chance to have a behind-the-scenes tour of Collections in 2011 to see your sponsored artifact. Makes a fun and unique Christmas present!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

HEAD-SNASHED-IN BUFFALO JUMP

Hwy 785 403-553-2731

Heritage Through My Hands: Saturday, November 27th.

PRAIRIES'N PEAKS QUILT FESTIVAL

Pincher Creek 403-627-3686

A juried and invitational show sponsored by the Crowsnest Museum and the Kootenai Brown Museum, including a showing of historic textiles. For more information go to <http://prairiespeaks.blogspot.com> : Friday, June 30th to Sunday, June 19th 2011.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Mark Drumm, Newspaperman
by Ian McKenzie, Frank, Crowsnest Pass.

Born in Michigan in 1867, Mark Drumm was one of eight children – five boys and three girls. By 1900 he was living in Butte, Montana and working as a newspaper reporter. He must have been well-connected, because in July 1901 he moved to Frank, AB to become Secretary-Treasurer of the newly-formed Canadian American Coal and Coke Company (Henry Frank pres., Sam Gebo vice pres.), a position held until October 1902. He briefly returned to Montana to marry his former landlady Lida Livingston in April 1902, and they traveled back to Frank with her twelve-year-old son Fred. At some point the Drumms moved from Frank to Blairmore, but in January 1906 they moved into the new north subdivision of Frank, renting one of four houses that had just been built on the corner of what is now 150 street and Highway 3. One of their neighbors was George Wiltse, the new Secretary-Treasurer of the coal company. Later in 1906 the Drumms moved up the hill behind Frank to the Blossomwood Ranch.

The move back to Frank followed the creation of the Frank Paper in 1905. Two other newspapers had preceded it; the Frank Sentinel (1901 – 1903), and The Drill (1904 – 1905). Charles Smitheringdale from The Drill helped Drumm start up the Frank Paper, but by July Drumm was its sole proprietor and editor. The double-meaning of the 'frank paper' seems to have been



Frank Newspaper Advertisement, 1905



Frank Newspaper Front Page, June 15, 1905

Some assertions appearing in the last issue of the Frank Paper and credited to Mr. Sherman, the Labor candidate, are without any foundation of truth and it is very doubtful if Mr. Sherman ever made them. More likely they originated in the over worked brain of the misfit who controls that paper.

Blairmore Times, October 28, 1905

From various newspaper articles it's clear that Drumm was a Frank booster. The January 25, 1906 special edition of The Frank Paper was both a history and a tribute to the booming town. A member of town council until February 1910, in March 1908 Drumm traveled to Edmonton to support a private bill for a municipal debenture. In 1909 Drumm helped found the Prairie and Pass Promotion League, which strove to advertise and improve the district between Macleod and Coleman. Drumm wrote an article for the Lethbridge Herald in 1910 extolling the virtues of Frank, generously estimating its population as between 1500 and 2000 (Chas E Goad's 1910 insurance map update estimates "1000"), with miners' wages at \$3.50 for an 8 hour day with much leisure time. Drumm did admit to one failing of Frank: too much drunkenness.

After the Frank Paper was purchased by the Foothills Job Printing and News Co in 1909 and its press was moved to Blairmore, the Drumms remained in Frank for several more years, with Mark investing in oil and gas rights in central Alberta. He is known to have traveled across Canada, as the Ottawa Free Press reported his observations on new immigrants landing in Halifax in 1910. In the 1911 census for Frank, both Mark and Lida list themselves as Canadian, and Methodist. Afterwards they lived in Calgary, Vancouver and Penticton before leaving for Arizona in 1922 and later California, working on various newspapers.

The Drumms retired in California, but never forgot their time in the Crowsnest Pass. In the 1940s Mrs. Drumm sent donations to the Red Cross in the Pass to help alleviate the hard times here. Lida Drumm died in 1951 at age 83 (although in 1906 the Lethbridge Herald erroneously reported her death in the San Francisco earthquake). Mark Drumm died in 1963, three days after breaking his hip, at the age of 96.

Thirty-five years after The Frank Paper had ceased publication, the Lethbridge Herald still remembered Mark Drumm as "quite a character... an unusual personage with a style peculiarly his own and with a frankness in expressing views that isn't so common today... Mark Drumm gave life to every column."

deliberate; its tag line was "just a newspaper by Mark Drumm".

The Frank Paper reported on all of the details of the rapidly-expanding town including the development of the fire brigade, the construction of the zinc smelter, completion of the power plant which electrified both Frank and Blairmore, construction of the first road through the Frank Slide, the installation of the x-ray machine in Dr. Malcolmson's hospital, and the murders of Cpl George Willmott and Monty Lewis. On August 31 1905, strong winds blew in the front window of the newspaper office, sending Drumm off his chair and resulting in five stitches and the loss of a front tooth. He reported it with good humor in his own newspaper.

The pet dog of the Drumm family is either lost, has strayed or been stolen. He is not an exceedingly valuable animal but is nevertheless highly prized and a suitable reward will be given for his return. The name of the dog is Nig and he is probably known to most people who have resided for any length of time in The Pass but for the benefit of persons who have not had the advantage of associating with him a description is here given. He is perhaps best described in the language of the Irishman who in attempting to give a description of a dachshund said: He is a dog and a half long and half a dog high. That describes this dog precisely as to size, he is coal black with a white stip on his breast, has a notch out of one ear and a scar on one hip. Any information concerning this dog will be most gratefully received at this office, and as stated, will be suitably rewarded.

Frank Paper, July 30, 1908

100 YEARS AGO

- On the Monday after Thanksgiving in 1910, there was a large methane explosion in the Bellevue Mine. Luckily there was no one in the mine. It took until the end of November to clean up the destruction and resume operations.
- October 15th. After 35 years, France lifted a ban on importing North American potatoes. They were believed to carry a blight.
- October 28th. The first public demonstration of colour movies was made in the US at the New York Electrical Society. It featured a film of rotating flowers in bowls and vases.
- November 13th. In New Frank, the Sacred Heart (Corpus Christi) Roman Catholic church opened.

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