



SCHOOL DAYS IN A ONE-ROOM SCHOOL

by Vivian Sampson

The Calgary and District Chapter
of the Historical Society
of Alberta

OFFICE:
#311, 223-12 Avenue SW
Calgary AB T2R 0G9
(403) 261-4667

ONLINE:
www.chinookcountry.org
[www.albertahistory.org/
hsa/chapters/chinook](http://www.albertahistory.org/hsa/chapters/chinook)

The Vision of the Society:
"to promote a greater
understanding of Canadian and
Alberta history in Chinook
Country for people of all ages."

Chinook boundaries
are from Olds to Nanton,
from the B.C. to the
Saskatchewan borders.



Think back when you first started school. Were you one of the lucky ones that attended a one room school? I was and have many striking memories of those days from September 1952 to June 1955.

We lived on a farm in the Tongue Creek District, west of High River, and I attended Windy Hill School, one of three schools in the East Longview District. My dad, Jack Rogers, and his siblings also attended Windy Hill.

Just like the song, "The Old Grey Mare," my transportation most days was Topsey, a grey mare. My parents insisted I ride bareback so I wouldn't be dragged if my foot got caught in the stirrups should Topsey get spooked. In winter, bareback was much warmer than a saddle as the warmth from Topsey's back kept your backside and legs warm.

The 3 1/2 mile ride wasn't always lonely. If the Cowling boys, Norman and Lloyd, didn't feel like walking 2 1/2 miles, they would climb on board behind me. As we got closer to school, Kent Brocklebank would climb on. Once we got to school, Topsey would be stabled in the barn with the other students' horses.

Windy Hill was a one-room school accommodating grades one to eight with separate entrances for girls and boys. The boys' cloakroom had the stairway to the basement where the coal furnace was housed. This was a great place to



FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL – 8 SEPTEMBER, 1952
GRADE ONE CLASS AT FRONT WITH THE AUTHOR ON THE LEFT

play on cold, stormy days in winter or cool off during the hot days in June and September.

In 1952, four of us started grade one together: Audrey Herriman, Anna Mae Anderson, Kent Brocklebank and myself. Our teacher was Margeurite Derrick who retired in June, 1953.

One incident that sticks in my mind was tongue measurement. Because there were four of us in grade one, Mrs. Derrick seated us two by two. One day when we had finished our lessons, we decided to stick out our tongues to see who had the longest. All of a sudden there was a loud snapping noise! Unbeknown to us, Mrs. Derrick had picked up two yard sticks, snuck up the aisle and whack!—the yardsticks came down on the four heads at the same time. Lesson learned—we never stuck our tongues out in public again. (Continued page 3)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Shona Gourlay

The CCHS Board has been on a summer hiatus; we will start up again in September. Luckily, there was Historic Calgary Week to entertain us during the break! The opening ceremony was held at the Southern Alberta Pioneers and their Descendants building, overlooking the Elbow River in Parkhill. There was even a cake to celebrate the 20th anniversary of HCW. Thanks and kudos to Val Jobson and her crew of volunteers for a wonderful job. Many thanks also to everyone who attended the various events and programs—your interest

and participation is greatly appreciated.

The lecture programs start next month, on September 28, at Fort Calgary. The topic is eugenics in Alberta, presented by Jana Grekul. Also, keep December 11 open for the CCHS annual Christmas lunch and speaker at Fort Calgary. Doors open at 10:30 with lunch served at noon. Stay tuned for further details about tickets.

On a happy note, the Calgary Brewing Company site made it on to Heritage Canada Foundation's list of the top 10 endangered historic sites in

Canada. CCHS wrote a letter supporting the nomination of the site.

On a less happy note, according to a recent article in the Hanna Herald, the historic Hanna Roundhouse has been sold to an undisclosed buyer. Sandra Beaudoin started a non-profit society to purchase the building in 2009. They were waiting for a structural engineering evaluation prior to completing the purchase when they were informed the building had been sold.

I hope you all enjoyed your summer. See you in September! -CCHS

ANNIE GALE – AN ELECTORAL INSPIRATION

by Bill Longstaff

With a civic election coming up in October, anyone looking for a little incentive to push them toward the voting booth might consider the inspiring story of Annie Gale, a true Alberta pioneer. A pioneer not on the land but in politics.

Born Hannah Rolinson in Netherton, England on December 29, 1876, she married William John Gale in 1901 and moved to Calgary with her husband and two children in 1912. Once arriving, she cut quite an active figure indeed. Com-

mitted to improving her community, she organized the Consumers League in 1914 and was instrumental in establishing the Vacant Lots Garden Club, the Free Hospitals League and the Women's Ratepayers Association.

An advocate for the participation of women in politics, she put her money where her mouth was and ran for alderman in 1917. And won. She became the first woman alderman in the British Empire and the first woman elected to political office at any level—municipal, provincial or federal—in Canada. In 1918, she was named Acting Mayor.

She failed to win a seat in the provincial election of 1921, but her political ardour was undiminished. She served three terms as alderman before retiring in 1923 and then, in the following year,

ran successfully for trustee with the Calgary School Board.

She eventually moved to Vancouver where she died in August,

1970 at the ripe old age of 93. Calgary has not forgotten its pioneering politician, however. The Annie Gale Junior High School in Whitehorn, built in 1983, was named in her honour. -CCHS



ANNIE GALE AND SON BILL - 1914
Courtesy Glenbow Archives
PA-1285-1

Major Alberta oil spill ... chicken feathers used to plug well!

Join Glenbow Archivists and host David Finch, well-known Calgary historian, for the first ever Glenbow Archives Film Night. This free event, in celebration of Archives Week 2010, will feature the 1925 silent movie gem Petroleum, Alberta's Newest Industry, as well as amazing film footage of the wildly-spewing Atlantic #3 oil well blowout at Leduc in 1948. Marvel at the ingenious (and not so ingenious!) attempts to cap the well with cement and even chicken feathers! To round out the program, see a selection of Esso service station television commercials from the 1950s, bringing back memories of the "Happy Motoring Song" jingle.

Glenbow Museum Conoco Phillips Theatre
October 7, 2010
7:00 pm

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD (Crossword on page 4)

Across:

1. Montgomery, 6. King, 9. Lancaster, 10. Cider, 11. Erupt, 12. Alex Munro, 13. Ashwort, 15. Ypres, 16. Roundup, 19. Sun, 20. Les, 21. Shawnee, 22. Ghost, 24. Arden, 25. Tewksbury, 26. Ends, 27. Northland

Down:

1. Milne, 2. Nonsuch, 3. Grant, 4. Muttart, 5. RNR, 7. Iodines, 8. Gargoyles, 10. Cameron, 13. Aerospace, 14. Olden, 17. Unaided, 18. Preston, 19. Shrew, 20. Loo, 22. Gas, 23. Toyed

Interested in the history of the Crowsnest Pass?

Check out these links:

For current editions of the Crowsnest Heritage Newsletter go to

http://www.crowsnestheritage.ca/Newsletters/July_2010_ENewsletter.pdf

For an index of past issues go to <http://www.crowsnestheritage.ca/Newsletters/>

HISTORIC CALGARY WEEK CELEBRATES 20 YEARS



JOAN AND CLARENCE DAVIS CUT THE CAKE

Photos courtesy Jennifer Prest

On July 23, history lovers gathered at the SAPD Memorial Building to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Historic Calgary Week. Former HCW Committee chairs Carrol Jaques, Cathy Elsey, Haifa Selo, Kate Reeves, and Diana Ringstrom were in attendance.



JENNIFER JACK REMINISCES

WINNERS OF THE HCW GIANT CROSSWORD PUZZLE

by Jennifer Prest

This year we had 91 entries for the Historic Calgary Week Giant Crossword Puzzle which appeared in the Calgary Herald on July 25. Of those, 33 were correct and the following names were pulled for the prizes:

Shannon Bennett, Calgary; Esther Lind, Calgary; Bruce Korol, Cochrane; Ken Drysdale, Calgary; Susan Campbell, Calgary; Marie Rhodes, Calgary; Gail Fraser, Calgary; Doreen Rynning, Calgary; Mark Jantzen, Calgary; Robyn Turner, Calgary.

The prizes will be awarded at the first General Meeting of the 2010-11 Season, on Tuesday, September 28, at Fort Calgary.

The HCW Organizing Committee thanks everyone who participated for their support and hard work. ☺

SCHOOL DAYS IN A ONE-ROOM SCHOOL *(cont. from page 1)*

As you are well aware, prairie storms can develop very suddenly. One such storm happened while I was in grade two. Outside turned dark and we heard a loud thunder clap. Then zap!—a fork of lightning bolted through the window leaving a large black circle on the red brick chimney, narrowly missing the students sitting in the front row. A neighbour soon arrived at the school to check on our safety, telling us all to remain until our parents arrived to pick us up. (No telephones at the school in those days). Before leaving for the day, our horses were watered, fed and bedded down in the barn for the night.

It didn't matter what age you were, everyone participated in all outside games such as pump-pump-pull-away, kick the can and red rider. Anti-I-over was usually played over the outhouses so the shortest student could throw the ball over the roof. Scrub was played with large rocks for bases and a gunny sack filled with dirt for home plate. The teacher was the ump. In winter, we built snow forts and had snowball fights between the girls and boys.

My time at Windy Hill School ended with regret in June of 1955 as my sister, Ella, and I were to be bussed to Spitzee Elementary School in High River in September. Windy Hill was a great place of learning, not only academically where you had to learn on your own with the help of the one teacher and the older students, but also how to fend for yourself while learning how to get along with all ages at the same time. There are many more memories to treasure. ☺

Voices from the Past

“The year we came to Calgary, 1920, there was no jobs. Even doctors had no work, no money coming in. I went to the Labour Exchange and the lady gave me this address. Well, Elbow Park is quite a way to go and I had to borrow two bits from my landlady to buy the streetcar ticket. A great big fat lady opened the door. She looked at me and blinked and blinked, and I shut my eyes and thought ‘Oh, God, what’s going to happen?’ I said ‘How do you do?’ She said, ‘You’re not coming to clean house for me?’ ‘I beg your pardon; I am... You might be big and I might be little, but I can do it. Please don’t ask me if I think I can do it. I had to borrow two bits to buy my streetcar tickets to get here today. Now I’ve got to earn enough money to pay that lady that two bits back.’ And away I went. It was a seven room house; she’d just moved into it and she hadn’t been able to clean before she moved in. So I started from the top and I came right down to the bottom. We had dinner and went on with the work... Later her husband came home and he said, ‘Bless your heart, if we called you again would you come back?’ I said I sure would. ‘How can you do it?’ he said. And I said ‘Mister, we’ve had to do it so much since we’ve been here that I’m used to it now.’”

• Interview subject in *The Last Best West: Women on the Alberta Frontier, 1880-1930*

— Submitted by
Laurel Halladay

LOCAL HISTORY CROSSWORD

(Solution on page 2)

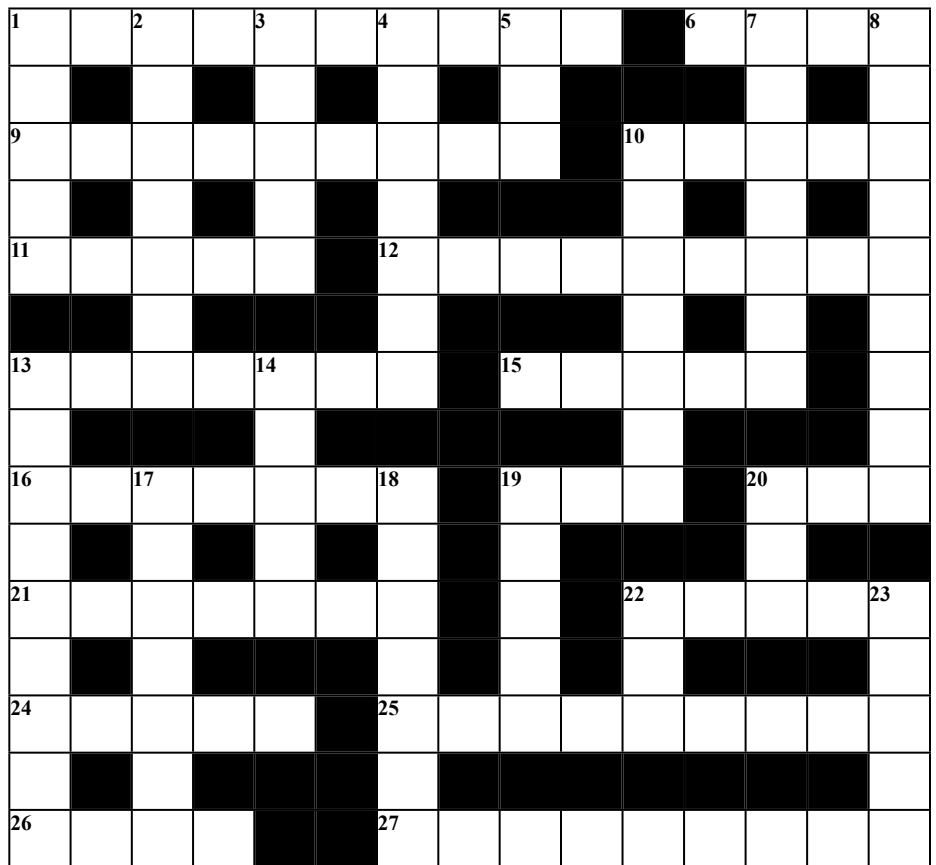
ACROSS

1. WWII General and Calgary district
6. Frank _____, Chairman of the CODA
9. Seen in Calgary in August, 2010, the _____ bomber
10. An apple drink
11. To explode; burst
12. Calgary's 'Mr. Gardener' (2 words)
13. A weed
15. WWI battle site
16. BMO _____ Building at the Stampede Grounds
19. Daily newspaper, the Calgary _____
20. Ballet, _____ Sylphides
21. _____ Slopes, in SW Calgary
22. _____ River Wilderness area, northwest of Calgary
24. Calgary songstress, Jan _____
25. 'Chef de Mission' 2012, Mark _____
26. Finishes; terminates
27. Shopping Mall in NW Calgary, _____ Village

DOWN

1. Past Director of CCHS, George _____
2. HMCS _____, named for one of Elizabeth I's fleet
3. Historian, author, politician, and educator, _____ MacEwan
4. The _____ Public Art Gallery at the Central Memorial Library
5. A little rock 'n' roll for relaxation? (Initials)
7. Derived forms of antiseptic
8. Ornaments found frequently on old churches - and the former Calgary Herald Building?
10. Calgary's 11th mayor, A.L. _____
13. The place to see 9 across, the _____ Museum
14. past; bygone
17. Without help
18. Former leader of HM's Opposition, _____ Manning
19. Shakespeare's "The Taming of the _____"
20. Washroom in London
22. Vapour; fume
23. Played (with)

— Jennifer Prest



CCHS BOARD MEMBERS

President
Shona Gourlay
cms@marigold.ab.ca

Past President
Tom Hamp
TomHamp@PrairieLight.org

**First Vice President/
Treasurer**
Sarah Harvey
sarharv@gmail.com

Second Vice President
Gayle Thrift
gayle.thrift@stmu.ab.ca

Secretary
John Brook
brookj@shaw.ca
403-242-1893

Publicity
Vivian Sampson
vivians1@telus.net
403-277-1013

Archives
Robert Cormack
403-283-5906

Programs
Laurel Halladay
lmhallad@hotmail.com

Newsletter Delivery
Gail Kessler
Ron Kessler
kesslerron@yahoo.com
403-288-3196

Directors at Large
Chelsea Clark
chelsea.c.clark@gmail.com
George Milne
403-253-5469

WEB PAGE
Irene, Walter and Neil De Boni
iwdeboni@shaw.ca

LEGAL ADVISOR
Brad Pierce
403-232-9605

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Bill Longstaff
ballot@shaw.ca
403-245-9587

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS: The deadline for the Winter issue is **October 18, 2010**. Please send your article and/or photos to Bill Longstaff at ballot@shaw.ca.

HAS YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRED?

If you have forgotten when your membership needs to be renewed, check the envelope your newsletter arrived in. The expiry date is printed on the address label. We don't want to lose any of our members, so to renew, call **Sarah Harvey** at (403) 730-1771.

Associate membership	\$15.00	Family membership	\$25.00	Affiliate membership	\$55.00
Annual Subscription	\$25.00	Annual Subscription	\$25.00	(school, museum, library,	
Total	\$40.00	Total	\$50.00	historical society)	
Purchased together	\$35.00	Purchased together	\$45.00	Associate membership	\$120.00

Cheques are payable to The Historical Society of Alberta, P.O. Box 4035, Station C, Calgary AB T2T 5M9