



Heritage News

Discover Crowsnest Heritage

ISSUE #9

JANUARY 15, 2011

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Welcome to the first issue of 2011.

WRITERS NEEDED

This newsletter needs contributors. Do you have an old family story? An ancestor that contributed to early life in the Crowsnest? Do you live in an old building with an interesting past? Have you done a bit of historic research you'd like to write up? The editorial staff, will work with you on producing your piece, long or short. You don't have to use a computer, a hand-written story is fine. Email (cnheritage@shaw.ca), or phone (403-562-2450) Claire.

DISCOVER CROWSNEST HERITAGE WEB PAGES

The Crowsnest Heritage Initiative's new website is up and running. It is easy to navigate and is a wonderful source of Crowsnest heritage information and suggestions for historic visits and events.

The new website: <http://crowsnestheritage.ca>

Back issues of this newsletter: <http://crowsnestheritage.ca/?p=351>

NAMING COMPETITION

This is your last chance to be the lucky individual who names this newsletter.

PASTIMES

CROW TATTLER

SEND YOUR ORIGINAL NAME SUGGESTIONS: to cnheritage@shaw.ca by January 31st, 2011.

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

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FRANK SLIDE INTERPRETIVE CENTRE

Hwy 3 Crowsnest Pass 403-562-7388

An Evening with Connie Kaldor: *Sunday, January 30th. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.*

Join us for an evening with Connie Kaldor. Tickets are now on sale for \$25.00 per person. Please contact the Frank Slide Interpretive Centre at 403-562-7388 to purchase. Only 60 tickets are being sold to this concert.



The Frank Slide Interpretive Centre is open year round 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It is closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Years Day and Easter Sunday. Along with its displays, it hosts a daily audio-visual presentation of "In the Mountain's Shadow," and shows the docudrama "On the Edge of Destruction--The Frank Slide Story." It has a Gift Shop with great Christmas gift ideas and hosts tour groups and runs educational programs. **Contact: info@frankslide.com. Adults \$9, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (7-17) \$5, Under 7 free, Families \$22.**

KOOTENAI BROWN PIONEER VILLAGE

1037 Bev McLachlin Dr., Pincher Creek. 403-627-3684

Valentine Fundraising Gala at the Bloomin' Inn: *Monday, February 14th. Cocktails and Social at 5:30 p.m.*

Dinner at 6:30 pm and dancing to the music of Phil Lethbridge to follow. Semi-formal attire. Driver take home available. Bring your sweetie for a special night of romance and entertainment. Live Auction for Valentine Gift Baskets and Grand Overnight Getaway Package!! Advanced tickets only - call Tracy or Toni 403-627-3684 at Kootenai Brown Pioneer Village. **\$25 per ticket – tax deductible.**



Skating Rink

Come skate with us. Regular admission charges apply. School Rates: \$25 per hour.

There's a fire pit for cooking hot-dogs and marshmallows, and a lovely large greenhouse to warm up in (by special arrangement only).

Family and group rates available. This pond is outdoors so weather may affect the times, and dates. Call Tracy at 403-627-3684 or stop in at Kootenai Brown Pioneer Village to book your outdoor skating party.

The Museum is open **Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$7, Youth (7-17) \$7, Under 7 free.**

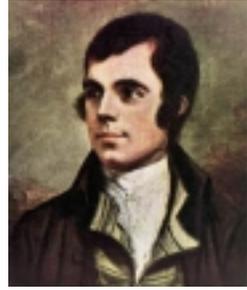
FERNIE MUSEUM

491 Victoria Ave. (2nd. Ave.), Fernie 250-423-7016



Robbie Burns Day Party: Saturday, January 22nd. 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.

Last year's event was a huge success so we would like to invite you back to the Fernie Museum. Celebrate the Scottish Bard with a night of festivities, fun and food while raising funds for a good cause. Proceeds go to benefit the Fernie & District Historical Society and the Fernie Writers Conference. Tickets include appetizers, two drink tickets, entertainment, a wee bit o' haggis and chances at door prizes. There will be a cash bar. **Tickets are \$50 or \$90 for a couple** – Available at the Fernie Museum (advance sale only)



Open year round.

The Fernie Museum & Visitor Information Centre is located in one of Fernie's distinctive heritage buildings at 491 2nd Ave. The building itself, an important example of Fernie's rich history, boasts a main floor exhibit hall with the visitor info centre, as well as a lovely Museum Gallery on the 2nd floor. Public washrooms are available on each floor. Our dual service as info centre and Museum allows visitors to discover a little about Fernie's colourful past while learning what Fernie and its businesses have to offer for recreation, entertainment, shopping, accommodation and services.

GALT MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

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

Scotch & Burns: Saturday, January 22nd. Viewing Gallery doors open at 7:00 p.m.

Join us for this very special celebration of the Scottish poet's birth. Join in on the songs and enjoy performances by dancers, singers, members of the Lethbridge Legion Pipe and Drum Band and the Lethbridge Firefighters Pipes & Drums. Scotch Tasting [tickets at the event] with Kyle Bains from Andrew Hilton Wine & Spirits lasts until the Scotch runs dry. Oh, and try haggis too! You don't have to be Scottish to attend!

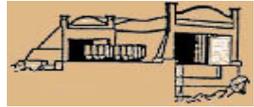
Tickets at the door: \$3 public | \$1 Annual Pass Holders. Free for children 6 and under.

The Museum is open all year round. **Monday to Saturday 10:00 am to 4:30 pm, Sundays and Holidays 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm. Adults \$5, Seniors (65+) \$4, Youth (7-17) \$3, Under 7 free, Families \$12.**

OPEN ALL YEAR IN THE CROWSNEST!

BELLEVUE UNDERGROUND MINE

Bellevue 403-564-4700



Open by appointment until May 2011.

The Bellevue Underground mine can be visited all year round. From September to May it is by appointment only and a minimum charge of \$150.

CROWSNEST MUSEUM, ARCHIVES AND GIFT SHOP

7701-18th Ave. Coleman 403-563-5434



Open Monday - Friday 8:00 am - Noon 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm. *The Museum is now on Facebook-check it out*****

Open year round. Along with its displays and archives, it hosts a Gift Shop and runs tours and educational programs. **Contact: cnmuseum@shaw.ca. Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (6-16) \$6, Under 6 free, Families \$24.**

LEITCH COLLIERIES

Hwy 3, East end of Crowsnest Pass

Open year round. Self-guided tour.

The site has interpretive panels, lights for nighttime viewing and washroom facilities. The walking tour takes you past the ruins of the old powerhouse, the mine manager's residence, the coke ovens, the washery and the tipple.

HILLCREST MINE DISASTER AND MEMORIAL CEMETERY

West end of Hillcrest, follow Heritage Driving Route Signs into Hillcrest

Open year round. Self-guided tour.

The site has interpretive panels. A walking tour takes you past the graves of the miners killed in the Hillcrest Mine Disaster of 1914, Canada's worst coal mining disaster. There is a memorial to all miners killed in coal mining accidents in Canada.

OPEN ALL YEAR NEARBY

HEAD-SMASHED-IN BUFFALO JUMP (UNESCO World Heritage Site)

Hwy 785 403-553-2731

Open year round 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. Closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Years Day and Easter Sunday.

Along with its displays it has audio-visual presentations, a cafeteria featuring bison burgers, a gift shop filled with First Nations handicrafts, and hosts tour groups and runs educational programs. **Contact: info@head-smashed-in.com. Adults \$9, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (7-17) \$5, Under 7 free, Families \$22.**

REMINGTON CARRIAGE MUSEUM

Cardston, Alberta 403-653-5139

Open year round 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. Closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Years Day and Easter Sunday.

It recently won "The Best Indoor Tourist Attraction in Canada" award. It has the largest collection of horse-drawn vehicles in North America with over 240 carriages, wagons and sleighs. The 63,000 square foot facility features video displays, a fire hall, a carriage factory, a restoration shop, a working stable, carriage rides, carriage rentals, a restaurant and a gift shop. There are free guided tours. Group tours and educational tours are offered. **Contact: info@remingtoncarriagemuseum.com. Adults \$9, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (7-17) \$5, Under 7 free, Families \$22.**

WRITING-ON-STONE PARK AND CAMPGROUD

32 km east and 10 km south of Milk River on Hwy 501 403-647-2364

With its mild winters, Writing-on-Stone is a great destination to visit year-round! Hiking trails are clear for most of the year and can be most enjoyable in cooler weather. For inquiries regarding trail conditions or tour schedules please call the information desk at the **Visitor Centre (403) 647-2364 ext. 0. Rock-Art Tours: Adults (18 and over) \$8.00; Youth (7-17) \$6.00; Children (under 6) Free; Family (2 parents and their children under 17) \$25.00. Camping all year \$21 - \$27 a night.**

GLENBOW MUSEUM

Open Monday to Saturday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Sundays 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Adults \$14, Seniors (65+) \$10, Students (with ID) and Youth (7-17) \$9, Under 7 free, Families \$32.

Open year round, the Glenbow has ongoing historical exhibits in its main galleries.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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REMINGTON CARRIAGE MUSEUM

Carriage Country Fair: **Monday, February 21st (Family Day).**

KOOTENAI BROWN PIONEER VILLAGE Day)

Family Day Skate: **Monday, February 21st (Family Day). 10am to 2pm.**

Come on out for some free family fun! Please come to the back entrance of the museum on James Avenue. This pond is outdoors, weather may affect times and dates. Contact Toni, 403-627-3684. **Admission free.**

CROWSNEST MUSEUM AND KOOTENAI BROWN PIONEER VILLAGE

Prairies'n Peaks Quilt Festival: **Friday, June 10th to Sunday, June 19th.**

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 **Visit : www.prairienpeaks.com**

FEATURE ARTICLE

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In His Own Words: William Pearce and the Frank Slide

A compilation piece by Monica Field, Claire Allum and mostly William Pearce.

It was Monica Field, Director of the Frank Slide Interpretive Centre, who suggested a Feature Article on William Pearce. He had been one of the federal government representatives earliest on the scene in 1903 after the collapse of Turtle Mountain and the resulting landslide. She had submitted Pearce to the Mavericks radio program, hosted by Michele Lang of the Whyte Museum, because the show highlighted people in Alberta history who were unusual. "I think he's quite a character! Google him," she'd said and you'll see his whole history."

How right she was. Pearce began his professional life in 1869 as an apprentice surveyor in northern Ontario working for the Toronto Firm of Wadsworth and Unwin. There he developed a strong love of the extreme outdoors, once falling through river ice in winter and after being pulled out trying to get his colleagues to jump in after him. He claimed the ice frozen to his winter underwear was an insulator and he was warmer than any of them (Larmour 2005). From 1873 to 1884 he became a federal surveyor and administrator working from the Department of Interior in Winnipeg. He worked primarily on Métis land claims, locating township grids, surveying meridians in Manitoba, and determining the International Boundary (Frogner 2008a).



William Pearce 1880s
Glenbow Archives NA 339-1.

He came to Alberta in 1884, as both Superintendent of Mines and Chair of John A. Macdonald's newly formed Land Board Investigation Commission. He settled in Calgary, where he was to spend the rest of his life. He built a large house on 197 acres, with a tennis court, in what is now southeast Calgary, close to where 17th Avenue joins Deerfoot Trail. In 1904 he joined the Canadian Pacific Railroad (CPR) and worked for them until his death in 1930. A bequest from his estate created Calgary's Pearce Estate Wetlands.

Pearce believed in the importance of documenting history. He collected writings and photographs connected to the development of western Canada all his working life (Ibid.). During his CPR years, he began research for an "historical narrative," putting a lot of his ideas and conclusions in correspondence to friends and colleagues, and sending carbon copy duplicates to others (Ibid.). He wrote to Mr Walter Huckvale, Mayor of Medicine Hat, "I think I can say without danger from successful contradiction, that there is no man in Canada that from personal knowledge could have written this narrative as well as I have," (UAA 446.1-38) and he was probably right. His eldest son, Searbury K. Pearce, donated his papers to the University of Alberta Archives in December 1954. Many of these documents are available online, so what better way to know a man, than to publish a sample of his writings concerning the Crowsnest Pass.



Bow Bend Shack. Glenbow Archives NA 2289-6.

The Frank Slide

Text from a telegram sent to William Pearce, Superintendent of Mines, from the Deputy Minister of the Interior, James Smart, on April 29th 1903 (Provincial Archives of Alberta).

"...Where will Police be obtained. Answer quick. Terrible disaster near Frank, Crows Nest, by which number of people killed and river said to be dammed 100 feet high, and danger to life and property from flood. Get special, proceed to Frank, take some Police. Want you to render what assistance is necessary to protect life and property, and take general charge for Government..."

The Daily Herald, April 30th 1903 (Commonwealth Microfilm Library ISSN 0839-0576 P.1).

FULL DETAILS OF DISASTER AT FRANK: *List of Killed and Injured. Millions of Tons of Mountain Slid Down. Ten Square Miles Covered With Debris Five to One Hundred Feet Deep. Mine Intact.*

Macleod, April 30.—J. Samons, a Winnipeg man, has just arrived from Frank. He says the noise was terrific in the neighborhood of the explosion caused by escaping gas and falling rocks. It is reported here that about 160 have been killed; two miles square of valley is filled in a hundred feet deep by the explosion; a hundred miners' cottages buried; eighteen miners have been taken from the mine, and



Frank Slide. Geological Survey of Canada, Library and Archives of Canada 1911. PA-045405.

five of them dead. Several more are imprisoned, and they are probably dead...A special train is just leaving here, W.M. Pearce, inspector of mines, with a dozen Mounted Police, has just arrived here from Calgary on their way to the disaster, also with doctors, and nurses...

Excerpt of a letter William Pearce sent to his friend Samuel Steele on the 13th of August 1903 regarding the telegraphs he sent from the disaster site back to James Smart, Deputy Minister of the Interior (UAA 616-028).

...The Department at Ottawa, were very anxious to get details, and I was requested to telegraph full particulars. I sent one message early in the morning which it occurred to me contained sufficiently full details, and immediately got a reply to send fuller details. I then sent what I thought was a very long message. I then received a request to send still further details. I sat down and wrote a report, which at press rates, came to \$54.00. I did not get any further request, but was told by a fellow official of the Department that the Deputy Minister made the observation that I was rather reckless in telegraphic expenditure...

Text of the telegram a sent to Deputy Minister of the Interior, James Smart, from William Pearce, Superintendent of Mines, on April 30th 1903 (Provincial Archives of Alberta).

The following is probably more nearly correct estimate of loss than any yet, 34 men, 8 women, 20 children killed, 11 injured, probably only 2 or 3 dangerously, have good attendance only two killed in or near mine. 10 recovered remainder nearly all buried under many feet of rock, possibly a few near edge of slide may be recovered. Killed, miners 21, balance ranchers, merchants, liverymen, engineers, railway contractors, labourers. 6 cottages totally destroyed by rock swept away like feathers and broken into matchwood, one partially ruined. 10 habitations of ranchers and others outside Frank destroyed all machinery installed and large amount new machinery near tunnel mouth totally destroyed, tippie, scales, engine house and all plant destroyed, uncertain whether or not tunnel materially injured, probably not. The limestone reclining on cretaceous probably cut it off just above pillar immediately above tunnel. All the slide visible is limestone out of Turtle Mountain. The little cretaceous rocks cut off probably deeply buried. About 1400 acres covered by slide east of Crow's Nest River will average depth 40 feet. Many blocks one mile from mountain contain 300 cubic yards. Slide acted similar to snow slide, fan shaped and ran up opposite bank 400 feet above valley Gebo and Frank expected here few days small rock slide continue many days before safe to examine workings. When slide occurred pulverized limestone arose in clouds mistaken for smoke, hard blocks rubbing on each other produced heat and flame, heat produced almost suffocating causing report volcanic coal gas explosions and lime rock gas action. Main slide did not occupy more than four minutes. Killed probably unaware anything occurred. 4:10 time accident, 90 per cent killed were in bed, 3 children rescued uninjured some hours after accident, under partly demolished houses. Having levels run to determine what best be done prevent possibility river flooding. Have pack trail fixed around slide. Wagon road should be built probably cost 1,000 dollars as some weeks will elapse before railway constructed across slide. Expect to have telegraph line across tomorrow. Road necessary for transfer mails express baggage passengers. Telegraphed you last night from Macleod this morning here. Everything very quiet orderly, many families miners fearing further slides moved Blairmore. Police putting lockup all drunken people. Don't think probable any further large slide though one point from which some possible. Board Trade requests C.N. Coal to send Leach to accompany two others over mountain to report on probability of further slides. Had meeting today board trade, for present able meet their wishes ask for immediate construction of pack trail and wagon trail around slide. Also prevention of damage by river, replied that information regarding those matters rapidly as possible. Then would report and ask instructions. Request for destitutes can readily be met by police. Plenty provisions here. McHenry and party chief engineer railway visited scene this afternoon ad Naismith Alberta railway. Premier Haultain [first premier of Canada's North-West Territories (1897-1905)] expected morning. People greatly pleased with your prompt action. Slide must be seen to be realized."

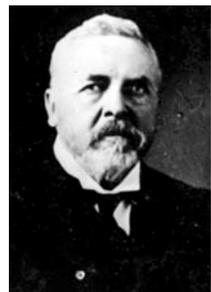


View from Turtle Mountain. Geological Survey of Canada, Library and Archives of Canada. PA-045467.

Pearce returned to Calgary on May 3rd having lost his overcoat in the excitement. He asked the Department of Interior to forward him fourteen dollars to replace it. He was not reimbursed (Larmour 2005)

Exerpts from description of the slide written 12 years after the event at the request of R.W. Macintyre, 16th December 1915.

The slide took place on day of April, 1903. All sorts of wild rumors were going around concerning the disaster and evidently the Deputy Minister of the Interior, Mr. Smart, was very much exercised over what he was receiving in this matter. The result was he telegraphed me to secure a detachment of Mounted Police, get a special train, and proceed to Frank and take charge. As to taking charge, the Department of the Interior had no jurisdiction whatever, that was a matter that rested with the then Territorial Government. However, a good soldier obeys orders whether they are legal or not. I applied to the Police and got number of men, and a special train, and left here about five o'clock in the evening following the day of the disaster. I had received my instructions about two hours previously.



William Pearce 1910. Glenbow archives NA 813-29.

We made good time to Macleod but at that point we were hung up for some time and did not leave Macleod till between eleven and twelve o'clock on the special train. Our cars consisted of a Colonist sleeper and a baggage car. A lot of persons attached themselves to the train at Macleod.

We reached the east end of the slide between two and three o'clock in the morning, and we did the most foolish thing that any sane men would be guilty of. We climbed over that broken rock with the aid of a lantern for between three and four miles into Frank. Why we did not break our necks, as the rock was covered with fine dust, is something I have never quite understood. We reached Frank when it was just getting day light, slightly after four in the morning, and I think I am safe in saying that there were not fifty people in the town in bed and of those awake there were not 3% sober.

You could not make anyone believe that it was not volcanic action that caused the slide, and it was quite easy to understand why that conclusion was arrived at. The friction of the gritty limestone sliding one piece over the other produced fire, which was reflected in the fine dust which accompanied the slide, and had the appearance of a flame being thrown up in the air exactly as one would imagine a volcano would act. It was, however, merely the reflection on the very fine dust...

...On the evening of the day I arrived there, or the following morning, I am not exactly certain which, the representatives of the Territorial Government, of which Justice Haultain was then the head, arrived on the scene. About the same time also Mr. McHenry, Chief Engineer of the Canadian Pacific Railway, arrived. Mr. McHenry was quite convinced that there was certain to be another large slide within a very short time. He imagined after looking closely at it that he could discover a creeping movement going on.

A local prospector, one of those local Solomons, who was a good mountain climber, accompanied by three or four local men, climbed the mountain behind the slide, and returned giving very alarming reports of the condition of the rock owing to a fissure in it, and a public meeting was held, these men spoke, and a resolution was passed calling on the Government to send up a car load of dynamite to drop into this crack and blow it up and have the mountain left in a safe condition. This matter was discussed with Mr. McHenry and he expressed the opinion that as much good would be accomplished by dropping a bunch of fire crackers in the crack as by a car load of dynamite, so that scheme fell cold...

...On the evening of the second day after the catastrophe a public meeting was held and Mr. Haultain made a speech warning the people to evacuate the place, and that if they did not he would take care to eject them. He claimed that the government had that power and I presume it had...The Canadian Pacific Railway volunteered free

transportation and sent two long trains of empty box cars and backed them into Frank...I think I am within the mark when I say that within two hours of the time the train was there ready to load 75% of the people had their household goods loaded and were seated in the cars ready to move. Some two or three, however, concluded they would take the chance and stay, and the Government never insisted on their going...

...Another interesting thing about that was, that the horses there had plenty of water but very little feed, but it was not, I think, till some thirty odd days after the disaster occurred that they got it opened up and could get in to the horses. They found them all dead except one, but after bringing him out into the air it was only a few minutes before he died. They had eaten up all their mangers and feed boxes, which were composed of heavy 3" spruce plank...

William Pearce was opinionated on the causes of the rock slide. His initial conclusions were that it was a result of coal mining but he could only insert his opinions in an indirect way in his Frank Slide Report published on May 15th, 1903 in Engineering News, June 4th, 1903. Nonetheless, he was willing to be convinced otherwise. In the following letter to his friend Sam Steele, his opinion is tempered and he appears willing to accept explanations more in line with our modern conclusions as to what caused the rock fall: primarily unstable geological structure, and only secondarily coal mining and weather (Frank Slide Interpretive Centre)

A letter to Colonel Samuel Steele 13th August 1903 74-169-616-02.

...I suppose you heard of the Frank disaster, the rock slide at Frank. No doubt read all about it. I presume that you will have an opportunity to obtain of see copies of the Engineering News, published in New York. If so, look up the number of 4th. Of June and you will see an article on that slide by myself...My object in directing your attention is that if you will read between the lines in my report, it is apparent that I contribute the cause of the disaster to the coal mining operation carried on at that point.

I visited that place last week taking my wife and daughters down to see the slide and when there met Mr. Gebo, the manager of the mines. If what he asserts to me be correct then the mining operations had nothing whatever to do with the disaster. His assertions are that beyond the sweeping away of the mouth of the tunnel by the rock coming down and filling in the ventilation shafts and man holes and the loosening of coal of the working caused by the jar of the rock slide passing over the mine the mine is in exactly the same position as it was prior to the slide. There has been no disturbance whatever in the walls of the seams up to the outcrop of the vein. Whether there has been any disturbance or cutting off of the sand stone and its contact to the west which is higher up, remains to be determined. This will be a very surprising thing if correct, and I have written to Mr. Haultain urging the necessity of as speedily as possible having a survey made, thoroughly, of these workings to determine to what extent this assertion is correct. If they appear to be fully or substantially correct then it appears to me that the town of Frank should be moved away, because there would appear to be no reason why the remainder of that mountain should not come down. It is all very well to say we will watch the fissures and they will show signs of any further slide for sufficient time to enable parties to remove from the scene of danger. But I fear that will not prove as anticipated, one or two things is almost certain to occur, either carelessness in looking after such change of fissures, or the mountain side may come down without giving any sign of movement for any considerable period ahead...

William Pearce was involved with most of the important movers and shakers of his time, and in many key Canadian issues. As federal advisor for western development he was integral to Canada's strategies for asserting sovereignty over its vast North-West Territories. He was involved in drafting legislation for Canada's first national park, Rocky Mountains Park (later to become Banff National Park), and helped create Waterton Park and preserve Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump. He promoted irrigation schemes for southern Alberta from 1885 until his death.

It has been said that he was sometimes considered hard to work with, but extremely competent both physically and mentally. Most real characters do sometimes rub others the wrong way, but they certainly leave their mark on the world. In the case of the Frank Slide, Pearce left his mark on this historic event, but it also made a deep impression on him.

Frogner, Raymond. 2008a "Biography of William Pearce." University of Alberta Archives. January – April 2008. Web. 15 Jan. 2011. <<http://archive1.macs.ualberta.ca/pearce/index.html>>

2008b "The Historical Narrative of William Pearce and the Making of the Canadian West." University of Alberta archives. January – April 2008. Web. 15 January 1911. <<http://archive1.macs.ualberta.ca/pearce/index.html>>

Larmour, Judy. 2005 "William Pearce." Past-President's Breakfast, 2005 Annual general Meeting. Land Surveying History. 2005. Web. 15 Jan. 2011. <http://www.landsurveyinghistory.ab.ca/Characters/Pearce_WV.htm>

University of Alberta Archives William Pearce Finding Aid 74-169. January – April 2008. Web. 15 January 2011. <<http://archive1.macs.ualberta.ca/pearce/index.html>>

MUSEUM FIND

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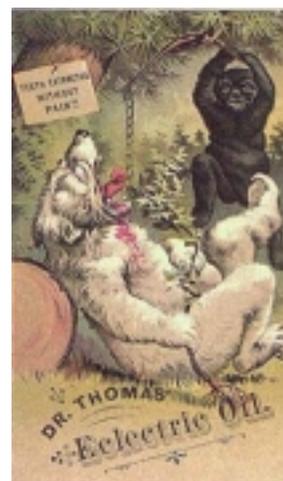
A letter from Father Don Stein, Former Padre of Red Deer, Alberta Legion.

To Editor of Legion Magazine on September 3rd, 2010: In your July-August edition of the Legion Magazine, you had an interesting article titled "the Cure for all that Ails You" by Steve Pitt. It brought me *down memory lane*.

Back in 1942, when I was seven years old and my father was overseas with the Canadian Army, I was very ill with bronchitis. They had me hospitalized for over a month and treated me with mustard plasters and rest. Nothing was working to eliminate the mucous membrane. One of my mother's remedies was the popular Canadian patent medicine: Dr. Thomas' Eclectic Oil (we used to pronounce it ELECTRIC OIL) which was used as a rub down for horses. It could be used internally and externally [and] with permission from our doctor, my mother used to give me a teaspoon of sugar with three to four drops of Eclectic Oil to help move the mucous in my bronchial tubes.

My stay in the hospital didn't really prove beneficial for a hyperactive young boy, so she took me home [put me to bed] and applied flannel cloths to my chest and back with a hardy application of Vicks. One night, I awoke with a heavy cough and she tried to alleviate the cough with a cough medicine, Pinex, but inadvertently picked up the bottle of Eclectic Oil and gave me a good tablespoon full. Within minutes I was howling [from] the burning sensation caused by the Eclectic Oil. They thought they had poisoned me, but it was only minutes [before] I started vomiting all the mucous that had accumulated in [my] bronchial tubes. My mother later told me that every colour [of mucous] came out and after it stopped I said, "Mom, I can breath again," and turned over and fell back to sleep. From then on I started my recovery-thanks to Eclectic Oil.

Whenever I would visit a country museum I would look out to see if they had a bottle marked: Eclectic Oil. I finally found one such museum in the Crowsnest Pass last summer. Your edition showed a full print of the bottle and write up "An Excellent Household and Farm Remedy."



- Ronald Reagan, 40th President of the United States (1981-1989), was born at 4:16 a.m. in Tampico, Illinois, to Nelle Reagan and shoe salesman John Reagan.
- "Five Roses" Flour per 98lbs. \$3.50.
- Blairmore Enterprize February 2nd 1911: Percy Porter, of Coleman, has just become part heir to \$145,000. Perry has resigned his position as porter and assistant bar tender at the Grand Union Hotel and will no longer dispense porter at the bar of that popular hostelry.
- Richard Strauss's opera Der Rosenkavalier was given its first performance, at the Semper Opera House in Dresden.
- Liquor License is Suspended--and the selling of booze is no longer allowed at the Cosmopolitan Hotel.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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SUPPORT LOCAL HISTORY BY VOLUNTEERING SOME TIME AT THE CROWSNEST MUSEUM!

Some volunteer opportunities available include:

- Taking admissions and running the Gift Shop
- Acting as a guide for walking tours and educational programs
- Working with the collection
- Housekeeping and maintenance

Contact Stephanie at the Crowsnest Museum to discuss volunteering some time: 403-563-5434.

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE

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