

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

of Medicine Hat and District Newsletter

Jenkins Family images, ca. 1902



President's Message

Medicine Hat and District Historical Society

Hello All;

We are really looking forward to our May 23rd Annual General Meeting and dinner. This meeting will be at Holy Family Catholic Church, at the corner of 13th Avenue and Strachan Road. We have Bill Anhorn coming to make a presentation on certain aspects of history in Medicine Hat. Bill has been a very active person in this community for many years so we know his presentation will be of interest. I personally look forward to having him come to share his stories.

As a reminder, I recently stated, I was scammed on my cellphone. I want to again warn everyone – do not open any messages on your cellphone or computer from anyone if you aren't exactly sure who they are from. I had thought I was smart enough to catch these criminals before any damage was done. I guess not - Please be careful when accepting messages on your cellphone, telephone or computer.

I sincerely hope everyone getting this newsletter will enjoy reading it and look forward to many of you coming to the first dinner tied in to our Annual General Meeting (AGM). This is the first time in many years we have attempted to do this and the committee looking after it are very excited about it.

One very important item we must address at our AGM is our need for people to step up to assist us with executive positions. People are needed to help carry on the activities of the society which has been around for more than 70 years! None of these positions are difficult or time consuming. Please call me at 403-952-7796 if there any positions you believe you may be able to help us with.

Please keep your eyes on the display case in the lobby of the Esplanade – you might get a nice surprise. Lorine has done a nice job of starting off providing interesting subjects for our attention as we enter the Esplanade.

Take care everyone – This will be my last Report as I turn over the position of President to the next capable set of hands. I want to thank everyone who has made this position easy for the last year.

Cheers,

Judy Morris

President
Medicine Hat and District Historical Society

Next Meeting:

May 23, 2024

@5:30pm dinner at Holy Family

@7pm AGM & Program

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Historical Society Upcoming Program

“A Picture is Worth A Thousand Words”

R.B Shepard

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 23, 2024 at the Holy Family Parish Hall. The facility is located at 1451 Strachan Road. It is a dinner meeting and you must be a member to attend and vote. The cost will be \$20.00 per person which covers both the membership and dinner. It will begin at 5:30 PM.

Our speaker will be Bill Anhorn and his presentation will be “A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words – Or So They Say.” Some of you may recall that at our 2014 Allan Jensen Memorial Treasures Night, Tony Geisinger presented a collection of old glass photographic negatives which he subsequently donated to the Archives. They were a collection of the Jenkins family of Medicine Hat and had been taken during the 1890’s and early 1900’s.

With Tony’s permission, Bill has picked up the thread of the story, undertaken additional research, and will be sharing his findings with us. He has expanded the story to include the Jenkins’ leaving Britain and immigration to Canada. To bring the story up to the present, two descendants and their spouses will be joining us.



Bill Anhorn, QC, ICD.D

William J. (Bill) Anhorn, QC, ICD.D is a graduate of the University of Alberta School of Law and a member of the Law Society of Alberta. He practised as a Barrister and Solicitor in Medicine Hat for thirty-five years, retiring in 2012. He was appointed a Federal Prosecutor and was responsible for all federal prosecutions in Medicine Hat from 1980 to 1985. He was appointed a Queen’s Counsel in 2010. He also graduated from the Institute of Corporate Directors Program from the University of Toronto’s Rotman School of Management and holds an ICD designation.

This will be the capstone presentation of our society’s year. A new round of presentations will begin in the fall. Please contact me with any ideas, suggestions or proposals which you might have. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Best,
Bruce Shepard
Programs Coordinator



Images from the Horace Jenkins fonds. 1034.0020 (right) and 1034.0012 (left)

Call for Volunteers

Historical Society Needs You!

Every May, the Historical Society joins together for the Annual General Meeting (AGM). This year, we are also pleased to have dinner together at 5:30pm before the meeting and program. One of the other major events at the AGM will be the Election of Officers. Specifically this year, we are in great need of applications for volunteers for our Secretary and Treasurer roles.

The volunteer commitment need not be difficult or time consuming, but these are necessary positions for the continued operation of our Society. Please consider putting your name forward.

Pictured at right, dedicated volunteer, Fiona Milne, President of the Historical Society in 1980.

by Your Executive Team



Fiona Milne, Medicine Hat News, 1980

Inked Into History

Tattoo Studios in Medicine Hat

by Jenni Barrientos

Esplanade Archives, 10-A. passport photo, Aug 31, 1960.



I received an interesting question at the Archives recently, about this history of tattoos and tattoo studios. I thought it would be an easy ask but in fact, it was quite challenging to find any information on tattoo artists, or studios that operated in Medicine Hat. As well, our own collections only had one singular picture of a person with a tattoo, a passport photo of Don Hurlburt, taken in 1960. He's looking quite cool, in my opinion! (left).

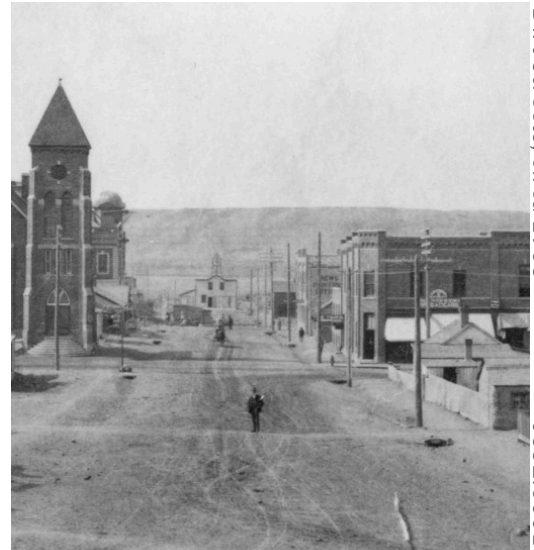
The phone book listed only one tattoo studio from 1980-1987, Adam's Tattoo Studio, located at 665 Kingsway Avenue (later at 560 2 Street SE, Central Block), which simply advertised as having "14 colours" and being "sanitary". But I wasn't able to find anything about tattoo studios earlier than 1981. Often, it's difficult to try and surmise something that was a part of the edges of history at the time - it's possible more existed, but didn't make it into the directories..? Today, as a testament to changing fashions, it'd be difficult to find a young person *without* a tattoo, as Medicine Hat has at least 17 *tattoo studios!*

Sweeping Through Time

A Brief History of Street Sweeping in Medicine Hat

by J. Barrientos

The start of spring can often bring the rather unpleasant sound of large, noisy street sweepers headed through your neighbourhood, clearing the roads of dirt and debris. Yet these modern machines are a far cry from what was used in the past! Street sweeping was just as it sounds, someone with a hand broom, clearing the streets. Our roads were mainly dirt until well into the 1930s. While broom sweeping was popular, as a Fun fact: the first street sweeping machine was invented by a woman by the name of Florence W. Parpart of New York in 1899. An advertisement for the machine ran in the Medicine Hat News in 1900 (see below).



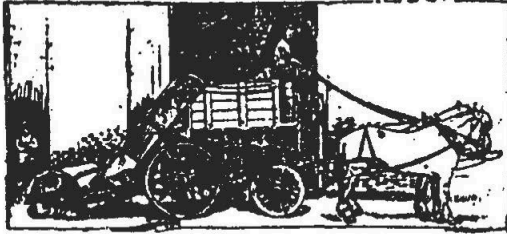
Dirt Streets, circa 1906
0652.0001

Medicine Hat News, August 30, 1900

STREET SWEEPING MACHINE.

The Ingenious Invention of a Woman of New York.

A machine which sprinkles, sweeps, loads, compresses and carts away the dirt from the streets of a city is the invention of Florence W. Parpart, of New York, and the device has received hearty endorsement of



MISS PARPART'S STREET SWEEPER.

engineers and sanitary experts. A picture of the device is shown herewith and while it is capable of carrying away its own collections the most economical method of operation is to have dump carts to perform this service and means are provided for transferring the load quickly from one wagon to another.

The city purchased its very first street sweeping machine in 1938. It was described in the paper as: “to reap the full benefits from our new considerable area of paved streets, it would be advisable to acquire a mechanical street sweeping device, to make paved sections to be cleaned quickly and often.” Of course, the pavement of streets meant a different style of street sweeping was necessary.

Since the beginning, the older technology from the machine purchased in 1938 was not able to handle uneven roads, or get too close to the curbs or sidewalks, leaving a large swatch that a crew of hand sweepers would have to go back in and do with brooms. People were very used to seeing a “broom crew” of men following behind the machine, on our newly paved streets. In 1949 the city purchased a new street sweeper to “increase the efficiency of the department to a marked degree.” At the time, the City was paying \$9,800 for “broom crews” per year for hand sweeping, even though they owned a street sweeping machine!

The new 1949 machine was supposed to shrink the reliance on hand sweeping. It was thought that a this second machine could cover its own costs in three years’ time, though there was a marked doubt (and distaste!) by the public. Used to the era of doing things by hand with a broom, there was some uncertainty about the new machine. Indeed, it wasn’t until 1952 that the City officially ceased adding “hand sweeping” to its Public Works expenditures, and the street sweeper machines, updated through the years, were able to finally earn their full keep.

Unlock the Past

Can you Help Decipher what this Enigmatic Object is?

by Lorine Marshall

This object was found at the Hearn Ranch, near Bindloss, in a shed. As the story goes, rancher Jim Hearn purchased the object at a scrap metal yard, without knowing what it was, many years ago. Finding it interesting, he took it home, but has always wondered - what exactly is this brass and wooden object, with a handle and some kind of piston?

Do you know? Any insight would be appreciated; **one free yearly membership could be in it for you if you have the answer!** First right answer by email wins.



Submitted Images: Lorine Marshall

Membership Dues

Join the Historical Society of Medicine Hat and District

Membership dues for 2024-2025 year are coming due at the May AGM!

Your \$10 membership to the Historical Society of Medicine Hat and District allows you to cast your vote on deciding factors at our meetings, as well as receive 5 editions of our Historical Society Newsletter via email or printed copy. *If you do not remain up to date, this might be the last copy of the Newsletter you receive!* You can pay your \$10 membership dues by cheque by mail to the address below. Please make cheques payable to:

The Historical Society of Medicine Hat and District

401 1 Street SE
 Medicine Hat, AB
 T1A 8W2



A Moment in History

January 17, 1949

Considering our call to action, seeking volunteers for our board, we thought it only fitting to re-highlight a past call for support in 1949. As the article to the right states, whether you are “old” or “new”, we would love to hear your ideas to help us preserve and record history of Medicine Hat and District.



Monday, January 17, 1949.

SUPPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The work of the historical society deserves a lot more support than it is getting. There is a place in this organization for the “newtimers” of the community as well as the oldtimers.

It is not dedicated as an association of oldtimers, although invariably it devolves into that in most communities because too few of the newtimers make time to devote to preserving the record of the work and accomplishments of the pioneers.

Word of Thanks

The Historical Society of Medicine Hat and District partners with the Esplanade Archives in preserving and promoting our rich heritage. The Archives are a valuable resource for family research and local historical information. To make an appointment at the Archives, please call 403-502-8582, or email Jennifer Barrientos at jenbar@medicinehat.ca. The Archives are located at 401 1 Street SE, Medicine Hat, AB T1A 8W2, and as always, are free for you to use.

The Historical Society of Medicine Hat and District website: www.histsocmedhat.ca

Executives

Judy Morris	President
Bruce Shepard	1st Vice President
Earl Morris	2nd Vice President
Leahandra Peterson	Secretary
Nick Martin	Treasurer

Board of Directors

Bruce Shepard	Programs
Sheila Tiegs	Book Sales
Lynn Rance	Membership
Lorine Marshall	Director-At-Large

Jenni Barrientos Newsletter Editor