



THE CANORA CHRONICLE

Canadian Northern Society—Camrose, Meeting Creek, and Big Valley, Alberta

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Volume 21, Number 2, May 2008

Harvest Festival

October 4, 2008 1 to 5 pm
Meeting Creek Railway Station
and Elevator

Bring your family and a picnic lunch
and experience some old
fashioned fun.

- Tour the station and elevator
- Take a ride on a speeder
- Carve some pumpkins
- Make a scarecrow
- Ride in a hay wagon
- Sample some homemade pie

We are looking for individuals or groups who live in the Meeting Creek area or the surrounding communities who are interested in contributing their time, ideas or talents at the Harvest Festival. We are looking for a tractor and hay rack for children's rides as well. Call Diane or Glenys at 780-672-3099 for more information or to volunteer.

A revised edition of the popular *Along These Lines* DVD featuring the activities of the Canadian Northern Society in central Alberta is now available. It also displays a historical synopsis of the region, and a tribute to the contribution of our local railway industry. Available for \$12.95, a remake of our 2005 edition.

Contact Bruce at the Camrose depot to order your copy today.
Email: canadiannorthern@telus.net
or phone (780) 672-3099

Big Valley Happenings

The first combined Canadian Northern Society and Big Valley Historical Society booth at the Stettler Trade Show held in April is now history. Although the booth did not overtly promote either society, a wide variety of literature and brochures was available to make visitors aware that Big Valley is a special place. There was a lot of visitors, and many showed a keen interest. Lois Miller did a wonderful job of designing a very informative computerized slide show that encapsulated Big Valley's tourist attractions, recreational facilities, historical "uniqueness", and business community. The booth also included a sampling of Rod Miller's fantastic "rail car tool display," along with signage encouraging people to come to Big Valley and see over 3500 more. Actually, the Big Valley booth was a legacy of the late Harry Stuber. Harry had been so impressed with Mirror's promotional booth last year that he "pushed" the Canadian Northern Society and the Big Valley Historical Society into renting a booth this year, to promote Big Valley. It was a resounding success. Harry would have been proud.

Thanks to the following, who took turns to "man" the booth: Len Waters, Lois Miller, Shawn Smith, Peter Didrichsen, Jack Webster, Kathy Webster, Gerry Muhlbach, Gwen Muhlbach, Rod Miller, Ione Miller, Florence and Allan Johnston, "Curly" Reischman, Marion Annable, and Dorothy Annable.

The Canadian Heartland Training Railway and NAIT are again operating a conductor pre-employment program at Big Valley, with eight students attending. The spring 2008 intake will be operating until late June. Some of the students are staying in the station living quarters and the CHTR is again utilizing the facilities. Thanks to Dave Armitage of CHTR—also a member of CNoS—for his help in coordinating activities at the station. Also we owe a big thanks to Allan Johnston and to Lois Miller for their respective contributions in maintaining the station and improving the site continually.

The community potluck dinner in April was again successful and we appreciate all who attended and brought delicious dishes to share. Thanks to the CHTR for the dinner wine, to Fran Stuber for her help in organizing the event, and to the Big Valley Senior Citizens Drop In Centre for their support of the CNoS and Historical Society in providing the wonderful facility for the evening.

Camrose Happenings

Since the publication of the last *Chronicle*, the station has been host to the Railway School workshop on March 19 and the Alberta Historical Resources Meeting Day for the Camrose Main Street Project May 2. We made a presentation on behalf of the society at 1 p.m. Larry Pearson, director of the provincial government's Historical Resources Management Branch was impressed with the station and other historic restoration projects in Camrose. Both groups were treated to an old-fashioned lunch with our homemade Sunny Boy bread and pumpkin cinnamon buns. These events could not take place without the help of our faithful volunteers.

We have been the recipient of a new HP computer, monitor and keyboard. I would like to thank Norm Mayer of Central Agencies for this generous donation. I would like to thank Gwyn Morgan and Pat Trottier for their generous donation to the society. The station is in need of painting and we will be applying for grants over the winter. This money allows us to do these projects as all grants must be matched. I would also like to thank the people who continue to donate to our White Elephant gift shop. We are looking for someone to organize the shop regularly and would again like to thank Robbie for the ideas, donations and time she put into making the shop a success over the past two years.

On April 12 Carol Roy and I were again invited to attend the volunteer banquet put on by Buzy Bee of Tofield. The Buzy Bee saves railway items for us through the year. This organization is a wonderful example how people can make a difference in their community by working together.

April 14 Dorothy Lyons and I attended the CREAM meeting in Irma. At the meeting we evaluated our marketing dollars we spend through Kalyna Country as a

member of CREAM. I believe this advertising is the best we can get. I invite you to see the number of places we are in the summer book, plus the Kalyna Country Web-site which has a picture and write up of the station and park. Next year they are also putting together tour packages which will include our station for the same marketing dollars. The membership and marketing is \$100 a year.

We have hired our summer students. Stephanie Sims has been hired through the Service Canada grant for 14 weeks and Liane Nickel has been hired through STEP for 12 weeks. We received funding for STEP for 8 weeks, but will pay the extra through the Tea Room sales.

Diane among other things has been busy marketing, organizing Founder's Day, preparing the information for the Meeting Creek story board and the Spring Celebration Day. On May 31 we are having a plant exchange, a vintage fashion show along with a display of vintage hats. We have advertised for people to wear their vintage hats. They will be judged for a prize. The tearoom menu will also reflect spring.

Canada World Youth has approached us regarding taking two students in July. We have made application for these students. This was a very successful program for us last year.

I would like to thank Bill and Gladys Douglas, Diane, Bruce, Cheryl and Norm Prestage who came to help with the Meeting Creek clean up. The gardens at Camrose are gradually getting ready for planting time. The tool shed and watchman's shed have had a good cleaning ready for opening. Matilda Fleck has been coming to help clean up the beds. Bruce has added model buildings to the Morgan Garden Railway and put in another switch. Bruce also sided and shingled the large model elevators now located

at the north end of the property. If anyone has time to assist with painting these elevators let Bruce know.

The Morgan Garden Railway is looking wonderful. This winter Bruce built a model of Viewpoint station, the Viewpoint elevator and house. He also added to the garden a speeder shed and a section house. He had refurbished all the buildings and they look wonderful. Last fall we planted many small bulbs ensuring that we will have blossoms in all seasons. We are reassessing the garden to ensure the plants are in scale with the railway.

A special thank you to the volunteers who have baked for our opening on May 17. It should a wonderful summer. For the first time we will have two students through June as well as July and August.

- Glenys Smith

In History

June 11, 1888 (120 years ago) - Canadian Pacific opens the "Sault Branch" from Sudbury to Sault Ste. Marie where connection was made not only with the American railway system but also with the CP steam ships.

May 17, 1908 (100 years ago) - Electric operation begins through the St. Clair Tunnel between Sarnia and Port Huron. This ended steam operation which had asphyxiated several crew members. A formal inspection and opening ceremony took place on November 12.

June 2, 1913 (95 years ago) - First train runs across the Canadian Pacific high level bridge between Edmonton and South Edmonton.

July 14, 1943 (65 years ago) - Central Station, Montreal is opened by Canadian National. This completed a project originally begun in 1929.

August 1988 (20 years ago) - The shipment of cattle by rail in Canada ceases with the closure of Winnipeg Union Stockyards.

Summer Events Scheduled at the Camrose Railway Station and Park

May

May 17: **OPENING DAY, PIONEER LUNCH**, tea & goodies. Open 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

May 22 & 23: Tea & Goodies, Open 1 - 5 p.m.

Accepting donations of used gardening books or magazines for Spring Celebration White Elephant Sale.

May 24: **PIONEER LUNCH THEME**, Open 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Accepting donations of used gardening books or magazines for Spring Celebration White Elephant Sale.

May 29 & 30: Tea & Goodies, Open 1-5 p.m.

Accepting donations of used gardening books or magazines for Spring Celebration White Elephant Sale.

May 31: **SPRING CELEBRATION**: Open 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Welcome spring and celebrate the end of winter. Perennial plant swap; garden themed lunch; white elephant sale; tea or coffee and homemade baked goodies; vintage hat display; and a vintage fashion show at 2:00 p.m. Wear a vintage hat and enter a contest for prizes.

June

June 5 & 6: Tea & Goodies, Open 1 - 5 p.m.

June 7: **PIONEER LUNCH**, Open 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

June 12 & 13: Tea & Goodies, Open 1 - 5 p.m.

June 14: **PIONEER LUNCH**, Open 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

June 19 & 20: Tea & Goodies, Open 1 - 5 p.m.

June 21: **PIONEER LUNCH**, Open 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Loan us your vintage teddy bear for our display.

June 26 & 27: Tea & Goodies, Open 1 - 5 p.m. Loan us your vintage teddy bear for our display.

June 28: **CANADA DAY THEMED LUNCH**, Open 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Teddy Bear Picnic, display, and stories. Adults and children bring your teddy bears, old and new. Picnic will be held inside if weather is cold or damp.

July

July 3 & 4: Tea & Goodies, Open 1 - 5 p.m.

July 5: **THE RAILWAY BEANERY THEMED LUNCH**, Open 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

July 10 & 11: Tea & Goodies, Open 1 - 5 p.m.

July 12: **OLD FASHIONED GARDEN PARTY & CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL**, Open 1 - 6 p.m. A 1920s flavor with live music by The Swing Band of July and an outdoor dance floor. Ride Jeppa's Train. Activities, crafts and games for young and old. Enter a chocolate item in the Chocolate Festival contest for prizes. Enjoy a variety of tea biscuits, fruit breads, chocolate and other tea items. Ice cream, beverage, food and events included in price of ticket. Vintage clothing optional. Purchase tickets at gate or in advance. \$20 for family of 4, \$8 for 12 years and up, \$4 under 12 years. Includes food and entertainment. Train rides extra.

July 17 & 18: Tea & Goodies, Open 1-5pm

July 19: **PIONEER LUNCH**, Open 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

July 24 & 25: Tea & Goodies, Open 1 - 5 p.m.

July 26: **TRIBUTE to HAMPTON SCHOOL & DISTRICT**, Open 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Pioneer Lunch, exhibits and history of the area. Storytelling and tribute program at 2:00 p.m.

July 31: Tea & Goodies, Open 1 - 5 p.m. Come and listen to Marion Bennett share stories about the war years at 2 pm with a special focus on life in England during the 1920s and the Third Battle of Ypres.

August

August 1: Tea & Goodies, Open 1 - 5 p.m. Come and listen to Marion Bennett share stories about the war years at 2 pm with a special focus on life in England during the 1920s and the Third Battle of Ypres.

August 2: PIONEER WAR TIME THEMED LUNCH, Open 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tribute to the War Years with war time displays.

August 7 & 8: Tea & Goodies, Open 1 - 5 p.m.

August 9: PIONEER SUMMER BERRIES THEMED LUNCH, Open 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

August 14 & 15: Tea & Goodies, Open 1 - 5 p.m. Garden Tours available.

August 16: CAMROSE FOUNDERS DAYS, Open 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Old-Fashioned Country Fair with events for the whole family. Storytelling, garden tours, displays, music, square dancers and refreshments. Ride Jeppa's Train and help knit a baby blanket for the Women's Shelter. Under the Big Top Tent: Artisans, crafters, antique and farmer's market vendors. Also, heritage craft displays, demonstrations and interactive opportunities.

August 21 & 22: Tea & Goodies, Open 1 - 5 p.m.

August 23: PIONEER UKRAINIAN THEMED LUNCH, Open 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

August 28 & 29: Tea & Goodies, Open 1 - 5 p.m.

August 30: PIONEER LUNCH, Open 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. *Last day of regular opening.*

Saskatchewan Prairies

Ardill, Saskatchewan is today a deserted ghost town on the old Canadian Northern Railway near Mossbank, Saskatchewan. It is located in a beautiful coulee that was a popular stopping spot for the early Indians, and later homesteaders as grass and water for animals was abundant during the summer months. Reportedly, the settlement's name is claimed to have come about when a cockney Englishman claimed that the long hill out of the coulee was a "damned 'ard 'ill" for his team to climb! Do you believe it?

In the category of "what can go wrong will go wrong" Ardill experienced a fire one cold night at its hotel located on main street, which paralleled the railway tracks. The owner of the hotel called the Mossbank fire department who promptly responded and were required to use the CNR reservoir dugout—located across the tracks

for the supply of water. At that time, local legend tells us that Ardill rarely saw the arrival of a train, however low and behold along came a train headed for Gravelbourg,

running over the hoses and cutting them into smaller portions! We understand however that the fire was eventually contained.



*Deserted playground at Ardill in September 2006—
no children are left to play.*

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Acknowledgments

• Thank you to the many of you who generously gave memorial donations to the Canadian Northern Society in memory of Harry E. Stuber. There was such a great outpouring of local support as well as donations from those such as members of the Calgary Free-Mo model railroad group and the Downtown Point Douglas Community Office of Employment in Winnipeg (Mary Stuber-Doerksen's co-workers). Your respect for Harry and generosity was noted and appreciated by not only the Canadian Northern Society but by Fran and family as well.

Memorial donations to the CNoS in memory of Harry E. Stuber:

- Brenda Woods
- Joyce and Alfred Klaus
- Ralph Jones
- Calvin Hiller
- Edward Ridley
- Leona Thorogood
- Halley Gridley
- Kenneth Hoffman
- Frontier General Store, Big Valley
- Brown Balcom
- Finn Didrichsen
- Arlyene Hingst
- Dorothy Annable
- Marlene Tieg
- Allan Saar
- Shawn and Karen Smith
- Al Stuber
- Dean and Lorrie Tieg
- Paul Penner
- Leslie S. Kozma
- Peter Didrichsen
- Irene Petrusa
- Sharon Lindstrand

• Thank you to Finn Didrichsen for his memorial donation to the Canadian Northern Society in memory of Mrs. Daisy Eichorn of Stettler. Mrs. Eichorn is our lifetime member, Don Gillespie's aunt.

• Sincere thanks to the following for their generous cash donations:
- The Gwyn Morgan and Pat Trottier Foundation—this wonderful annual cash gift is sincerely appreciated.

- Marianna Mather, New York City, NY
- Keith Ewart, Saskatoon, SK
- James E. Harte, McBride, BC
- Charles and Lynn Bohi, White River Jct. VT

• From the Royal Mail

Stettler, Feb 12, 2008

Dear All, I'm sending you the usual cheque today, two memberships for Finn and me, and the rest a donation. Have a good year.

- Mrs. M.C. Didrichsen

---- thank you very much Finn and Mrs. M.C. for your continued long time support.

Surrey, BC, March 10, 2008

Please find my cheque for my full membership renewal plus the balance as a cash donation. Keep up the Great Work!

- Clayton F. Jones

----- thank you Clayton. All the best wishes from the CNoS to you and Ruth on your recent retirement from the Operating officers ranks at the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway in New Westminster.

• Dean and Lorrie Tieg, editors of the *Chronicle*, and long-time society members, would sincerely like to acknowledge and thank the Canadian Northern Society for the lovely bouquet of flowers sent to the church for Lorrie's mom's funeral service held on March 5 in Kelliher, SK. Mary Chaher and her husband Jerry have been members of the society for 7 years.

• The society would like to thank the few faithful volunteers who showed up to spring clean the Meeting Creek Station and Elevator on April 26. Your volunteer time and assistance is the reason we are able to keep that facility open for the tourist season. Thanks also to Glenys Smith for preparing the lunch before the Annual Meeting that afternoon.

Regina Union Station



The first Canadian Pacific depot in Regina was built in 1883 to an early standard plan said to be designed by "Van Horne himself"! This structure was soon replaced by a larger brick depot on Hamilton Street in 1892. By 1911 however, negotiations between the City of Regina, the CPR, and the Canadian Northern resulted in a wonderful Beaux-Arts three-storey depot that would become known as "Regina Union Station."

The *Regina Leader* of May 13, 1911 described the new Union Station located between Broad Street and Hamilton Street in downtown Regina, adjacent the CPR main line. "The (new) station has large commodious waiting rooms on the main floor, along with lavatories, smoking rooms, two ticket offices for each railway company, and a baggage room in the east wing," boasted the *Leader*. General offices for both railways were located on both the second and third floor of the new station, while two single-storey wings on both ends of the station housed the express departments of each respective road.

Interestingly, upon the opening of Regina Union station in 1911, the former CPR depot was dismantled with the material being salvaged and used in the construction of a new depot at Broadview—93 miles east of Regina.

Continued on Page 6

Canadian Railway Hall of Fame

On behalf of the Canadian Railway Hall of Fame, I am writing to you to solicit your interest in the virtual Hall of Fame project and specifically to encourage nominations for inductees.

Since 2002, the web-based Canadian Railway Hall of Fame has been celebrating the success of Canada's railway industry. We'd like to encourage all of you—as participants and friends of our industry—to nominate those individuals, communities, and technology that you believe to be deserving of recognition.

Perhaps it is someone you've worked with in your career, or someone who—looking back over the years—has made a significant contribution to modern railway operations, safety improvements, or the betterment of our industry as a whole. In addition, the Hall of Fame welcomes nominations of those friends of the industry such as Gordon Lightfoot, an inductee honoured in a special achievement category for his *Canadian Railroad Trilogy*—the classic ballad based upon the original construction of the CPR.

The Hall of Fame website is located at www.railfame.ca. Our unique industry Hall of Fame is supported by the Railway Association of Canada, and this past year we inducted, among others, the Town of Mount Royal as a Hall of Fame community, as well as individuals such as Mr. R.M. Bailey—retired Regional Chief Engineer for CN's Mountain Region. We encourage you to visit our site, we value your participation.

*Shawn I. Smith
Vice Chairman and Director
Canadian Railway Hall of Fame*



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(LtoR) Jim Hawthorne, President, Railway Veteran's Organization; Ron Bailey, retired civil railway engineer and Shawn Smith, representing the Canadian Railway Hall of Fame, presenting an inductee plaque in the Leadership category of the Hall of Fame to Bailey in Edmonton December 12, 2007. Bailey began his railway career in 1946 but created his legacy as Chief Engineer for CN's Mountain Region in the 1970's and 1980's.

The number of grain elevators in Saskatchewan reached a peak during the 1932-33 crop year. How many were there?

- a) 1634 b) 2820 c) 2820 d) 3240

Correct Answer: d) 3240

Regina Union Station *Continued...*

In 1921 a new addition to the west wing of the station was completed, and in 1927 improvements were made to the waiting room and food service facilities. The roaring '20s must have been a glorious era within the halls of this building. A major renovation in 1931-32 included a new subway to access the trackside platforms where 25 to 30 passenger trains ran each day.

With the last scheduled passenger train departing in 1989, Regina Union Station became part of an urban renewal in the city's downtown. The station is now a popular casino; however, the exterior and interior of the building retain many of the original features that make it such an important piece of our urban prairie heritage.

The *Canora Chronicle* is the quarterly newsletter of the Canadian Northern Society—a registered charity dedicated to providing community service through heritage tourism initiatives. The editors may be contacted through the Canadian Northern headquarters or directly at their home:

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