



Heritage News

Discover Crowsnest Heritage

ISSUE #33

November 2013

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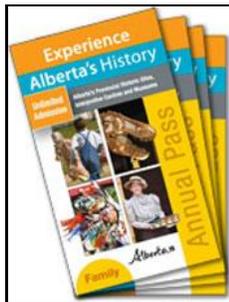
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By
Ken Allred

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HILLCREST MINE DISASTER CENTENNIAL

I don't often advertise an event seven months ahead of schedule, but the Hillcrest Mine Disaster Centennial from June 19th to 21st will be the highlight of Crowsnest Pass Heritage events in 2014. Planning has already started. The Centennial will honour those who lost their lives and the families who lost their loved ones. The event will take place in conjunction with the annual Bellecrest Days celebration so there will be lots of family-oriented activities in the towns of Bellevue and Hillcrest, at the Hillcrest Cemetery and at other Crowsnest Pass Heritage attractions. If you are interested in volunteering for the event or just want to see how the planning is going, the Centennial website is www.hillcrestmine100.com. Mark your calendars.



GIFT IDEAS

Just a reminder that many heritage venues in the Crowsnest Pass have gift shops. As you're looking for Christmas stocking stuffers this year, consider giving them a visit. Other great gift ideas are memberships to the Crowsnest Historical Society (free admission to the Crowsnest Museum for a year or any other events run by the society—purchase at the Museum), or the Experience Alberta History Pass (unlimited admission to all 18 Alberta provincial historic sites and museums for a year—purchase at the Frank Slide Interpretive Centre).

Editor: Claire Allum
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A Crowsnest Heritage Initiative Project.

If interested in submitting an article, news piece, or update, please send it to cnheritage@shaw.ca.

CHRISTMAS TRAIN

Will be in Coleman at 1:15 pm on December 10th. South of 17th Ave. between 69th and 70th Street.

WHAT'S ON

CROWSNEST HERITAGE INITIATIVE

Wednesday, November 27th. 3 pm. Community Futures Board Room, Provincial Building, Blairmore.

The Crowsnest Heritage Initiative is an umbrella organization that maintains and organizes a number of heritage projects within the Crowsnest Pass, for example, the Crowsnest Heritage Signage Project, the Crowsnest Heritage Driving Tour, and this newsletter. If you are interested in finding out more about this organization or would like to volunteer on a heritage project, please come to this meeting.

THE CROWSNEST MUSEUM

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

Open : Tuesday to Saturday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm.

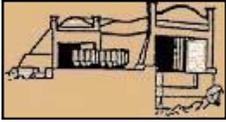
As well as exhibits on coal mining in the Crowsnest Pass, there are galleries on Pass life in the early 1900s, natural history, the military, and on Emperor Pic and rum-running. There is a gift shop near the entrance. For tours and educational programs: Contact: cnmuseum@shaw.ca.

Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (6-16) \$6, Under 6 free, Families \$24.



BELLEVUE UNDERGROUND MINE

21814 28th Avenue Bellevue, AB T0K 0C0 (403) 564-4700



The Bellevue Underground Mine is now open year round. Winter (Sept. to May) hours are Tuesday to Sunday 9:30 am to 5:30 pm. The last guided tour begins at 4:30 pm. Tours are every half-hour. The mine averages about 1° C inside, so please dress appropriately. Contact: 403-564-4700 and bellevuemine@telus.net. Please phone for admission rates. Individual, child, student and family rates are available.

The Mine will be closed between the 23rd of December and the 1st of January.

THE FRANK SLIDE CENTRE

Hwy 3 Crowsnest Pass 403-562-7388



The Frank Slide Interpretive Centre highlights the rich heritage of the Crowsnest Pass amid the breathtaking beauty of the Canadian Rockies. The Centre is open all year and visitors will be greeted by friendly, knowledgeable staff who will share the fascinating stories of the Frank Slide through dynamic interpretive programs and presentations. State-of-the-art interactive displays and exhibits throughout the Centre focus on the infamous Frank Slide of 1903 - Canada's deadliest rockslide. The Frank Slide Interpretive Centre is open year round 10:00 am to 5:00 pm (10:00 am to 6:00 pm in the summer). Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (7-17) \$5, Under 7 free, Families \$22. The Centre will be closed on Dec. 24th, 25th, and Jan. 1st.

KOOTENAI BROWN MUSEUM

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



Largest Christmas Bake Sale in Pincher Creek History! Saturday, December 7th.

Homemade Christmas cookies, squares, cakes, breads, pies, tarts, and bags of Christmas snacks for gifts, entertaining, or personal enjoyment. Features a cook-book with all of the recipes of the food for sale, with interesting historical notes and kitchen wisdom added to the mix.



Established in 1966, the Museum consists of 19 buildings housing over 18,000 artifacts from southern Alberta. The legendary George "Kootenai" Brown lived in southern Alberta and his cabin and some of his possessions form part of the Museum's exhibits.

Kootenai Brown is open to the public daily from 9 am to 4 pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday through the winter season, Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$7, Youth (7-17) \$7, Under 7 free, Families \$25

FERNIE MUSEUM

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



The Fernie Museum Celebrates.

It's been more than 5 years in the making but finally the Fernie Museum renovation has been completed. And along with the renovation of the building there has been a new Main Hall Exhibit installed that offers visitors a view into the history of Fernie. The exhibit is complete with historical figures to guide you through the museum, artifacts and the story of Fernie from beginning to present day. Designed by museum specialists Double Dare Design, from Vancouver, with the support of Museum Director and Curator Mike Pennock this exhibit goes far beyond any small town museum. Local contractors, builders and artisans were used in almost every aspect providing a Fernie flair to the project. The museum is open daily from 10 am to 5 pm.

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.

HEAD-SMASHED-IN (UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE)

Hwy 785 403-553-2731



Open year round and particularly beautiful in the winter.

Along with its displays, the interpretive centre 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. Open daily 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Contact: info@head-smashed-in.com. Admission: Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (7-17) \$5, Under 7 free, Families \$22. The Centre can be booked for special events.



Fernie Museum's new exhibit.

BOMBER COMMAND OF CANADA

1729 21st Ave. (Hwy 2 S) Nanton 403-646-2270



The Museum is open: April 16 to October 15 (every day 9 am to 5 pm) October 16 to April 15 (weekends only 10 am to 4 pm.) Phone to arrange visits at other times. Admission is by donation.

There are already tentative dates for Lancaster engine run-ups. Go to <http://www.bombercommandmuseum.ca/index.html>

FORT WHOOP-UP NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Lethbridge, off Whoop-Up Drive. 403-329-0444



Fort Whoop-Up existed before there was an Alberta or Mounties; it was a notorious frontier trading post. It lies nestled in the coulees of Indian Battle Park, near the Oldman River. It all started in 1869, when American fur traders brought a wagon train of whiskey and other trade goods north. They established a stockade, later known as Fort Whoop Up, and made a ton of profit before the Mounties showed up to rein in the whiskey business. Today, the fort still trades with the aboriginal Blackfoot tribes of Southern Alberta, supplying many ceremonial goods, hides, sweetgrass, and other items.

The Fort is open June 1st - Sept. 30th, Wednesday to Monday (closed Tuesdays) from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm; October, Wednesday to Saturday, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm; November to March, Saturday and Sunday, 12:00 - 4:00 pm; April and May, Wednesday to Saturday, 12:00 - 4:00 pm. Adults \$7, Seniors (65+) \$6, Students \$5, Under 5 free, Families \$18.69.

GALT MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

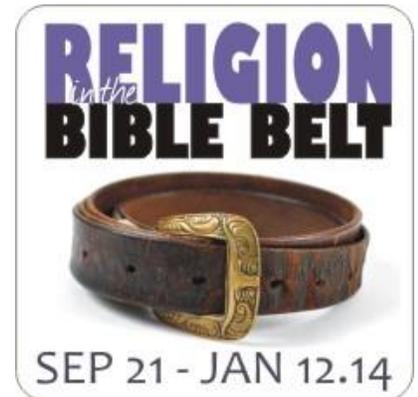
502 1st St. S., Lethbridge 1-866-320-3898



Ongoing Exhibit: Religion in the Bible Belt.

The integration, layers, and mixture of faiths has made this region unique, as each contributed to development of rural and urban settings... explore the contributions of various spiritual groups to the broader community from the late 1880s to the 1930s.

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



REMINGTON CARRIAGE MUSEUM

623 Main St. Cardston. 403-653-5139



Christmas Art Show: 1st December to 31st December.

Local artists will display their art dedicated to a Christmas theme. The art will be on display for the month of December.

There is no charge to see the art show, which will be displayed in the museum foyer. Regular admission rates apply to go through the museum.

The Museum 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. Open daily 9 am—4 pm. Contact: info@remingtoncarriagemuseum.com. Admission: Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (7-17) \$5, Under 7 free, Families \$22.

BAR-U RANCH

13 km south of Longview on Hwy 22. 1/2 km west on Hwy 540. 403-395-2212



Will be re-opening in late May 2014.

Nestled between the rolling Porcupine Hills and the towering Rocky Mountains, surrounded by the prairie landscape and shaped by Chinook winds, the Bar U Ranch National Historic Site is one of the first and most enduring large corporate ranches of the West. Steeped in history, the Bar U commemorates the history and importance of the ranching industry in Canada.

Admission: Adults (17 and over) \$7.80; Youth (6-16) \$3.90; Seniors (65+) \$6.55; Children (under 6) Free; Family (2 parents

WRITING-ON-STONE

Hwy 4 South from Lethbridge. Then Hwy 500 West. Then South on Range Road 130A



Open year round for camping.

No reservations are necessary if you wish to use a camp site at the park in the winter. Fees range from \$13 to \$19 a day. Guided rock art tours are only offered from May to October.

Writing-on-Stone / Áísínai'pi is a sacred landscape. The spectacular Milk River valley contains the largest concentration of First Nation petroglyphs (rock carvings) and pictographs (rock paintings) on the great plains of North America.

The Visitor Centre is closed in the winter. To contact a conservation officer, phone 403-647-7448 or 403-647-7706 (local call from the park)

The Swedes come to the Pass

By

Ken Allred

In 1905 the Gavelins, Tekla and Daniel, with two of their three children, son Fred and daughter Elin, sold everything in Djupturn, Sweden, and moved to Merritt, B.C. where Mr. Gavelin homesteaded and Fred got work in a copper mine. As soon as the Gavelins were settled, they sent glowing reports of Canada back to Sweden. Their older daughter Amanda, her husband, and their two small children—Erik and Alice Hörnkvis—joined them in 1911, after Amanda's husband had served his military service. Fred was not of military age when he left Sweden and so had not been restricted from leaving.

They also influenced friends. In 1906, Erik Hagglund, together with neighbor, Fred Lundqvist, both close friends of the Gavelins in Sweden, travelled to Canada to join Tekla and Daniel. Fred Lundqvist was about to be called up for Swedish military training and Erik had just completed his but didn't have his discharge, so they obtained passports from the Church and left by way of Norway to avoid detention by the authorities. They arrived in Merritt and were invited to stay with the Gavelins until they got settled. Erik Hagglund was the same age as Fred Gavelin.

Erik Hagglund and Fred Lundqvist both got work in the copper mine at Bankshead where they moved into a hotel together. That winter, there was a bad typhoid epidemic and Erik contracted the disease. When Tekla Gavelin heard of Erik's illness she insisted that the two Fred's—her son and Fred Lundqvist—carry him back to her home in Merritt. There, she nursed him night and day, bringing him chicken broth, and bathing him when his fever was so high he was delirious. Finally Erik's fever broke, but it was several weeks before he got his strength back and returned to work and the hotel in Bankshead. He always attributed his recovery to Mrs. Gavelin's unstinting care.

The next year the mine went on strike and Erik Hagglund and Fred Lundqvist moved east, eventually ending up in the Crowsnest Pass working as partners in the mines.

On December 9th, 1910, they were working in the Bellevue Mine. They had just come off their shift when there was a terrific explosion. They rushed back to the mine and helped carry out many injured workers. Thirty miners died that day.

When the mines worked steady the friends made good money, but when coal orders were slow they only worked a few days a week. They started looking for land to homestead. Their search brought them to Beaver Mines where they each filed on a quarter section in Gladstone Valley. They soon built a four-room log house and became good friends with their neighbours – the John Truitts. When the mines needed workers, they went back to the Bellevue Mine to earn money to pay for improvements to their homesteads.



As well as bringing their treasured home furnishings from their family homes, the wives of homesteaders brought their deep sense of the importance of maintaining family ties and forging new friendships in their adopted land.

This 1916 photo, entitled "A Sunday Gathering" shows such an occasion. Shown here, (Back row left to right): Gunnar Lund, Washington Mitchell, Erik Hagglund, Fred Gavelin, Lawrence Truitt, Dewey Truitt, Swan Hagglund, "Doc" Truitt, Fred Lund, Alex Barclay;

(Front row left to right): Iona Truitt, Olga Hagglund, Hilding Hagglund, Aggie Barclay, Bessie Truitt, Minnie Barclay, Nellie Barclay, Anna Lund, Ingrid Lund, Melcina (Mrs. John) Truitt, Adam "Dutch" Truitt.

Photo courtesy Linnea (Hagglund) Goble



Homesteaders' families and early settlers engaged in many activities to bring liveliness and gaiety into their lives and lives of other members of the community. Here Mabel Bruce is dressed in a clown costume while her eldest son, Ronald, is dressed as a Scotsman. Mabel, is demonstrating how high she can kick while standing on one leg.

Ronald, her oldest son, is pretending to be her ballet partner. This picture may have been taken shortly after a masquerade ball at the Beaver Mines Women's Institute Hall, which shows in the distant background. The remains of an early fall snow-storm still lie on the ground, characteristic of southwestern Alberta during the fall and winter.

Courtesy: Katherine Bruce.

It was now 1913, and Erik Hagglund was 30 and Fred Lundqvist 27. It was time for them to settle down and start families, but eligible women were in short supply in the western frontier. They decided to return to their homeland to find wives.

In Sweden Erik met Fred's younger sister Olga Lundqvist and Fred met Anna Hagblad. After a summer courtship they all departed for Canada, along with Olga and Fred's 12-year-old brother Gunnar. In Sweden, the banns had to be read for 6 weeks before a

marriage could take place. Since the young men were anxious to get back to their homesteads in Canada before winter, Olga and Anna agreed to marry them on the ship. But Olga and Anna ended up sharing a stateroom with two Norwegian and two English women for the entire trip as there was no Swedish minister aboard to marry them. Instead, both couples married in Winnipeg on August 18, 1913. They purchased furniture at the T. Eaton Company store in Winnipeg and had it shipped to Pincher Station.

The two couples shared one house on their homesteads in Gladstone Valley, and alternated between living there and in Bellevue, when there was work at the mine. Unfortunately, on March 25, 1914, Erik suffered a broken pelvis when a roof beam in the mine cracked bringing tons of coal down on him. His prognosis was grim, the doctors saying he would never walk again. He was determined to prove them wrong, and did, first on crutches and then with a cane. Eventually he was able to walk without any artificial assistance.

In 1919 Tekla Gavelin moved from Merritt to join Erik and Olga Hagglund, after her husband died and she had nowhere to go. Although she was elderly, she took over the household chores and tended the three children. Her arrival was fortunate, as in the spring of 1920 Olga had a terrible accident. An airplane spooked the horses pulling her wagon and they bolted, throwing her into a field of newly cut tree stumps.

At Easter in 1920, Tekla Gavelin returned to British Columbia with her daughter, Elin, to search for her other daughter, Amanda, whom she had not heard from for over a year. They went to the mining town that was their last known address, but no one seemed to recall the name Hornkvist. Finally, someone remembered that Amanda and her husband had both died during the flu epidemic. No one knew what had become of the children, Erik and Alice. After much searching they found them in an orphanage. As a temporary arrangement, they were placed in the convent at Pincher Creek until the summer holidays, when they left to stay with their grandmother, Tekla, at Erik and Olga's house. In September that year, Elin married Harold Pinkney and she took Alice, to live with her. Fred Gavelin bought a house in Blairmore and took Erik and his mother, Tekla, to live there.

Elin (Gavelin) Pinkney is the grandmother of Ginger, Alan and Fred Bradley, and Erik and Olga Hagglund are the grandparents of the author.

Ken Allred is an active member of the Crowsnest Heritage Initiative and lives in the Crowsnest Pass.

HERITAGE NEWS

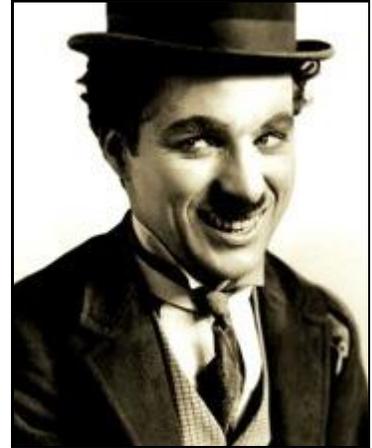
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The Alberta Flying Heritage Museum

On November 18th it was announced that a new aviation museum is planned for Alberta and is expected to bring the province's story of flight to life. The Alberta Flying Heritage Museum will be located at Villeneuve Airport, just 30 minutes northwest of Edmonton. It will be quite different from The Alberta Aviation Museum, in that it will be a "living history museum." There will be aircraft flying on a regular basis, exhibits that children and adults can get into, an experience as opposed to just the exhibits and the artifacts. The land was donated by Edmonton Airports and a 26,000 sq ft building donated by the federal government. The project has been estimated to cost \$10 million and the museum will be looking for donations in hopes of having it up and running by next summer.

"The Alberta Aviation Museum will now focus very specifically on the history of aviation in Edmonton."

- **28 November:** Guests from the following places were at the Sanatorium during the week: Sydney, Australia; Calgary,; Toronto; Edmonton; Blairmore; Cranbrook; Winnipeg; Milwaukee; Lethbridge; London, England; St. Catherines; Coleman; Montreal; and Fernie. *Blairmore Enterprise* Front page.
- **1 December:** Continuous moving assembly line introduced by Ford (car every 2:38)
- **5 December:** Frank—on Thursday morning the townspeople were notified by the local power-house whistle of a fire in town, which proved to be Mr. Blais' store...It was with great difficulty that Mr. Blais succeeded in getting out his safe, account system and cash register...*Blairmore Enterprise* Front page.
- **5 December:** We are agents for McLaughlin vehicles. If you need a heavy or light sleigh or cutter, see us. The goods are fully guaranteed and prices right—The Blairmore Hardware Co. *Blairmore Enterprise*
- **12 December:** Dating from the 1st of November Mr J. Charbonnier has been appointed general manager of West Canadian Collieries. *Blairmore Enterprise*
- **12 December:** Vincenzo Perugia, who stole the Mona Lisa in 1911, tries to sell it in Florence and is arrested
- **16 December:** Charlie Chaplin began his film career at Keystone for \$150 a week.
- **27 December:** Meeting of the Blairmore Council. Motion made by Beebe-Drain. That the town purchase a typewriter from L. W. Kribs at a price of \$75.00. Carried.



Charlie Chaplin