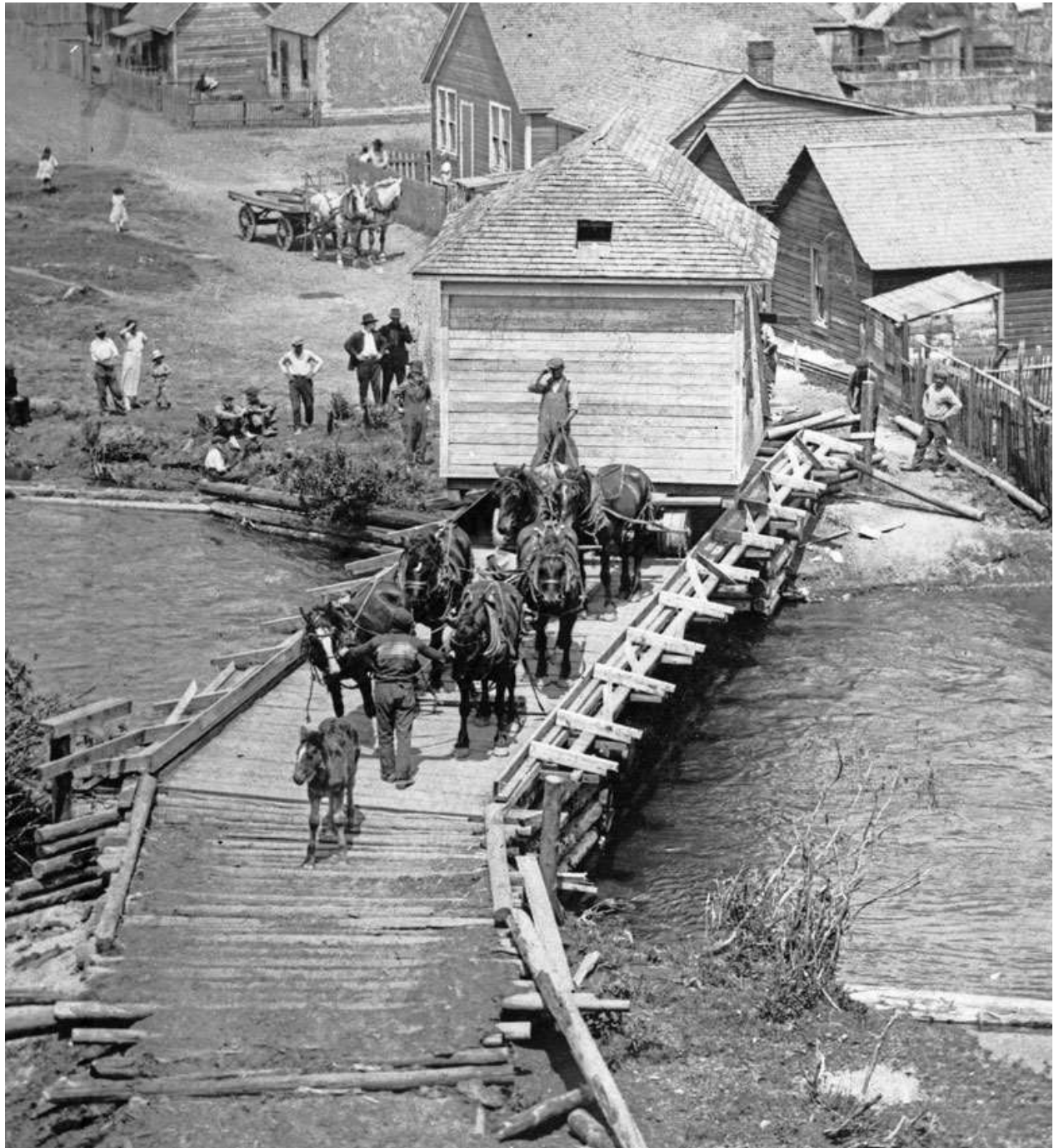


HERITAGE VIEWS

History and Heritage in Crowsnest Pass, Alberta



Issue 72

September 2023



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Historic photographs are great sources of information, but sometimes you have to be careful. Some old prints are reversed, i.e. mirror images caused by developing from the wrong side of the negative. You can catch these mistakes if the photograph contains something distinctive - a number on a car's licence plate, a recognizable mountain backdrop, or a known landmark.

Our cover photo had me stumped, though – the Crowsnest Museum photo collection has two versions under different file numbers. Which image is correct, and which is reversed? From the shadows I see that it is looking roughly north, but I can't tell which direction the river is flowing. But the elevated camera position is probably the bluff south of 81st Street, and since I think there were never houses on the west side of 81st then this orientation is probably the correct one. What do you think?

- Ian McKenzie

On the cover: Moving a house across the Crowsnest River at East Coleman (Bushtown), date unknown. Note that the bridge guardrails have been removed and laid flat, to accommodate the house width. A young pony leads the way, ahead of the working horses.

Photo: Crowsnest Museum and Archives, 6205 and 07423 Gushul Glass 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 digital publication are available at www.crowsnestheritage.ca by clicking on the "newsletter" link on the home page.

Local Heritage News

Attendance at this year's **Doors Open and Heritage Festival** was very light, possibly because of the highway repaving and traffic snarls over the preceding weeks.

Destination Canada (formerly the Canadian Tourism Commission) designated Highway 3 a "tourism corridor", *Sustainable Journey from Prairie to Pacific*. [tourism-corridor](#)

Local heritage guru **Fred Bradley** was conferred an honorary Doctorate of Laws by the University of Lethbridge, on June 2nd. This recognizes Fred's long record of public service and dedication to Alberta and particularly Crowsnest Pass, including many contributions in the heritage arena.

Details on the proposed redesign of **Main Street Bellevue** can be found here: <https://www.crowsnestpass.com/public/download/files/231839>

The 1921 **Greenhill Hotel** is under new ownership, with upgrades underway. There is also renovation work two doors west at the old carwash, which is actually the 1921 **West End School**.

The side of the historic, vacant **Italian Hall** in Coleman was damaged by a rolling vehicle.

At a "Fistful of Dollars" street event in downtown Coleman on July 19, Teck announced its \$250k support for the historic **Roxy Theatre**. Other major grants and donations have come from the National Cost Sharing Program For Heritage Places (Parks

Canada), Northback (Riversdale Resources), Alberta Arts, Culture, and Status of Women, Municipality of Crowsnest Pass, Blairmore Lions Club, Coleman Lions Club, Community Futures, and Heritage Crowsnest, as well as many smaller but significant donations.

We regret the passing of **Dr. Brian "Barney" Reeves** on August 3rd. He was the founder of Lifeways which did much archaeological work in the Pass, starting in the 1970s. <https://www.mbfunerals.com/obituary/BrianBarneyOlphertKemmis-Reeves>

2023 **Harvest of Memories**: info is [here](#) .

Did You Know...

. . . that the 1902 Imperial Hotel in Frank was disassembled in 1912 and its lumber and fittings were shipped by rail to Vulcan, Alberta?

. . . that the hotel was rebuilt there as three storeys, rather than two?

. . . that the owners retained the hotel's name because its dishes were inscribed "Imperial Hotel"?

. . . that W. H. Darby, the hotel's cook, moved his family to Vulcan to continue working in its kitchen?

. . . that Darby was related by marriage to famous cowboy John Ware?

Mobile Homes

by Ian McKenzie

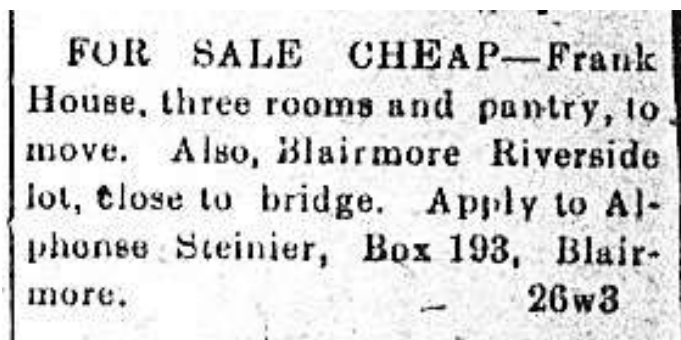
Many vintage-home owners in the Pass proudly claim that their house was moved from Lille – many more, it seems, than the number of houses which were actually built in Lille! Some of these owners are undoubtedly right, while others are half-right. Although Lille is our best-known source of second-hand houses, it is not the only one, and not even the principal one.

Lille townsite was abandoned around 1913, and its houses were removed in the 1920s, perhaps into the 1930s. Photos show that Lille had less than thirty houses, all of which have disappeared, so it is reasonable to assume that most of them made their way to other Pass communities. Lille houses were built around 1905 and 1907, and were of two standard types – about twenty cottages with corner porches, and six larger, two-storey duplexes – as well as a couple of larger homes and a handful of smaller shacks. The cottages were similar to those along Bellevue's 27th Avenue at 213rd Street, which makes sense as both Lille and Bellevue were West Canadian Collieries towns and they would have used similar blueprints.

An example of a Lille duplex can be seen in the main portion of the Gushul Studio, moved there from Lille in 1921. The former Dr. Roy Lillie home at 13213 - 21st Avenue in Blairmore is rumored to have been made from two or three houses moved from Lille.

The little house at 7802 - 18th Avenue in Coleman is supposedly two houses from Lille; the front was the hospital matron's residence, while the formerly-detached rear was the morgue. If true, then these few buildings account for about a fifth of all Lille houses.

By contrast, about sixty houses were available in the south part of Frank; about 33 built in 1901, and 24 in 1908. Most were moved out in 1921, primarily to Blairmore, and many can be seen today on the eastern two blocks of 21st Avenue, with both gable and hipped roof styles. An example of a 1901 Frank hipped-roof house is the former John Gibos residence located at 13438 - 21st Avenue, while a pair of gable-roofed examples are right across the street.



Blairmore Enterprise, August 2, 1918

It is interesting that the former Gibos home mentioned above, one of the oldest houses in the Pass, was actually moved twice – once within Frank and once to Blairmore. (See "What Really Happened to Frank?" in our issue #23).

A few houses were moved from Passburg, including the former Nastasi/Favero home at 2418 - 210th Street in Bellevue, built around 1910 and moved in 1956. Only two houses are known to have been moved from the north Frank townsite, though there may have been more; the F. M. Pinkney home was moved to 12342 - 21st Avenue in Blairmore in 1913, and Dr. Malcolmson's home was moved to a farm near Alliance, AB in 1917 and was torn down in 2004. A house from Hillcrest was moved in 1945 to the corner of 119th Street and 21st Avenue in Blairmore. The former Giza house at 11501 - 21st Avenue is said to have been moved from Morrissey (near Fernie, BC), though it is not known whether it was moved whole, in pieces, or completely disassembled and rebuilt. I've heard rumors of other Morrissey houses in Coleman.

There were houses moved within towns too. In 1914 a house in Frank was moved to the back of its lot to make way for the new Blais store (present Frank Slide Liquor). The former Sam Moores house (later Bill Roughead house) at 8022 - 22nd Avenue in Coleman was moved there from behind the old Grand Union hotel around 1917. There were many others.

If you have a story or photograph of a vintage moved-house in the Pass, or if you know the present location of any of the houses in these photographs, drop us a line at heritageviews.cnp@gmail.com. We also welcome corrections and comments to this or any other item in our publication.



A Hillcrest house crossing the Lyon Creek bridge, 1945. The roof spine has been trimmed to clear obstacles. The story goes that the lady of the house rode inside to keep an eye on her furniture and dishes during the move, and had to spend the night when the house movers stopped at the Frank Hotel to celebrate the end of the war!

Photo: Crowsnest Museum and Archives, 0213 Gushul Neg



Turning a corner, Blairmore, 1935. In the background is the Gushul Studio, a building moved from Lille.

Photo: Crowsnest Museum and Archives, 01468 GUSH-NEG



The derelict Dr. Malcolmson residence near Alliance, Alberta, photographed in 1992. This large house was cut into pieces, moved by rail, and reassembled on this farm. See our issue #8 for a few more photos of this house. Photo: Frank Slide Interpretive Centre



A house heading north in the Pelletier Addition (south Blairmore), horse/truck combo, about 1940.

Photo: Crowsnest Museum and Archives, 00150 GUSH-NEG



Riding high across Lyon Creek bridge, Blairmore, 1920.

Photo: Crowsnest Museum and Archives, 217 Chabillon



Part of a house crossing the Lyon Creek bridge. Are these the same horses as in our front cover photo?

Photo: Crowsnest Museum and Archives, 9897 Gushul-Neg



The former Dr. Roy Lillie residence in Blairmore, rumored to have been built from two or more homes moved from Lille.

Photo: Crowsnest Museum and Archives, CM-BL-43-02



Unknown location but possibly Passburg, after 1915 judging from the truck nose at right.

Photo: Crowsnest Museum and Archives, CM-FR-04-15



Heading south, near the Gushul Studio, September 1934. Note the horse/truck combination. Presumably the second half of the house will follow!

Photo: Crowsnest Museum and Archives, 03703 GUSH-NEG

Naylor Family Story

by Jamie Forbes

My family's connection to the Crowsnest Pass began in 1905, when my great-uncle Michael Harvey Murphy (1877-1944) purchased a grocery and dry goods store in Frank in partnership with George Coble. The Murphy family had moved west from Sudbury, Ontario to Macleod, Alberta after the sudden death of my great-great-grandfather, William Murphy, in 1900.

Harvey Murphy was a successful businessman in Frank and very much involved in the community. He married in 1907. In 1909 he became sole proprietor when George Coble retired, remodeling the store for clothing only. In that year he also opened a dry goods store in Blairmore. In 1911 he established a wholesale liquor warehouse in Blairmore in partnership with Thomas Frayer.



Harvey Murphy store in Frank, 1908. Crowsnest Museum and Archives, Kerr 0606a

In 1910 he helped form a hockey team in Frank, and was elected its Manager (my grandfather, James Naylor, was elected

Secretary-Treasurer). They hoped to form a league with teams from Blairmore, Coleman, Michel, and Hosmer. Harvey was also involved in local politics, being elected to the Frank Council in 1910 and 1911, and he was also President of the Frank Liberal Association. He was also Secretary of the Catholic Order of Foresters in Frank.



Left to right: unknown man, Ida Mae Murphy, unknown man, James Naylor, Harvey Murphy. Detail from previous photo.

In 1913, Murphy closed his businesses in the Crowsnest and established a successful men's clothing store in Nanaimo.

Harvey's younger sister, Ida Mae Murphy (1884-1963), joined him in Frank to work in his store in 1907. Ida Mae is my grandmother. She met my grandfather, James Naylor, and they were married in Frank on October 31, 1910. James and Ida Mae had six children: Muriel (1911-1981), Betty (1912-1978), Marie (1913-1982), Bill (1922-2007), Joan (1929-2002), and Patrick

(1929-2003). Joan and Patrick were twins. Marie is my mother.



Naylor residence, 1910, in Frank on the northwest corner of Ninth and Dominion, today's 15045 - 21st Avenue. Built in 1906, the house was gone by 1919. Crowsnest Museum and Archives, Kerr 0566a

James Herbert Naylor (1879-1949) had moved west from Shawville, Quebec in 1903 and settled in Lethbridge before moving to Frank in 1905, where he worked at the Frank mine as a storekeeper. He was known as 'Jimmy' to his friends and acquaintances. After leaving the mine he worked at Harvey Murphy's store, then purchased the Frank waterworks in partnership with Alexander Goyette and Johnson Murray. In 1912 he moved to Bellevue after purchasing the J. Walters clothing store. The store changed locations in 1913, then it closed in 1915, possibly due to bankruptcy.

Following that circumstance, my grandparents considered moving to the coast. However, this plan was abandoned and they returned to Frank in 1916, where



Men's clothing store in the McCutcheon Block, Bellevue.

Crowsnest Museum and Archives, CM-BE-04-14

James found employment as a timekeeper at the local mine. He also served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Blairmore School District in 1926 and as a tax assessor for the District. In 1928 they moved to Coleman where my grandfather worked as a miner and storekeeper for the International Coal and Coke Company Limited, and in retail sales in the area. He was also active on the Coleman School Board.



Naylor residence, Coleman, date unknown. From Naylor family collection.

All of their children left the Crowsnest Pass following high school. My Aunt Muriel became a pharmacist, Aunt Betty and Aunt Joan were homemakers, Uncle Bill became a businessman and Uncle Pat worked in the

medical field. My mother became a nurse, and then a homemaker after her marriage.

Of all my family from the Crowsnest, my uncle Bill had the most interesting stories to tell. Bill was born on June 24, 1922 in Blairmore. He enlisted in the RCAF in August, 1941 and served at a number of stations in Canada before being posted overseas in the Fall of 1942. In England, he received training as a bomb aimer in the British heavy bombers (a bomb aimer was responsible for navigating his plane to the intended target and would instruct the pilot and crew when to release the plane's bombs over the target).



Bill Naylor, front centre.

From Naylor family collection

Bill was assigned to the newly-introduced Halifax bombers, Britain's main heavy bomber, for the rest of the war and completed his first tour in 1944. It was following this tour that Bill was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross by the King of England for his courage and energy in combat and for gallantry and devotion to duty in execution of air operations.

Following the tour Bill became an instructor, before being requested to do a second tour as the Allies began to bomb German infrastructure in earnest. With the completion of this tour Bill was awarded the

Bar to the Distinguished Flying Cross for his "outstanding skill and great courage combined with his unfailing determination and devotion to duty".

My grandfather James Naylor passed away suddenly in March, 1949 while visiting his daughter in Ainsworth, BC. Following his death, my grandmother moved to Calgary to live with her daughter Muriel. This ended my family's connection to the Crowsnest Pass area. My grandmother died in Calgary in January, 1963 and is buried there. My grandfather is buried in the Coleman Union Cemetery.



James and Ida Mae Naylor at their Coleman home, date unknown.

From Naylor family collection.

My mother's family has been in North America for almost 400 years, the first relatives settling in the colony of Rhode Island in the 1620s. Members of the Naylor family have distinguished themselves in a variety of ways, from service to their community and the Anglican Church, piloting steamboats in the far north, to gallantry in war. My mother was proud of being from the Crowsnest Pass area and had many fond memories of her childhood there.

Book Review

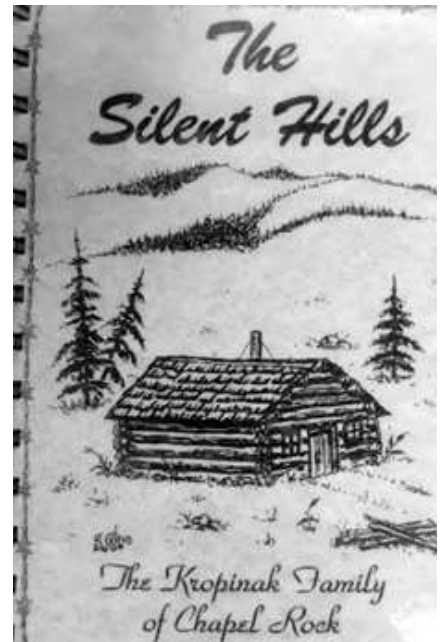
The Silent Hills by Hazel Cerney (1992)

Review by Ian McKenzie

This homesteading family history is one of my favourite local books. Self-published in 1992, it is the true story of the Kropinak family from about 1900 to about 1945, and includes their move to Crowsnest Pass beginning in Frank, then Passburg, then Chapel Rock, with a stint in Lethbridge. The book is also an unabashed homage to its central character Mary Kropinak, the matriarch of this branch of the family.

Many stories within this book are memorable: the hardship of their first homestead winter, inadequately supplied and half-forgotten; the agony of an infant's death and the need to go on; the struggle between two strong personalities - an ideal mother and a less-than-ideal father.

As with most family histories, *The Silent Hills* relies on the personal recollections of family members and likely includes a fair bit of poorly-remembered or invented folklore. But I struggled with the completely fictitious description of the Frank Slide, where the entire town is destroyed except for three houses, and the passenger train is stopped and saved by a blast of air. I can only assume that this is meant to be a retelling of what the kids in the family were told, or believed, back in the 1920s when information on the Frank Slide was solely based on word-of-mouth rumour and gossip, rather than researched fact. This is not made clear, however, and it is possible that the authors actually believed this faulty version of history.



This obvious departure from truth leaves the reader wondering what other facts are improperly remembered. But that is the nature of all family histories. As Mark Twain famously said, “never let the truth get in the way of a good story.” And this story, which is very good, does certainly tell a type of truth: Mary Kropinak endured all sorts of hardship and privation for her children, seized control when necessary, and against odds succeeded in raising a good and successful family.

If you are wondering about the title, the phrase “the silent hills” only appears within the book once, and in an unimportant and easy-to-miss way. It is a subtle but effective reference to the pervasive loneliness of homesteading in the early 20th century. The silent hills around the homestead witness all but tell nothing, making this book essential to preserving the Kropinak family history.

Oral history

Legacy of the 1932 Strike: Recollections from Fred Bradley

Excerpt from Fred Bradley's convocation address, University of Lethbridge, June 2, 2023

“. . . While knocking on doors in the 1972 federal election with then-candidate Joe Clark in East Coleman [“Bushtown”] in the Crowsnest Pass, several residents welcomed and invited us into their homes. These people had immigrated from eastern Europe; they were very hospitable; they offered us something to drink, and it was not non-alcoholic.

After chatting, Joe asked them to consider voting for him. The response received from many was surprising. “I would like to, Mr. Clark, but I’m not eligible to vote.”



They had lived in Canada for over forty years; their children could vote, their grandchildren were Canadian citizens, but they were not themselves.

Those law-abiding citizens told us they’d been applying for citizenship every five years for decades, and each time they had been turned down with no explanation. The thinking was, their participation in a labour strike in the Crowsnest Pass forty years previous had put a black mark on their record.

Once Joe became their MP he went to bat for them. One of the proudest and happiest moments in their lives was the day they received their Canadian citizenship . . .”

From https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZHORU0Aj_vc

The Century Home Club

Address: 22722 6 Avenue, Hillcrest

Year built: prior to 1910

Features: Larger 1 ½ storey house, with three dormers on hipped roof. A newer wood foundation was part of renovations halted decades ago.

Known occupants: Unknown; house has long been vacant and is in poor shape.



Left: Circa 1924. Photo: Crowsnest Museum and Archives, Hillcrest Memories/Doug McKenzie

Right: Circa 1913. Photo: Crowsnest Museum and Archives, Porteous Family collection

Keeping Your Eyes Open

When hiking in the mountains, folks always say to keep a look-out for bears and other noxious wildlife. But when I go, I watch for signs of humans, the ones from a hundred years ago I mean. It is surprising how many artifacts are in the Pass backcountry, from concrete foundations to old kettles to rusting automobiles. One man's old trash is another man's heritage treasure, I guess. Of course, anything less than, say, fifty years old goes into my pack and back to a trash bin in town, but I always leave the older stuff undisturbed for others to discover.

I don't think there can be a single hike in the Crowsnest Pass that is not a "heritage hike." Many of the trails we tramp are on old mine roadbeds, or even old railbeds, and who can say whether a game trail was once used centuries ago by indigenous folks - hunting, or carrying trade goods, or just out enjoying a summer's day?

We all know about the extensive ruins south of the tracks in Coleman, the remains of the surface plant of the International Mine. There are also some poorly-understood International Mine ruins on both sides of the York Creek road, near where it crosses the creek at the plane crash trailhead. The main site can be accessed by a short downhill bush-thrash, while other foundations and ruins are close to the road, and the big mine fan is up a short branch off the main road. I like to start with the obvious, and then search for the obscure or the unknown. For

example, a bit of luck led me to a little hoist-house foundation and cables, hidden in the brush all by itself. Maybe it's not a significant ruin, but it gained value in my eyes because I found it on my own (as have other wanderers, no doubt). I will let you search for it yourself. (Hint: it is before you drive across York Creek, and is about five minutes' walk above the road on a small but distinct trail. Look in bushes on your right).



I've also spent time further up the road, where the more recent (but still old) open pit mining occurred. There don't seem to be many artifacts here, although the area is still kind of interesting.

Yes, our hills are filled with gold, but not the type that Fleutot was looking for up Gold Creek in the 1890s. This is heritage gold, or maybe fools-gold; the type we're excited to find, but not worth bringing home.

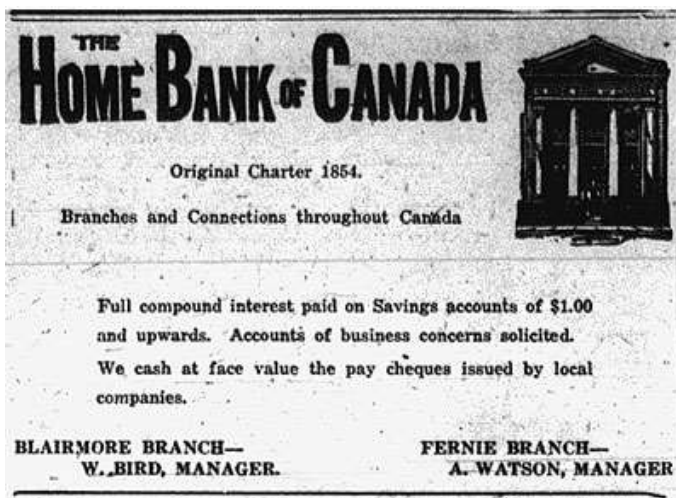
If you come across anything interesting out there, drop me a line and maybe a photo or two, care of heritageviews.cnp@gmail.com.

News, 100 Years Ago

Although largely forgotten today, the collapse of the Home Bank of Canada in August of 1923 caused panic across the country, as depositors faced losing all of their savings. Crowsnest Pass was no exception, with branches in Blairmore and Fernie. The *Blairmore Enterprise* tells the local story.

April 21, 1921: *The Home Bank of Canada will open a branch in Blairmore shortly in that part of the Cosmopolitan now used as a softdrink bar. With another bank coming to Blairmore, it can mark another step towards being a bigger and better town. And that's just what we all want, is to see our town grow, and grow, and grow, until we have to enlarge the limits.*

October 27, 1921: *We learn that the local branch of the Home Bank of Canada has found it necessary to increase their staff, Mr. T. Poggiali, junior, being the new acquisition. Other members of the staff are receiving earned promotions.*



THE HOME BANK OF CANADA

Original Charter 1854.

Branches and Connections throughout Canada

Full compound interest paid on Savings accounts of \$1.00 and upwards. Accounts of business concerns solicited.

We cash at face value the pay cheques issued by local companies.

BLAIRMORE BRANCH—
W. BIRD, MANAGER.

FERNIE BRANCH—
A. WATSON, MANAGER

Blairmore Enterprise, September 8, 1921

Due to mismanagement and vested interest, the Toronto branch of the Home Bank closed its doors on August 17, 1923, and never reopened. Other branches followed.

August 23, 1923: *Following the closing of the local branch of the Home Bank of Canada on Friday evening last, Manager Bird received the official instructions from headquarters to immediately suspend payment. The report came as a surprise locally, where a branch started less than two years ago, had been making most successful progress under the able management of Mr. Bird. No excitement was caused locally, but for a time business will be seriously handicapped . . .*

A curator has been appointed and it may be from one to three months before anything definite as to the future policy of the bank can be given out. It is generally believed that the bank will pay one hundred cents on the dollar to depositors. A number of local names are included in the list of shareholders. The local branch and a branch at Calgary are the only ones in Alberta.

September 6, 1923: *At a meeting of depositors of the Home Bank of Canada, held at the town hall on Tuesday evening, the following resolutions were adopted and ordered forwarded to the Minister of Finance, the President of the Canadian Bankers' Association, and Curator appointed by the government to look into the affairs of the Home Bank institution:*

"Resolved that this representative meeting of depositors of the Home Bank of Canada, Blairmore Branch, assembled this fourth day of September, 1923, is unanimously opposed

to any winding up proceedings being taken through the Courts of Canada until the Curator has made his report . . . [we] demand the immediate appointment of a man thoroughly qualified and independent of the Canadian Bankers' Association, to investigate the affairs of the said Home Bank of Canada in collaboration with the Curator . . . that if the depositors do not get one hundred cents on the dollar straight through, we recommend that the various organizations and individuals be advised to withdraw savings from all the chartered banks in Canada . . .

October 4, 1923: TORONTO, Oct 3 – H. J. Daly, president; R. P. Gough, vice-president; F. J. B. Russil and C. Woods, directors; and O. G. Smith, chief accountant of the suspended Home Bank of Canada, have this afternoon been arrested on charges preferred by federal and provincial authorities in connection with the collapse of the bank on August 17.

October 4, 1923: At a meeting of depositors of the Home Bank of Canada, Blairmore branch, held at the Cosmopolitan hotel on Thursday night last the question of organization and of representation at the October 5th meeting at Toronto were considered. It was unanimously decided to organize as a branch of the Home Bank Depositors Association . . . The meeting decided unanimously [in] favor of representation at the Toronto October 5th meeting and appointed the president as delegate to immediately interview Mr. G. G. Coote, of Cayley, member of the Federal house for the Macleod riding, with a view to

having him attend the Toronto meeting in the interests of this district . . .

Following a Royal Commission, depositors eventually received a percentage of their savings back, partially due to a government bailout. The federal government then began its first real oversight over banks, which eventually led to the creation of the Bank of Canada, deposit insurance, and other features of modern Canadian banking.

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.

There is a sign in West Coleman amongst the small homes locally known as miner's cottages.



Have you read it?

Our Local Heritage Sites (check websites for rates, schedules, and closures)



• **CROWSNEST MUSEUM and ARCHIVES** - 7701 18th Avenue, in Coleman National Historic Site. 403-563-5434, cnmuseum@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, plus large artifacts outdoors. Gift shop features local and regional books, and many other items.



• 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 Lassandro. 403-563-5434, cnmuseum@shaw.ca, www.appbarracks.com.



• **BELLEVUE UNDERGROUND MINE** - off Main Street in Bellevue. The premiere authentic historic underground coal mine tour of western Canada offers a family-oriented experience of what miners from a century ago saw and heard at work each day. Pre-book tours online; www.bellevuemine.com.



• **FRANK SLIDE INTERPRETIVE CENTRE** - off Hwy 3. 403-562-7388, www.frankslide.ca. Knowledgeable staff share fascinating stories of the Frank Slide of April 1903 through dynamic interpretive programs and presentations. State-of-the-art interactive exhibits focus on Canada's deadliest rockslide. Closed winter Mondays (but open Family Day).



• **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 adjacent **park** features interpretive signs about life in Hillcrest and the effect of the disaster, picnic tables, and dry toilets. 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. Parking lot closed in winter. 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