

HERITAGE VIEWS

History and Heritage in Crowsnest Pass, Alberta



Issue 64

September 2021



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It surprises me how often animals show up in heritage photographs. Sometimes they are a principal or secondary subject, for example in family photographs. But very often animals, particularly dogs, show up incidentally in photographs of events such as parades, labour protests, sporting events and other gatherings of people, where they seem to want to be part of the action. In other instances, photographs of buildings or streetscapes will often, if you look hard enough, have a dog in them somewhere. This speaks to a time when many pets were virtual strays, and spent most if not all of their days outdoors, unlike today.

Dogs add a nice touch to heritage photographs. Keep an eye out for them; you will be surprised how often they appear.

- Ian McKenzie, Editor

On the cover: Lena Gushul, photographed by her husband Thomas Gushul. Lena handled much of the administration of their photography business, and she was a talented photographer herself. Thomas' many photographs of his own pets had no commercial value, but offer an insight into his sensitive personality and often his sense of humor.

Photo: Crowsnest Museum and Archives, 03982 GUSH-NEG

Heritage Views 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 heritageviews.cnp@gmail.com. Future contributors should send in their articles in MS Word or something similar, with any photos sent as separate jpeg files. Do not embed photos into your document; we will just have to strip them out and reinsert them into our newsletter format.

Back issues of this free newsletter are available at www.crowsnestheritage.ca by clicking on the "heritage newsletter" link on the home page.

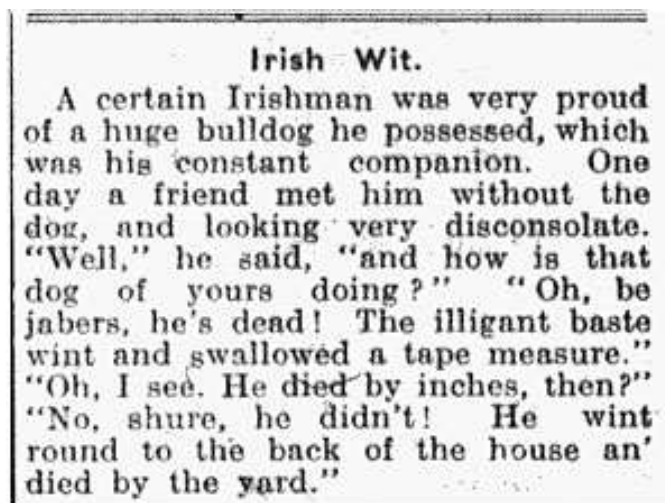
Heritage News

Details on the rejuvenation of the historic **Roxy Theatre**, located in Coleman National Historic Site, can be found on the website <https://www.crownestcando.ca/>.

Quite a few well-known heritage buildings have come up for sale in Crowsnest Pass recently. They include the 1909 **Central Union Church** in Blairmore, the 1910 **United Church** in Hillcrest, the 1917 **Bellevue Café**, and the 1923 **Blairmore Courthouse**.

The **CNP Memorial Society** continues its volunteer work straightening and repairing heritage monuments within our many cemeteries. This summer's work tackled a couple of the larger, more difficult monuments facing imminent failure. Details of the Society and its work can be found at www.cnpmemorial.weebly.com.

The annual **Harvest of Memories** fundraiser is set to go on September 25, 2021. It will be a digital event similar to last year's entertaining and successful presentation. <https://www.crownestmuseum.ca/home>.



Coleman Miner, May 8, 1908

The 2021 **Doors Open and Heritage Festival** over the August long weekend featured the food and music of the Pass, a theme inspired by the 100th anniversary of the Blairmore Bandstand (see our issue #28 [December 2012](#)). Primarily local musicians and artists performed at local food venues with a multi-artist concert at the bandstand itself. The weekend was kicked off by a launch event which featured an impressive spoken-word and music production by the Heritage Youth Theatre Company. For a list of events, see www.cnpheritagefest.ca.

Did you know...

... that semi-domesticated dogs lived in the Crowsnest Pass as far back as 6000 BC? (see our issue #15, July 2011)

... that in 1909 a man accidentally shot his wife in the foot, while aiming at the family dog? (see our issue #8, December 2010)

... that in 1920 three bloodhounds from the United States were used (unsuccessfully) in the pursuit of train-robber Tom Bassoff? (see our issue #58, March 2020)

...that in the 1930s Blairmore's "red" council placed a tax on pedigree dogs, as a way of taxing the rich? (see issue 17, September 2011)

International Coal and Coke Co. vs Evans

by Ian McKenzie

The *Western Law Reporter* records the details and verdicts of court cases heard in western Canada. Volume IX includes a case heard in 1908 and reveals the shell-game attempted by a local businessman to avoid complying with a restriction on the sale of alcohol in Coleman.

As the entire site of Coleman was first owned by the International Coal and Coke Company, they were in a position to place conditions within land sale documents to control certain aspects of town life. There was an extensive clause to ensure the company had the complete right to mine coal within the townsite (see excerpt following this article), overriding the rights of homeowners and shopkeepers who had purchased their lots. Another clause intended to keep Coleman “dry” and therefore a peaceable village, ran as follows:

...that no Tavern, Inn, Hotel, Beer house or place licensed for the sale of any wines, spirits, beer or liquors shall be opened or conducted, nor shall any wines, spirits, beer or liquors be sold or disposed of in any manner whatsoever, nor the business of a licensed victualler be carried on upon said lands, nor shall any building erected upon the said lands be used for any of the purposes aforesaid for the term of fifteen years from the date hereof without the consent of the said Company... first had and obtained in writing...

These restrictive clauses were contained within the company’s specially-printed Transfer of Land documents and, with only a few exceptions (through error), appeared in every title transfer from the mine company to every land purchaser in Coleman. Nevertheless, there were those who wanted to sell alcohol to their townsfolk. One such person was William Evans.



The Coleman Liquor Store

-: In Your Trunk :-
snugly packed where it's handy to get at is a good place to put a bottle of

-: Good Old Sherry :-
before leaving to take that trip. If you want to add a bottle of health invigorating Rye or Bourbon we can supply it. Our store is the precise place to get good liquors at. Prices are always reasonable.

W. EVANS, Wholesale Liquor Dealer

On October 22, 1903, Evans purchased Lot 8 in Block 7 from International Coal, constructed a building, and in 1906 successfully applied for a license to sell wholesale liquor. International Coal was not impressed, and in May of 1907 took legal action against Evans. Later that year Evans purchased the next-door Lot 9 from George

Bremner (who didn't actually own it, as it was in the name of his wife) for \$500, but he never signed a transfer document or registered the sale at the Land Titles Office, but simply relied on a receipt from Bremner. Then Evans constructed another building on this new lot, transferred his liquor license there, and informed International Coal that he had ceased to sell liquor from his old location. International Coal was obliged to cease its action against Evans on lot 7 but, on April 16, 1908, brought another action against him on Lot 8.

It seems probable that the casual, unregistered purchase of the property from Bremner was intended to confound International Coal's attempts to secure an injunction against Evans. Evans' lawyer also pointed out that the Attorney General for Alberta had issued Evans liquor licenses for both properties. But Evans lost the case, and also lost his appeal in 1909, although he continued to operate his business until at least February 1910.

In 1910 Evans applied for a new liquor license at a third location. This time International Coal's lawyers were at the application hearing, and objected to Evans' application, which was refused as his "title was in dispute". This time it was personal, because at the same hearing an application by the Coleman Liquor Company was approved when International Coal waived the liquor restriction clause on that property.

International Coal had also taken action against other liquor sellers, including the

Pacific Hotel which had to close its saloon in 1908, materially affecting the viability of that business. Soon the Town of Coleman itself was applying for a wholesale liquor permit, in order to benefit from the lucrative sale of booze in Coleman.

(My thanks go to lawyer William Laurin, former owner of several buildings in Coleman, for bringing this interesting case to my attention).

The Century Home Club

Address: 7904 19 Ave, Coleman.

Year built: 1907, by Wes Johnson.

Features: Dormer and enclosed porch are later modifications.

Significant occupants: J.O.C. McDonald was a member of the village council which voted for incorporation, and also served on Coleman's first town council.



McDonald house, about 1909. Child is probably Verna Florence "Boydie" McDonald, who later taught school in Coleman.

Glenbow Archives PA-3689-903

Below is an excerpt from the standard Transfer of Land form used by International Coke and Coal Company for almost all of its land sales in Coleman. How would you like to have a clause like that on your title? If you live within Coleman National Historic Site, you probably do.

EXCEPTING THEREOUT AND RESERVING unto the said Company, its successors and assigns all minerals precious and base which may be found therein in veins, lodes or rock, in place, and whether such minerals are found separately or in combination with each other and all mines, veins, seams and beds of coal, limestone, clay, petroleum or oil, and other minerals and substances whatsoever, already found or which may be hereafter found in or under the lands hereby agreed to be conveyed with full liberty of ingress, egress and regress at all times for the Company, its successors or assigns and its or their servants, agents and workmen, into and upon the said lands, and either with or without horses, or other cattle, wagons, carts and other carriages, for the purpose of searching, for working, getting and carrying away the said mines, minerals, coal and other substances, and with full liberty also for the said Company, its successors, and assigns, to sink, drive, make and use pits, shafts, tunnels, drifts, adits, air courses and water courses, and to erect and set up fire and other engines, mining plants machinery and works, and to lay down railways, roads and other ways, in, upon, under and over the said lands, or any of them for the purpose of more conveniently working said mines and treating and carrying away the said minerals, and also to appropriate and use any part of the surface of the said lands for depositing, placing and heaping thereon the coal, minerals, waste, rubbish and other substances which may be got from the said mines, and generally to do all other acts and things necessary or proper for working or getting the said coal mines and minerals, clay, petroleum or other oil.



This photograph of the 1948 Coleman Rodeo parade graced the cover of the Crowsnest Historical Society's 2018 calendar. Most people never realized that there is a dog in the photo, in a rather prominent location. Can you see the dog?

Photo: Crowsnest Museum and Archives, 8289 Gushul Neg.

Blairmore Lodge No. 15, B.P.O.E.

By Harold Pinkney (1893-1961), PDDGER*

As a soft Chinook swelled over the mountains of the Crows Nest Pass, some of the noble antlered herd drifted into this Hub of the Pass, being followed by the late Bro. J. C. McCoubray, Grand Lodge Organizer from Calgary, who instituted Blairmore Elks Lodge No 15 on November 26, 1924. [The offices installed at that time included Past Exalted Ruler, Exalted Ruler, Esteemed Leading Knight, Esteemed Loyal Knight, Esteemed Lecturing Knight, Secretary, Treasurer, Inner Guards, Tyler, Chaplain, Esquire, Organist, Historian, and three Trustees, comprising some of the most influential men in town.]

The membership of the Lodge at Institution was One Hundred and Twenty-One. In the 1920s the Lodge had different activities. It had an Amateur Drama Club and for several years annually produced a play, either Drama or Comedy, the proceeds of which helped augment the Lodge Funds thus helping the Order in its Benevolent Work.

In the waning Twenties, Carnivals seemed to be the order of the day and every year Blairmore No 15 staged a carnival in the old Arena. Some of these Carnivals were successful and others not so good. There is a great deal of Organization and hard work necessary to put these Carnivals over. In those days great credit was due to PDDGER* Robert Gray who was the driving force behind these. These Carnivals were the means of raising money, but there is a good

deal of expense incurred putting on a Carnival; for instance, all of the Paraphernalia has to be rented or hired and other expenses. What were the net proceeds used for? Well, for instance in 1926 the Sells-Floto circus came to Blairmore, and the Elks got the bright idea of letting every child in the District get a free pass to this tremendous show. They put themselves back several years, and it seemed to come home how lovely it would be for the youngsters to see the clowns, the wild animals and other attractions of a big circus. They took the will for the deed, and arranging with the management of the circus, every youngster was ordered to be at the Public School, at a certain hour, and with the Circus Band blowing a fan fare of real old-time Circus music, the large aggregation of excited children were marched off to see all the mysteries and enjoyment of the big canvas top tents.

July 1st 1927 being the Jubilee Celebration of Confederation, the members of the Lodge decided to make it an Elks Flag Day for the Juniors, and after a monster parade and a program of massed patriotic singing in the town park, with a presentation of a flag and medal commemorating the Jubilee year, the kiddies were invited to a treat of Ice Cream and other goodies by the Elks and it was a day to be long remembered. The children took part in a mammoth parade, around town to the Sports Field. It was a grand

spectacle with numerous floats bands etc. On arrival at the sports field, a very fine address was given by Mr. Hugh Farthing KC (later Chief Justice) of Calgary who was invited here for the occasion.

In the Season 1926-27 the Lodge sponsored the Senior Hockey Team under its colors Purple and White providing all the equipment necessary etc. This team won the Crow Hockey championship that year. Bros. Tony Vejprava and Fred McKay, still active Lodge members, played an important part on that team.

So the roaring twenties were coming to an end, but alas in 1929 came the Stock Market crash in New York followed by what is referred to as the Dirty Thirties. This was the beginning to the Great Depression. The economy of not only Canada but the United States fell to a very low ebb. Many of our members became jobless and others moved away. Then to make conditions worse an Industrial Dispute occurred in District 18 of the United Mine Workers of America, this affected not only the Blairmore mine but all others in the District. There was a cessation of work for nearly twelve months. Our Elks Lodge like many other organizations, as time went on, was finding it very difficult to remain active so after serious thought it was decided to suspend operations for the time being, so no more meetings were held and the Lodge temporarily ceased to function as at June 3, 1935. However, a few years passed by and as the economy of the country seemed to pick up, it was in 1939 that Bro. Pat Miquelon, Grand Lodge representative from Edmonton, came to

Blairmore and surveyed the situation as to the possibility of reviving the lodge and getting it once more into operation. With the assistance of some of the older members his efforts met with great success. After interviewing many of the older members and contacting other gentleman who showed a desire to become members, reorganization was proceeded with and it was on April 3, 1939 that Blairmore Lodge began to function again.

Blairmore Lodge has always been proud of its Degree Teams, especially the Patrol Team. This Patrol Team won the Pendray Patrol Shield (photo, below) emblematic of the Provincial Championship, three consecutive years, 1944-45-46.



Crowsnest Museum and Archives CM-BL-16-04

One of the big undertakings of the Lodge was the purchase of the Hall.** This building was erected in 1912 as was known at that time as the Blairmore Opera house. Many years later it was purchased by the Calgary diocese of the Roman Catholic Church and operated and cared for by the local Columbus Club under supervision of Rev Father Anderson. However in 1952 the Columbus Club decided to dispose of this

property and it was then the Elks became interested. The deal was consummated on May 1952 and it can be said that the Columbus Club were generous in their dealings with the Lodge as they had been offered a higher price by an outsider than that offered by the Elks. The outside party's intention was to dismantle the hall, move and erect it in another town, not in this area. This hall as most people know is one of the best in Southern Alberta, has a very large floor area and can accommodate very large crowds with possibly one of the best equipped kitchens to be found in any hall. The Hall was dedicated at a special ceremony on Sept 16, 1952 by the then Grand Exalted Ruler Bro. Ken Lawson of Edmonton.

The affairs of the Hall are taken care of by a Hall committee, who look after maintenance, rentals, etc.

Some people may be inclined to think the Elks purchased this building as a money making venture. Such is not the case. It was purchased so that the Hall would remain in Blairmore and still be available as it is for any kind of gathering, also it provides a meeting place for Lodge No. 15 and the Ladies of the Royal Purple. It costs money to maintain a hall of this size especially in the winter months so a nominal sum has to be charged for rentals. Taxes and insurance, light, fuel etc have to be taken care of, besides two janitors are steadily employed twelve months of the year.

Blairmore Lodge No. 159, Order of the Royal Purple, was instituted on May 6 1953 by

District Deputy Supreme Honored Royal Lady Mrs. Robert McDonald of Fort Macleod assisted by Past District Deputy Supreme Honored Royal Lady Osborne of Lethbridge. It was through the untiring efforts of Honored Royal Lady Chabillon of Coleman Lodge No. 96 that Blairmore was organized. Fifty-nine ladies took the obligation as charter members. [Officers at institution were: Honored Royal Lady, Associate Royal Lady, Loyal Lady, Lecturing Lady, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, Chaplain, Conductress, Inner Guard, Outer Guard, three Trustees, and Pianist.] The lodge has been most active, giving help to the brother Elks, and community work. Assistance was given the brother lodge with the upkeep of the hall (cash donations, purchase of Propane Stove, chairs, card tables etc. for the hall). The Lodge's project is the Public Library, assisting by supplying fuel for the building, annual cash donation, and four ladies giving their time freely as Librarians.

The Lodge meetings are held on the second and fourth Sundays of every month and visiting Elks can always be assured of a hearty welcome. Blairmore Lodge is in District No. 2 with lodges from Fernie BC, Coleman, Fort Macleod and Granum.

Notes:

* Past District Deputy to the Grand Exalted Ruler.

** Torn down in 1980 and replaced by the present Elks Hall building.

This article has been abridged from the original, which was written by Harold Pinkney in the mid-1950s.

Mine Horses: Q&A with Bruno Gentile (1915-2011)

Excerpts from a 2005 Oral History interview by the Alberta Labour History Institute

Were you ever a coal miner?

No, I worked on the outside. I started in 1932 driving a team of horses for \$2.75 a day. They had rented horses from Laura Trotz' father, old Smoky Antel... That's when I got a job driving that team of horses... The boss had to come and tell me, now if anybody asks you who you're working for, you tell them you're working for Harry Antel, not for the mine. Because that's how closed it was. The men were kicking about they wanted the work. You couldn't get a job in them days. But they kept me, and I stayed on there fifty years... first I drove horses, then I drove truck, then I blacksmithed, then I went stable boss. After stable boss the horses were done, then I had to go in the warehouse... After that, in '74 I had this problem, and I got a job as timekeeper in the report centre.

You trained the horses?

I broke them for harness and fixed them up. I doctored them, I shod them. But I broke them to put their harnesses on. Then they had to harness for underground. Every level, it's right there. B level was a barn for the horses. They worked A level. Then 400 feet of rock another level, C level, there was a barn there for them horses. Another 400 feet of rock D level, another level of coal, there was a barn there. They had barns just as good as outside. They were made nice,

they had their mangers, their bedding. The fire bosses and pit bosses, whether they were working or idle, them horses only come out on the weekend cuz it was too hard for them to come up and out the slope. The horses outside the top slope come out every day from the rock tunnel to my barn. They had the feed, the water, everything was there. But anything that happened, I had to get down there in a hurry. But they were underground, and taken care of underground.

Who taught the horses what to do?

Them drivers. The driver boss knew who to put on to start the horses with. And not every horse, maybe about one out of every ten or fifteen horses would not do it. You couldn't make him do it. The rest, they didn't need no lights, cuz animals can see in the dark just as good as we can in the day. But they had head lamps, and in the end we had helmets put on. We had horses a rock come down and hit them. I had one busted his head open, Blackie. I had to destroy him, he couldn't walk anymore. Once they knew their job, leave them alone. Don't try and teach them anything, you'd kill them like they killed Jerry. Put a green driver on, didn't pull the pin. Jerry didn't know, the cars were coming too fast, he didn't know like Sandy. Sandy just kept going right ahead of the cars right up the slope. But Jerry they run right over him. They called

me, I had to go down. You know how we destroyed them? The fire boss with a shot.

But Sandy, he did a little trick of his own.

And Barney. Barney would get out. They told me Barney one time was caught, he wasn't hitched to anything, but he was caught in between the tracks by the face where he was working. You know what they said? He jumped and fell over sideways onto the loads of the cars, and got out of the way of them. Sandy went straight up and back and fell into the car. But Barney, he got out of the way, he jumped out of the way on top of one of the loads sideways. He was laying on the loads. Ah, that's the horse I was telling you. On the level where he was working this Barney, the miners they all thought the world of him. The only thing he wouldn't touch of theirs was their snuff boxes or chewing tobacco. But their buckets, if they hung them up on a post and Barney was around, that bucket was on the ground and he was eating their sandwiches. Oh ya, oh ya. And that same Barney he worked outside before we retired him. I sold him to somebody used him on the farm. Who the hell did I sell him to? Had to get rid of him, he was done here. But he was working in the timber yard pulling the timber trucks. They never used no reins no nothing on that horse. Hitch him to that bunch of cars was the timber trucks, and the skid ways of the timber were, "C'mon Barney, next". And a few times he would pull only about eight



cars. Once in a while Pepe and them would leave nine on or ten. Boy he'd pull up the slack, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, and then he wouldn't pull one foot until you uncoupled that car, and then he'd go.

You told me a story about a horse you sold, and whenever the whistle blew...

Oh, that's Barney. The whistle would blow for work or not work, in the morning at 8 o'clock the men started work. I harnessed Barney outside the barn way down there by

Bushtown. Alright Barney, go. He'd come up and go right into his little barn here at work where he had to pull the cars. And he'd have his little stall here, they'd go throw him his hay. When he was done, about 3 o'clock in the afternoon

it would be, and the men were all getting ready to go on shift, getting their lamps and going up the yard, walking up towards the lamp house. Barney was sent home to go, he was done. Oh geez, you could hear them miners, "Look out, here's Barney." He'd come and chase them miners around, just playing, galloping full speed... And you'd hear the miners, "Here he comes, here's Barney, get the hell out of the way." And he'd be at full speed coming down the yard right by where we were standing. I was out of sight, I'd just step out. "Where are you going?" He'd stop dead.

The full content of this Alberta Labour History Institute oral history interview is at

<https://albertalabourhistory.org/interview-transcripts/bruno-gentil/>

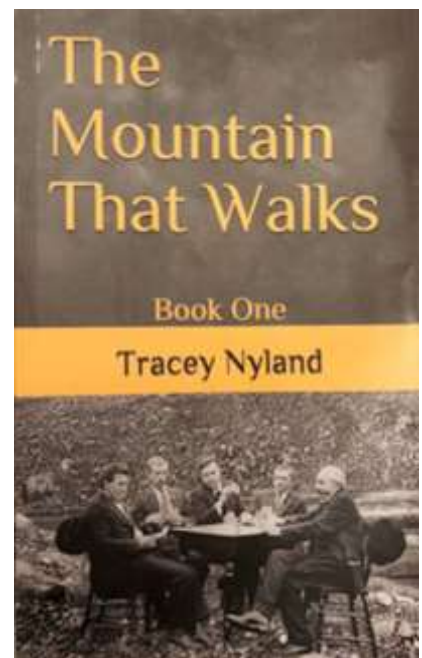
Book Review

The Mountain That Walks by Tracey Nyland (2020) Review by John Kinnear

I was not aware of any author who has attempted to depict the raw picture of despair and grieving that unfolds with the loss of a coal miner here in the Crowsnest Pass. Then I read Tracey Nyland's *The Mountain That Walks* and was moved in a very profound way. It is a beautiful story of love and loss and brings to light the harsh realities of what life is like after your man doesn't come home from the mine.

Tracey Nyland knows all too well how all this could go down. Her maternal grandmother Rita was one of five children of Bohemian immigrants John and Anna Rezac, and eventually went on to marry the son of Charlie and Josephine Zemek. In 1921, the unspeakable happened - Charlie Zemek was killed in an accident in the Greenhill Mine in Blairmore. The Czech community in Frank and other friends rallied to support Josephine in this horrific time. Charlie's two oldest boys, aged 10 and 12, both quit school and went to work to help support their mother.

The Rezac, Zemek and Kneip stories are all true but are interwoven with fictional dialogue to capture "a realistic picture of what life was like in a small coal-mining town in the Rocky Mountains, in the early part of the twentieth century." The three Czech families did not know each other to begin with, but were destined to move through terrible loss together. In order to protect the privacy of others, her own family aside, the author created fictional support characters in their place, along with fictional businesses. She also took the unusual step of altering some first names because, as she told me, "there were just too many Josephs in the storyline." Still, you will find yourself drawn ever deeper into the story, one laced with both joy and sadness in copious amounts.



The Mountain That Walks was released in 2020 and is a true labour of love that took thirteen years to finally pull together. Nyland has woven her research and the stories that her grandmother Rita shared with her over the years into a very moving work. All the main characters of this book can be found interred close by each other in the upper terraces of Blairmore Old Union Cemetery. In death as in life they have been kept together.

The Mountain That Walks can be purchased at Crockets Trading Post in Bellevue or directly from the author at indiana672@yahoo.ca.

(condensed from a longer review in the *Pass Herald*)

Island Lake Lime Kilns Walk

Lime production in the Pass has a long but confused history. It is thought that the first kilns were at the extreme west end of Crowsnest Lake, in a scree slope next to the railway tracks. These are basically dry-walled scoops in the scree, so there's not much to see; access is along the rail line east from the Continental/Graymont Lime works. If you ask permission to visit at their security office, be sure to also see the big 1924 kiln on the current site. Lime was also produced in primitive kilns between Frank and Blairmore, and of course the most impressive kiln ruin is that at Lime City, at the east edge of the Frank Slide.

The target of this very short and easy hike is another pair of old kilns, on Island Lake. Their date and ownership is unknown, but their size and development is similar to the old kilns off Crowsnest Lake (which pre-date the railway) so they might be related. They don't look like they were used much, if at all.

Drive on Highway 3 west past Island Lake, then immediately turn right (northeast) onto the old highway, just after the rail overpass. Make sure you've turned onto the first road, not the second road next to it which follows a buried cable into BC. Stop and park almost immediately, right where the gravel stops and the old pavement begins. The trail is a vehicle track off to the right.

The hike is less than a kilometre round-trip. Easy! Follow the dirt track until it ends at

the CPR tracks, then enter the forest on your left and pick your way east, paralleling and within sight of the tracks - in about 20 metres you'll see the first of the two kilns. If you reach the rock bluff you've gone a few metres too far. The bluff would have been the kilns' quarry.

The kilns are dry-stone (no cement) circles about five metres in diameter, built into hillslopes with walk-in openings. A steel rail lintel over one opening has recently fallen in. There is no siding here, so the product (if any was produced) must have been moved by wagon to Crow's Nest station, perhaps along the dirt track you walked in on.



As always, please do not disturb these fragile old structures. After poking around and taking photos, return to your car the way you came. On your drive home, stop in at the Island Lake provincial campground and read the interesting sign there which explains lime production and the history of Summit Lime. This campground is on another highway remnant. All of these remnants, and the one around Emerald Lake, are atop the old Red Trail of 1917.

Dogs in the News, 1907-1908

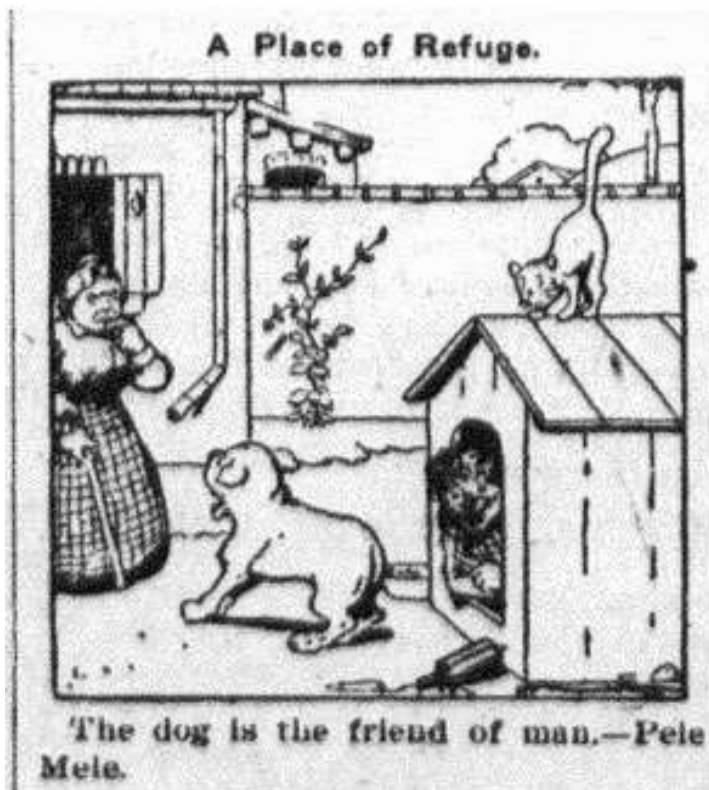
These snippets from our local newspapers shed some light on the life of a dog over a century ago.

The dog poisoner has been busy the past fortnight with the result that something like a dozen dogs have been killed in Frank and Blairmore. Frank Paper May 2, 1907

Overseer Farmer has put his instructions into effect and Corporal Askey has promptly set about dealing with the dog question... people who have dogs should not make it difficult for him to collect the tax unless they are willing to lose their dog as he has rigid instructions to see that dog owners pay the tax or kill the dogs.

Frank Paper May 23, 1907

There are about 200 dogs in Coleman, and if half of them were deported as useless and a nuisance, pedestrians could then walk down street with some comfort. As it is at present one can scarcely ever go along main street without running into a dog fight. And often ladies going along with baby carriages are in danger of having the carriage overturned. A good way to do away with the mongrel class would be to make the yearly tax about \$10 each. Coleman Miner June 12, 1908

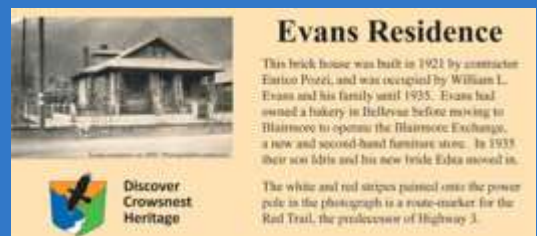


Coleman Miner Sept 17 1909

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.

The building plaque at the house west of the Blairmore courthouse, includes a photo from the 1920s.



Have you read it?

Did you notice the dog in the photograph?

Our Local Heritage Sites (inquire about open schedules, rates, and COVID closures)



- **CROWSNEST MUSEUM and ARCHIVES** - 7701 18th Avenue, in Coleman National Historic Site. 403-563-5434, cnpmuseum@shaw.ca, www.crowsnestmuseum.ca. Glimpse the rich social, economic and natural heritage of Crowsnest Pass from 1900 - 1950 in two floors of themed rooms. Gift shop features local and regional books, and many other items. Tours and educational programs available.



- Close to the museum, the newly-restored **ALBERTA PROVINCIAL POLICE BARRACKS** includes exhibits and artifacts on prohibition, rumrunning, and the legendary shooting of Constable Lawson and the subsequent execution of 'Emperor Pic' and Florence Lossandro. 403-563-5434, cnpmuseum@shaw.ca, www.appbarracks.com.



- **BELLEVUE UNDERGROUND MINE** - off Main Street in Bellevue, 403-564-4700, www.bellevuemine.com. The only authentic historic underground coal mine tour in western Canada offers a family-oriented experience of what miners from a century ago saw and heard at work each day. Call for pre-booked tours.



- **FRANK SLIDE INTERPRETIVE CENTRE** - off Hwy 3. 403-562-7388, www.frankslide.ca. Knowledgeable staff share fascinating stories of the Frank Slide through dynamic interpretive programs and presentations. State-of-the-art interactive displays and exhibits focus on the infamous Frank Slide of April 1903, Canada's deadliest rockslide.



- **HILLCREST CEMETERY PROVINCIAL HISTORIC SITE** - Hillcrest. Visit the mass graves of the 189 victims of the Hillcrest Mine Disaster of 1914, and many other historic graves. 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. All free.



- **LEITCH COLLIERIES PROVINCIAL HISTORIC SITE** - Highway 3, east edge of town, www.leitchcollieries.ca. Stabilized ruins of a century-old coal processing facility explained through interpretive signs; on-site staff during the summer. Check out the nearby **Burmis Tree**, probably Canada's most-photographed tree; free.



- **COLEMAN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE** - downtown Coleman. Free map and pamphlet for a self-guided tour of this authentic coal-mining town amongst buildings from 1903 - 1986; most have interpretive building plaques. Glimpse the ruins of the mine plant and coke ovens, walk or drive through the "miners cottage" neighbourhood of West Coleman. 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.



- **LILLE PROVINCIAL HISTORIC SITE** - A 6km long trail leads to this remote site. Ruins in or near this former mining village include the powerhouse, hotel foundation, and coke ovens. Interpretive signs on site. Enquire at the Frank Slide Interpretive Centre, 403-562-7388. Backcountry safety and etiquette apply. Free.

More information on these sites and other activities is at www.crowsnestheritage.ca