

# NOTES ON THE OLD-TIMERS CHIMNEY AT VICTORIA PARK



15/16 1923 stone fireplace from original Fort Calgary House.

On April 7, 2020 John Hutchings received this email, and being the effective delegator that he is, forwarded it on to me.

*Hello John - I understand you are the president of the Southern Alberta Pioneers and their Descendants:*

*I'm hoping that you can share a little info about the old chimney at Stampede Park that's connected to your organization.*

*I'm a Toronto-based travel writer who's doing a book called 111 Places in Calgary That You Must Not Miss. It's part of a global travel series mainly aimed at getting locals to do deeper explorations of their cities. I stumbled upon the old brick chimney at Stampede Park and their historian shared a little info and pointed me in your direction....Jennifer Bain, travel writer*

There is never any such thing as “a little info” when it comes to our association. Covid isolation has given me the time to dig in a bit. It involves the early days of our association and spans the many decades that we have been intertwined with the Stampede. Starting with a call-out to past presidents( which resulted in a lead in the right direction by Margaret Buckley), I then went on to try to tie up the pieces. I used old Calgary Herald articles, local websites (Stampede, Glenbow Western Research Centre, City of Calgary and the Calgary Public Library) and enjoyed Jim Mackie’s old Historical Committee notes which included summaries of old minutes. Thank you to Christine Leppard (Stampede Historical Specialist), Carol Stokes, (City of Calgary Archivist),and Peter Peller, (SANDS librarian, U of C) for this revision which clarifies the position of the original shack which was built in 1923 on the Exhibition grounds. And to Jennifer Bain, than you for your curiosity in recognizing that there was a story behind the bricks, but most of all for writing such an affectionate and quirky book on Calgary.

The words 'First', 'Jubilee', 'Golden' and now 'Centennial' describe many of the events and anniversaries being celebrated in Calgary since the arrival of "F" Troop of the NWMP in 1875 and the establishment of Fort Brisebois at the strategic site overlooking the Bow and Elbow Rivers. The name was changed to Fort Calgary the following year on the suggestion of Colonel James MacLeod. Treaty seven was signed the following year in 1877.

1883 August 11: arrival of the first train in Calgary

1884: a group of Old Timers formed the Calgary and District Agricultural Society.

1886: The first Fair

1905: The Province of Alberta is created out of the North West Territories



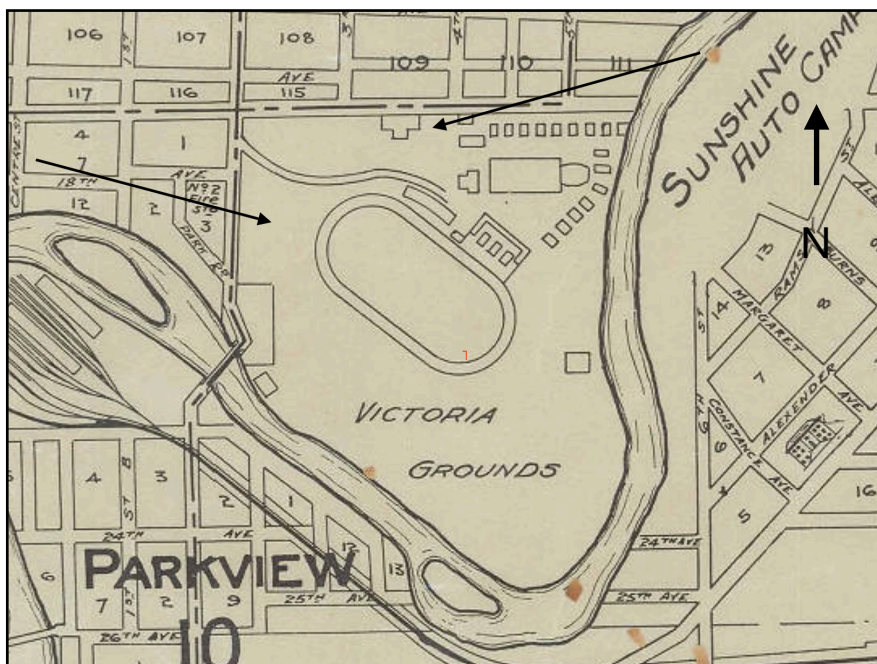
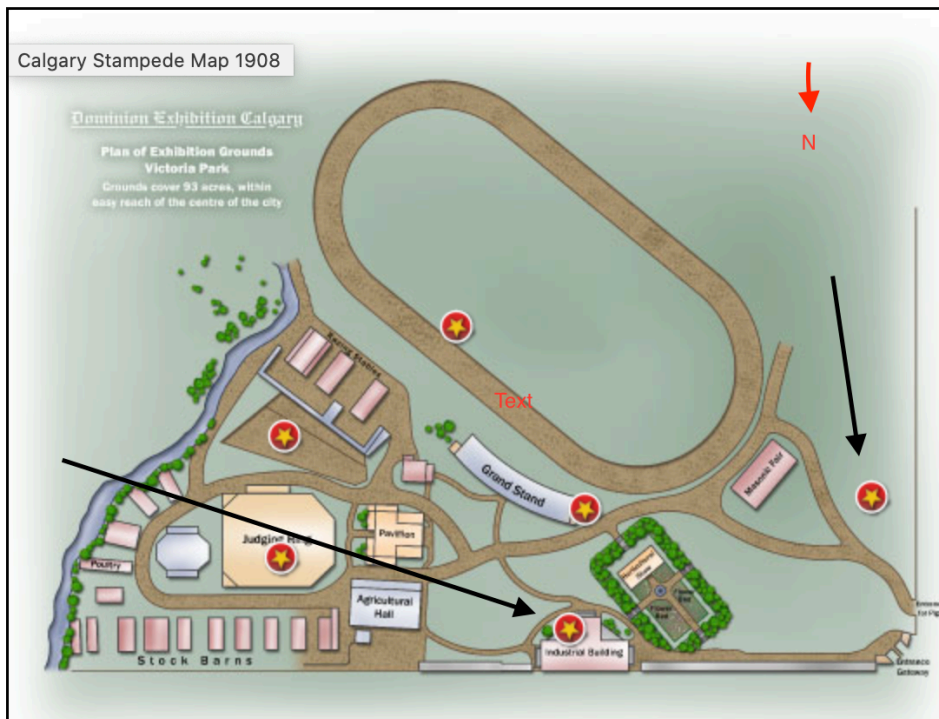
1886 Fair- East of Elbow

1908: The Dominion Exhibition was held in Victoria Park. Guy Weadick first visited Calgary as part of the Miller Brothers 101 Wild West Show.



The Industrial Exhibits building is seen in the centre

The original oval was laid out NW/SE. The Indian Village was along 2nd St E ( Macleod Trail) and the Industrial Exhibits Building was by the north entrance on 17th Avenue, (The oval was reconfigured in 1974 with a new grandstand and racetrack)



The Industrial Exhibits building was built for the Dominion Exhibition, and was located on the south side of 17th avenue where the Corral is now. It was destroyed by fire in 1931 but in 1908 was part of a well landscaped feature along with an art pavilion further to the east.



## 1912: the First Stampede

Guy Weadick returned to Calgary wanting to start an Old West Show. The manager, Ernie Richardson, introduced him to the Big Four, who financed what would be the first Stampede, an event held alongside the annual exhibition.

## 1914-18

The war years followed. The Calgary Exhibition continued and helped gain support for the war effort.



**1919:** Guy Weadick was invited back to help organize another Stampede.

This was called the Victory Stampede. The first permanent Grandstand was erected. Victoria Pavilion opened as a livestock show and sales arena.

**1922:** On January 9, The Southern Alberta Pioneers' and Old Timers Association was incorporated. It was a Benevolent, Social and Historical association composed of men who were resident of Southern Alberta prior to December 31, 1890. The Women's Association was formed in March.

**JULY  
9  
TO  
14  
1923**

**CALGARY  
CANADA**

REDUCED  
PASSENGER  
RATES



"I-SEE-U"

EDWARD BOREIN

WESTERN PRINTING & LITHO. CO. LTD. CALGARY, ALTA.

**CALGARY EXHIBITION  
BUFFALO BARBECUE  
HORSE & AUTO RACES**

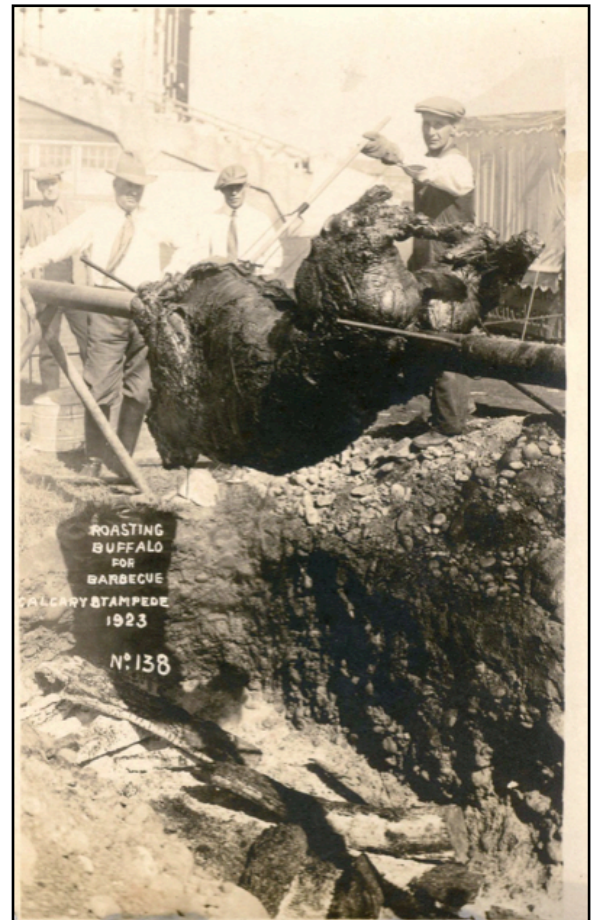
**In Purses \$50,000.00 and Prizes**

P. BURNS, GUY WEADICK, C. P. McQUEEN, JAMES SMART, E. J. DEWEY, E. L. RICHARDSON,  
CHAIRMAN, MANAGER, CHAIRMAN, CHAIRMAN, PRESIDENT, MANAGER,  
THE STAMPEDE, BUFFALO BARBECUE, STAMPEDE PARADE, THE CALGARY EXHIBITION

ADDRESS ALL LETTERS CARE EXHIBITION GROUNDS, CALGARY, CANADA

MOTOR IN THE SCENIC HEART OF THE CANADIAN ROCKIES OVER THE  
**BANFF-WINDERMERE HIGHWAY.**

1923



## 1923: The Pioneer Village

With a recession occurring in Western Canada, the Exhibition had been running a deficit for three years and there was a need to save the exhibition. In 1923, The Calgary Stampede merged with the Calgary Industrial Exhibition to form what would be officially branded the **Calgary Exhibition & Stampede**. Guy Weadick was hired as the arena manager to offer more entertainment.

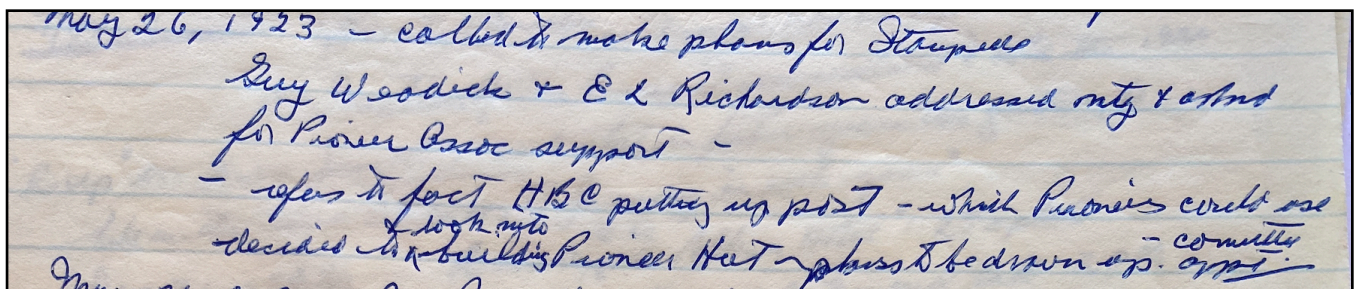
The Old-Timers were approached to consider participating with the stampede for the upcoming year. On May 10, the executive met. They agreed to co-operate and at that time considered erecting a tent on the exhibition grounds.

### *Old Timers' Assoc. To Co-operate with Exhibition Board*

Members of the Men's and Women's Old-Timers and Pioneer Associations, at a joint executive luncheon, held Wednesday in the Hudson's Bay, decided to co-operate with Mr. E. L. Richardson and the exhibition board in their plans for the monster stampede and fair which will take place in July. The committee includes Dr. T. J. Costello, J. J. McHugh, Col. James Walker (convener), Sheriff Fred Graham, Mrs. John McDougall, Mrs. C. A. Stirrett, Mrs. A. G. Wolley-Dod and Miss Charlotte Smith.

The executive discussed the advisability of having an Old Timers' tent on the exhibition grounds and J. J. McHugh offered the loan of a large one in his possession.

May 14, 1923: The agenda for a joint executive meeting included a discussion on the idea of building a replica of a Pioneer Cabin on the Stampede Grounds.



May 26, 1923 - called to make plans for Stampede  
Guy Weadick & E L Richardson addressed mtg & asked  
for Pioneer Assoc support -  
- refers to fact HBC @ putting up post - which Pioneers could use  
decided to <sup>look into</sup> building Pioneer Hut - plans to be drawn up. committee

May 26 1923 "Guy Weadick and EL Richardson addressed the meeting and asked for Pioneer support. Referred to the fact that the HBC were putting up a post which the pioneers could use, It was decided to look into the pioneers building a pioneer hut. A committee was appointed and plans were to be drawn up."

"... appointed a committee for the purpose of preparing a sketch of a log building which is proposed to erect on the exhibition grounds as a headquarters for the members of the Association during the stampede."

Charlie Jackson reported back 5 days later

31.5.1923. .... reported ... regarding the erection of a log shack on the Exhibition grounds for use during the Stampede. He reported that logs suitable for the purpose had been offered by the Eau Claire Lumber Co. at cost price, viz. 65 cents each delivered at the Exhibition grounds. .... Produced a sketch he had prepared of a proposed building 16x32, 12 logs high, which upon examination met with the approval of the members. The question of the cost of the proposed building was discussed, the general concensus of opinion being the the Association should not undertake the construction of a costly ~~building~~ structure

*"... expressed the opinion that a reasonable amount of money could be raised for such a purpose and that he would be prepared to contribute... was authorized to place an order at once with the Eau Claire Lumber Co. for 100 logs to be delivered at the Exhibition Grounds, and that the selection of the logs be left in Mr. Jackson's hands."*

*June 7 1923 '... presented a report on behalf of the log shack building committee. He reported that the Eau Claire Lumber Co. were now making delivery of 100 logs to the building site... " reported that .... had received subscriptions to the building fund amounting to \$150.00" "... authorized to make an appeal to the members generally for subscriptions of \$1.00 and upwards to the building fund."*

**Calgary Old Timers** Leading  
**All Citizens in Enthusiasm**  
**And "Boosting" for Stampede**

George Lane, P. Burns, Col.  
 Walker, A. J. McLean, A. E.

**BEAUTIFUL STAMPEDE PRIZES**

Plans are outlined for the frontier town.

Calgary Herald: June 9, 1923

A permanent log headquarters for the **Old-Timers** will be built alongside a log building reproduction of a **Hudson's Bay Trading Post**.

This is the fiftieth anniversary of the **NWMP** so the RCMP will also hold a reunion (this was sometimes referred to as the Jubilee Exhibition).

Will include a large Indian encampment.

**A Big Reunion**

This association is having its big reunion in Calgary during the week of July 9 to 14. That is what is generally known as Stampede week. The members are erecting out at the exhibition grounds, a permanent log headquarters, where these old-timers will foregather to swap stories of the bygone days. Built alongside the old-timers' headquarters will be a log building, by the Hudson's Bay Co., a reproduction of one of its frontier trading posts. Here will the factor display the wares of the company, and offer them for sale to whites and Indians alike, the same as the company's trading posts were conducted in the early days, and, in fact, as they are still conducted in their outlying posts on the far northern frontier.

The veterans of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police will also hold a re-union at this time. This is the fiftieth anniversary of the famous organization. An exact reproduction of an early day settlement will be on the grounds together with a large Indian encampment showing the visitor what the early frontier "town" was like and this representation will be made by the men and women who know—who were here in the early days.

*June 21, 1923 "... reported that the walls of the shack had been erected to the roof plates and that the roof would be completed and walls ready for chinking during the next few days. It was decided that the walls should be chinked inside and out with cement, lime, and sand. It was decided to put in a rough board flooring. The question of using the surplus logs for the erection of a rough kitchen at the rear of the shack was discussed and left in abeyance until the next meeting of the Committee."*

June 28, 1923 *“... on motion ... it was decided that instead of chinking the log shack with cement, lime, and sand, as previously decided on, to chink it with fibre plaster, As ... was considered the latter material would be more serviceable...the business meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM for the purpose of attending at the exhibition grounds to sod the roof of the shack. About 25 members were in attendance at this function which was completed in a most satisfactory manner.”*



June 1923

# UNIQUE FEATURES ARE EMBODIED IN OLD TIMERS' HUT

Builders Insist Upon Every  
Detail of Structure  
Absolutely Correct

COOL IN SUMMER:  
WARM IN WINTER  
Horns, Antlers, Moose Jaws  
Will Adorn Sod Roof Sown  
With Rye

"The coolest place on the hottest day and the warmest spot in winter," may aptly be used to describe the Old-Timers' hut which is being constructed in the exhibition grounds. On Thursday afternoon a number of the Old Timers held a bee and proceeded to finish placing the sods on the roof.

The main body of the hut is twelve logs high, about twenty feet long and ten wide. There are two windows on the south side and doors on the north and south. A fireplace will be placed in the west end. Several very unique touches are being added by the builders who have insisted on hav-

ing every detail absolutely correct.

## Unique Features

For instance, the fireplace which C. Jackson has undertaken to build, will be constructed by placing two twelve foot uprights in the west end of the hut. Near these uprights there will be placed two smaller supports. Around these timbers, and in a conical shape, willow rushes will be woven, and the whole structure will be covered with a plaster made of shale clay and horse hair. The base of the fireplace will be made of huge limestone flags brought from the first pit operated in Calgary which is located at Shaganappi point on the Bow river. These stones are the same as the kind used for fireplaces in the early eighties.

## Chinked With Mortar

The walls of the hut will be chinked with a mortar mixed of lime, sand and horsehair. An old buffalo skull will be hung above the main door which opens to the south and fall rye will be sown on the roof. This crop will ensure a perfect binding of the sods and will cause them to be permanent besides giving the hut an added frontier appearance. A floor of rough lumber hewn out of logs is being laid and will extend from the large fireplace to the east end of the hut where the bunk will be located.

A fair-sized kitchen will be constructed on the north side, and will adjoin a twelve foot tent which will be erected at the northeast corner of the hut. Stag horns, elks' antlers and moose jaws will be placed with studied carelessness on the roof and the hut will be complete.

## Thieves Steal Material

The progress of the building of the hut has been held up because thieves took 125 feet of lumber and a load of laths from the pile on Wednesday night. The Old Timers have detail-

ed guards to watch the place in future.

The construction of the hut, which by the way is a masterpiece of frontier construction, is under the direction of Hugh McClelland and H. J. Riley, secretary of the Old Timers' Association is his chief foreman. Col. Walker was right on the job too, his face begrimed and his hands much soiled after his labors in the sod pile. J. J. McHugh looked quite at home from his vantage point on the top of the roof, and proved by his nimble antics on the ridge pole that there was a good deal of life in the old boy yet. G. E. Jacques, who built the first log store on Eighth avenue in 1881, and who was the first watchmaker to set up in business here, was present as an authority on sod roofs, it being generally conceded that he had built one of the first real sod roofs in Calgary.

The Old-Timers' hut will be one of the places of greatest interest at the Stampede, Exhibition and Buffalo Barbecue.

## THREAT OF FRENCH JUSTICE HELD OVER U-BOAT COMMANDERS

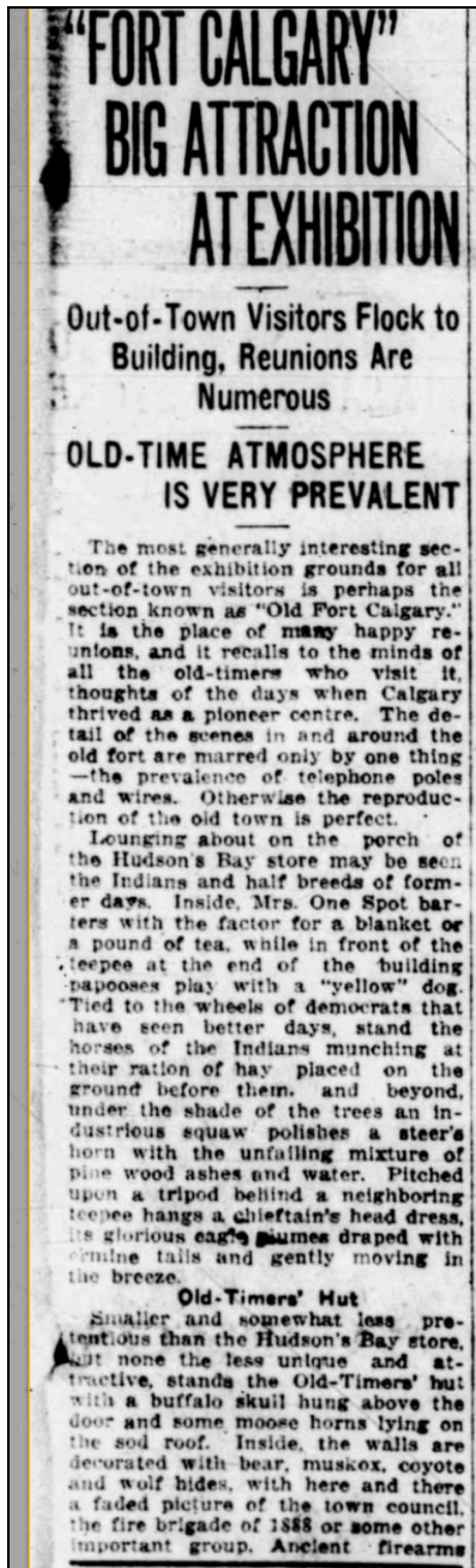
LONDON, June 25.—Three German U-boat commanders who escaped from the arm of the law after their exploits in the war, are now prisoners of the French in the Ruhr and are likely to receive stern justice, says the Dusseldorf correspondent of the Daily Mail.

They are Paul Audler, who commanded the submarine 2-A; Otto Herden and Commander Rose, who navigated the U-53 in its trip to the American coast in 1915.

June 29 Calgary Herald

The Calgary Herald reported the progress the next day, describing the hut having a height of 12 logs and being about 20 feet long and ten wide

Charles Jackson will build a fireplace in the shack covered with shale clay and horse hair. The base will be made of limestone flags from the pit at Shaganappi point.



*smaller and less pretentious than the HBC store*

*buffalo skull hung above the door*

*moose horns on the sod roof*

*inside decorated with bear, muskrat, coyote and wolf hides and a faded picture of the town council*

July 13, 1923

also hang upon the walls beside an old set of haynes and a horse collar. A stuffed badger stands upon the mud mantel shelf above the old-fashioned clay fireplace, and if you ask the man in charge anything about it he will tell you that it is the simplest thing in the world to kill a badger if you strike him a slight tap over the tip of the nose with a small switch, but that if you strike him any place else, even if you should smash his skull he will still live and very likely make his get-away.

As a matter of fact, if you stay there long enough, you may hear these details so many times that you will realize that the badger is very easy to destroy if you strike him just right. But he must be struck properly. That's the big point.

Then, simply for the reason that you will want to be able to say that you sat in it, you go over and sit in the old chair that was made in '74, and which is decorated with many polished steer horns, which are, in the opinion of the man in charge, genuine buffalo horns. It really doesn't matter what kind of horns they are. They fit the atmosphere of the place admirably and make the chair different from any other chair in point of appearance if not in service. If you happen to be a visiting Old-Timer, you will be asked to go over and sign your name on the register, to which have already been attached the following names:

**Names On Register**

*a stuffed badger stands upon the mud mantel shelf above the old-fashioned clay fireplace.*

*an old chair decorated with many polished steer horns which are in the opinion of the man in charge, genuine buffalo horns.*



THERE ARE MANY INTERESTING MEMENTOES of early days in Alberta scattered around the Old Timers' hut at the Stampede grounds. One of them is a chair which has legs and a back made from buffalo horns. Shown above examining the unusual piece of furniture are Mrs. J. A. Cotton, convener of the daily teas held at the hut, and Mrs. Frederick Vaughan Birch of High River who is Pioneer Daughter of the Year.

Buffalo chair photo taken 1954



**File number:** NA-5627-36

**Title:** Group in front of oldtimers cabin, Calgary Stampede, Calgary, Alberta.

**Date:** [ca. 1925]

(note the cupola of the exhibition building in the background)

*a tent kitchen to the north, with stag horns, elks antlers and moose jaws placed with studied carelessness on the roof*

hut where the bunk will be located.  
A fair-sized kitchen will be constructed on the north side, and will adjoin a twelve foot tent which will be erected at the northeast corner of the hut. Stag horns, elks' antlers and moose jaws will be placed with studied carelessness on the roof and the hut will be complete.  
Thinner Stock Material

14 July 1923

Fireplace of mud and willow

Exact in every detail, down to an old-fashioned mud and willow fireplace and pole bunk, thatched roof of sods and relics of the bygone days decorating the walls, it is a picturesque place.

# Annual Report

## OF THE

### Calgary Industrial Exhibition Company, Limited

For the Year Ended Sept. 30th, 1923.

TO THE SHAREHOLDERS:

Gentlemen:—

The Calgary Exhibition of 1923, held July 9th to 14th, was the most successful in its history. To be able to reverse the deficit of \$25,268 of the past three years to a surplus of \$21,000, after refunding the City of Calgary a loan of \$6,000, as well as refunding \$5,666 for insurance, is a record Calgary citizens are proud of. This achievement is all the more remarkable during adverse financial conditions, and a reduction of \$2,000 in the Alberta Government grant. It is generally recognized that the benefit to Calgary through the encouragement of a spirit of optimism was of untold value to Calgary and Alberta, in addition to the exceptional publicity gained for Alberta and the business brought to the City.

It is not difficult to place the reason for this magnificent showing, apart from the general excellence of the exhibits and the features which we have had annually for a number of years. They may be briefly referred to as follows:—

The decision to include a Stampede programme for Canadian championships, and to use the vaudeville programme at night only, giving a complete change of programme at night, the Stampede features also being different each day.

The unanimous and enthusiastic support of the press, not only of Canada, but of a large number of publications in the United States and Great Britain.

The whole-hearted co-operation of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, the old-timers and stockmen of Western Canada, the donors of special prizes, the Royal Canadian Mounted and City Police, Native Sons, The Hudson's Bay Company, and the citizens and business institutions of Calgary.

Opening with the Stampede parade, the greatest ever held in the West, which gave the week a boost that was noticeable until the closing night.

The Buffalo Barbecue, which proved to be the greatest closing feature of any Calgary Exhibition.

The morning street displays, which turned the city into an old cow town of former years, and which developed into surprising proportions.

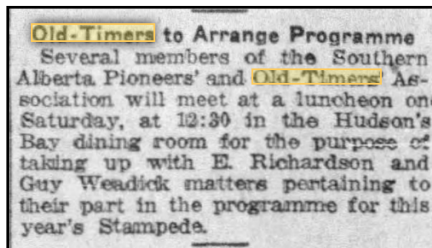
The participation of the Indians, the Hudson's Bay Company's trading post, and the Old Timers' log headquarters.

The opening of the Banff-Windermere Highway.

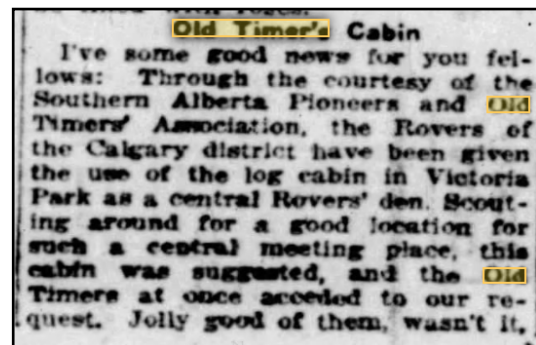
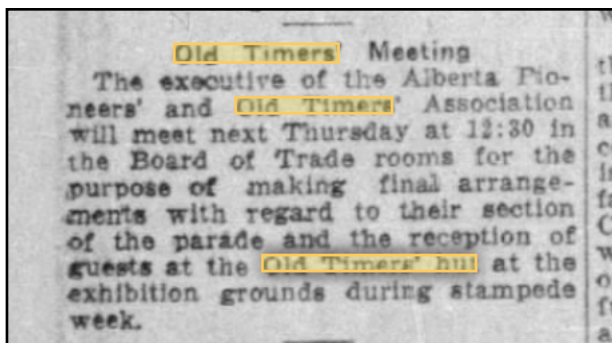
With the above array of special new features, it is little wonder that with the almost perfect weather, the event was an unqualified success. We wish to express our unbounded thanks to those who made this years' success possible. In a number of instances, the services rendered are referred to under the several headings. We also wish to thank the exhibitors, old timers and stock men, the Federal and Provincial Governments, George H. Webster ("Chief Crowfoot"), Mayor of Calgary, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, The City Police Force, the Hudson's Bay Co., the militia, the community clubs, and other organizations, the donors of cash and special prizes, the Directors and Associate Directors, and the staff. We want to especially thank the citizens for their wonderful support and co-operation.

1923 was the most successful exhibition in history.

# 1924



The Old-Timers met again in June with Guy Weadick and Ernie Richardson to talk about their part in the programme for upcoming Stampede



Throughout Stampede week, the Old-Timer's hut was used to receive guests. At others times, it was loaned out to various groups.



This aerial map on the city website is taken in October, 1924. It shows the HBC trading post and the Old Timers hut as being the only permanent structures in the Indian Village. The Industrial Exhibits Building domed roof-top is visible.

1925

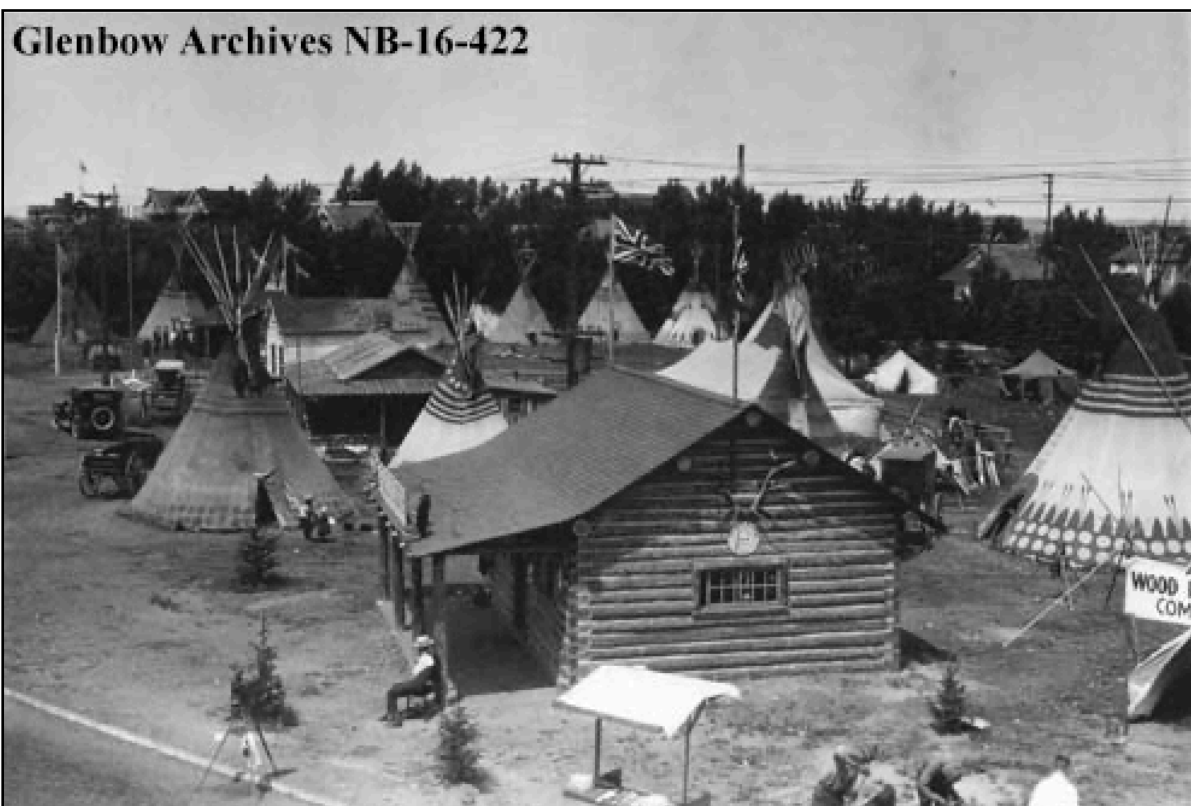
**The Jubilee or the Police Stampede** honouring 50 years since the NWMP had built Fort Calgary

The Old-Timer hut was reroofed for this occasion, upgrading from the sod roof. A small kitchen addition was approved.



JJ McHugh and Lady Lougheed in front of the Old-timers hut in Red River cart.

The NWMP and HBC buildings are in the rear



# 1925



[View Detailed Image](#)

**Image No:** NB-16-422

**Title:** Buildings at the fairgrounds at Victoria Park, Calgary, Alberta.

**Date:** 1925

**Photographer/Illustrator:** Oliver, W.J., Calgary, Alberta

**Remarks:** From front to rear: old timer's hut, Royal Canadian Mounted Police detention hut, Hudson's Bay trading post, **Indian village** in rear.

**Subject(s):** Rodeos / Parks / Royal Canadian Mounted Police - Prisons / Calgary, Alberta - Parks / Hudson's Bay Company - Posts / Log cabins and buildings / Tipis / Victoria Park district, Calgary, Alberta

Although this description has the Old-Timers hut located in the foreground, the roof line and other photos suggest that this building is actually the Post Office Building. This was built in 1925 as the Dominion Forestry Department building. It then became the the Stampede Ranger Station (1925-36) before finally being known as the Post Office Building. It now houses the fudge shop in Weadickville. (The NWMP hut has been moved in from Morley to join the other huts.)



**Indian Village**

**Hudson's Bay Company Trading Post**



**NWMP** (originally from Morley)



**Old-Timers hut**



**The Post Office**

# 1925-1950

The Old-Timers Hut  
or called “ the Shack” or “the Log Cabin”





Walter Birney at the stove in the kitchen attached to the hut.

The visitors gathered in the hut, then went into the tent for tea

Stampede grounds. The visitors gathered in the hut to swap stories and went into a huge tent for a cup of tea. The women sweltered over a hot stove in a tiny kitchen attached to the hut. The hut was later moved to

# 1950's

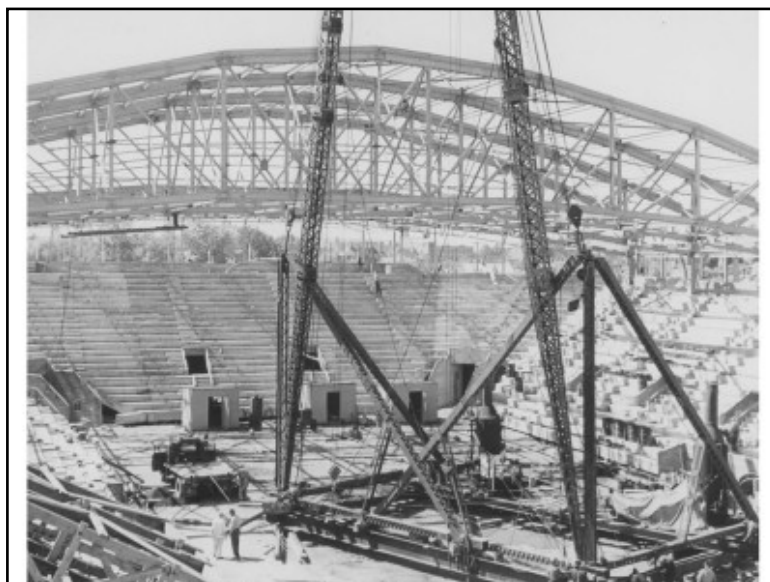
These years were considered the Golden Age of the Stampede. Calgary was booming. It was a time when “big was better and biggest was best”. “Canada’s Greatest Outdoor Pageant” was becoming the Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth.” With the retirement of General Manage Yule in 1951, the new General Manager Maurice Hartnett embarked on a period of careful and successful planning.



The Corral was built in 1950. The huts moved to the new Fort Calgary stockade area to make way for the Corral construction.

The Big Four was opened in 1959

(In 1968 the stampede expanded north of 17th Ave and the original Round-Up Centre was built)



(In 1974 the new larger grandstand was built and repositioned to the south-east corner of the park and the Indian Village relocated to the south)

(In 1983 the Saddledome officially opened)

1950

## The Stockade

Plans were put in place to build a replica of the old 1875 Fort, moving the NWMP, HBC, Old-Timer's and Post Office huts to within the stockade.

for help said Wednesday. (shorter training periods.

### Fort Calgary Will Rise Again

## Old West May Be Reborn For 75th Anniversary

Plans to recreate the spirit and sights of the old West, the pioneer characters and the old habitations, were laid at a meeting of the 75th Anniversary committee of the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede held in Victoria park Wednesday afternoon.

Old Fort Calgary will rise again, in replica, at the Exhibition grounds, the Mounties and trappers will congregate again within its long walls and early settlers, whisky runners and missionaries will be represented in the big Stampede parade planned for this year, Calgary's 75th birthday.

CIVIC, BUSINESS and religious representatives met and heard the plans to celebrate the 75th anniversary during Stampede week, July 10-15, and now all features of the Stampede would be designed to work in with this theme.

The main entrance to the exhibition grounds at 2nd St. E. and 17th Ave. would be rebuilt in the form of a fort stockade with five main entranceways to handle the crowds. Atop the stockade would be a huge neon sign "Calgary's 75th Anniversary."

INSIDE THE grounds the replica of the old fort would be erected with log buildings as are presently on the grounds, such as the R.N.W.M.P. post, The Hudson's Bay Company trading post, the old post office and the old timers' hut, placed inside the fort.

Leishman McNeil and Mervyn Cozart will be in charge of the fort and it was hoped to have the fort manned by people dressed in the authentic costumes of the times and to run off square dancing contests there also.

A large number of Mounted Police probably will be coming to the affair, which celebrates the building of their outpost here in 1875. A 32-man mounted squadron from Regina and a special R.C.M.P. band would be attending and R.C.M.P. Commissioner S. T. Wood has informed the Stampede officials

See Page 14—OLD WEST



new entrance

6 — THE CALGARY HERALD — Tuesday, July 11, 1950

## Old Timers' Hut Renovated For 75th Anniversary Year

An oasis of quiet conversation in the noise and confusion of the Stampede grounds is the Old Timers' Hut, where pioneer Calgarians entertain their relatives and friends all this week. The hut has been re-painted and moved to its new location inside the stockade representing old Fort Calgary, and has received many modern improvements.

But oldtimers don't appreciate this change, for they claim that the fort is not like Calgary's original, though it is typical of many found on the prairies in the early days. They claim that the modern improvements and enlarged kitchen and dining room facilities behind the hut result in a loss of pioneer atmosphere. "It's getting altogether too modern," said Mrs. Jack Barber, one of the ladies helping in the kitchen Monday.

**BUT IN SPITE** of the new surroundings, Monday of Stampede week was still McDougall day at the hut, and descendants and in-laws of John McDougall, pioneer missionary, turned out this week to greet their friends. Many members of the clan still live in or near Calgary, and two of the missionary's daughters, Mrs. Alec Matheson and Mrs. Magnus Begg, are among the few people who recall Calgary's first birthday and its origin 75 years ago.

Mrs. Begg was a special guest at the hut Monday afternoon, and Mrs. Matheson headed the list of those receiving the visitors. She was assisted by Mrs. George Phipps, Mrs. Fred Graham and Mrs. George Ross.

**ANTIQUES**  
Be Sure and Visit  
**Harriet's Antique Shop**  
Where you will find a very large selection of small things suitable for gifts.  
**NO REPRODUCTIONS**  
**HOURS 9 TO 6.**  
**1410 4th St. W. M1577**

1950-54: The Huts were moved inside the stockade. Modern improvements were made with an enlarged kitchen and dining room facilities behind the hut. Not everyone liked the changes. "It's getting altogether too modern."

A log stockade to resemble old Fort Calgary has been constructed just inside the main gates, and the Old Timer's hut, the N.W.M.P. hut and the log post office have been moved inside the structure.

# 1951

Discussions began to build a memorial building perpetuate the memory of the pioneers and to store the archives



The Old-Timers contracted HOBART DOWLER from Pigeon Lake to design and construct the Southern Alberta Pioneer's Memorial Building on the Lindsay site.

Between 1951 and 1954, there was much back and forth between the members with some wanting to build on the Lindsay site, some wanting to stay on the Exhibition site. Since building on the exhibition site would mean turning ownership over to the CE&S, the members decided on the Lindsay site and they received a work permit in March of 1954. The CE&S in turn contracted Dowler to build their own log building within the stockade to replace the shack.

*April 19 1955: At a joint Meeting of the mens and women's group, Mr. Hartnett, manager of the Calgary Exhibition Board, showed the meeting plans drawn up by the Board of a proposed building to be built on the Stampede Grounds which would replace the existing Old Timers' Shack. This new building would be dedicated as a Memorial to the Pioneers and Old Timers of Southern Alberta and would be turned over for the exclusive use of the Old Timers during Stampede week and used by the Exhibition Company for their many activities during the rest of the year. The meeting was unanimous in their approval of the plans, and of the shack to be torn down.*

# 1955

## Golden Jubilee of Alberta

### Agricultural Alberta

By FRED KENNEDY — Agriculture Editor —

## New Pioneers' Log Hut At Exhibition Grounds

### Exhibition Board's Major Contribution to The Golden Jubilee Celebration to Cost \$30,000

The Calgary Exhibition board's major contribution to the Golden Jubilee celebration, will be construction of a new building for use by the Southern Alberta Pioneers and Old Timers Association, within the Fort Calgary stockade at the exhibition grounds, Maurice E. Hartnett, exhibition board manager announced today.

The building, which will be 52 feet by 36 feet and an additional wing 12 by 24 feet, will be constructed of polished logs and will contain a huge living room, kitchen, and washroom facilities for both men and women. This, with other improvements to the stockade will cost in the neighborhood of \$30,000.

Work on the new building is already underway under the supervision of H. E. Dowler of Fish Home Lake, Canada's best known builder of log structures.

The building will be placed at the sole disposal of the old timers during Stampede week, but will be used by the exhibition board for other social and business functions during the year.

ANOTHER NOTABLE addition to the old fort, which is located at the northwest section of the grounds, just off Seventeenth avenue and Second street east, will be the construction of two bastions, 35 feet in height, which will flank the new 32 foot wide gateway on the east side of the stockade.

The bastions will be a faithful reproduction of those used in frontier forts and stairways are being built in so that visitors can reach the top of the bastion and survey the grounds from the walk above. It will make an ideal observation point for Exhibition and Stampede visitors.

The whole interior of the fort is being replanned. The ground around the buildings will be landscaped, and everything possible will be done to transform the historical area into a natural beauty spot.

M. E. Hartnett said that the contract with Mr. Dowler calls for all the work to be completed by July 1, or more than a week ahead of the opening of the 1955 Exhibition and Stampede, scheduled for the week of July 11 to July 16.

*The Exhibition Board's major contribution for the Jubilee exhibition would be the construction of a new building for use of the Southern Alberta Pioneer's Association. The whole of the interior of the fort will be replanned.*

June 3, 1955

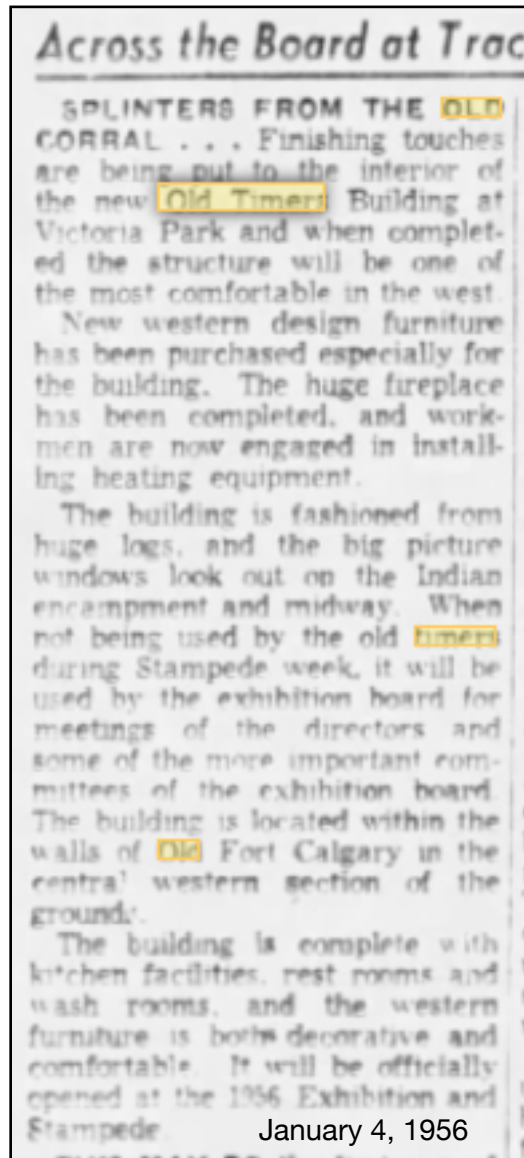
The official opening of the new hut within the stockade was on Monday, July 11, 1955.



Large windows, cloakrooms, washrooms and a modern kitchen made a big change from the old shack.

There was some confusion with the names in 1955. The Old-Timers cabin/hut was used to describe both buildings; the memorial building on the Lindsay site ( which had officially opened on June 8), and the new log cabin within the stockade on the exhibition grounds. Although by 1956 the official name was Fort Calgary House, it was still sometimes called the "New Old Timers Hut" or the log cabin. The Old-Timers preferred to call it the log cabin rather than Fort Calgary House.

Although the official opening was in July of 1955, they were still putting the final touches on the building in January on 1956 and anticipating an official opening in 1956!





The Pioneers gathered every day for tea from 2:00 to 5:00 in Fort Calgary House. The daily features changed throughout the years

Monday: McDougall Day/Director's day

Tuesday Macleod-Pinkham Day/Pioneer day/Past-Presidents Day

Wednesday: City Executive Day/Past President's Day/Country Day/Pioneer Day

Thursday: Country Executive Day/Country Day/Past President's Day/Country and Neighbouring Associations Day

Friday: Pioneer Daughter Day/Pioneer Sons and Daughter Day

Saturday: Pioneer Sons Day, but always **Pancake Day**

1956





3/36 Princess Margaret leaving the Calgary Stampede, July 29, 1958. Princess Margaret visited the Stampede as part of her cross-Canada tour in 1958.

**1958** The Old timers hut, Post Office, NWMP remained prominent features of the Fort Calgary area of the Stampede

1959



Fort Calgary House shown within the Stockade



1960's



## Fort Calgary House 1955-1979



Alison Jackson collection, Calgary Public Library

# 1978- Fort Calgary

Initial plans to build a reenactment of the original Fort Calgary at the confluence of the Bow and Elbow consider the restoration and relocation of Fort Calgary House, but in the end, a newer version of the original fort will be built at that site, and opened as an interpretive centre in 1978.



# 1979

Fort Calgary House has to make way for the LRT and hosts its last Stampede in 1979. It was feared the LRT would go through the fireplace.

The replacement structure would have to change names to avoid confusion with the newly developing Fort Calgary site at the confluence.

Will be called **ROTARY HOUSE** in recognition of a \$200,000 donation towards its construction.

The interior was furnished by the Southern Alberta Pioneers with artifacts on loan to the stampede



**CALGARY STAMPEDE'S  
FORT CALGARY HOUSE  
FOR SALE**

Tenders will be received until 4:00 p.m., April 3, 1979, for the purchase and removal from Stampede Park of Fort Calgary House. Fort Calgary House is a solid log structure approximately 3,000 sq. ft. and is 15 years old. All permanent fixtures are included.

Direct tenders to:  
The Construction Department  
Stampede Park,  
Box 1060,  
Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2K8

Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

## LRT will shave Fort Calgary House

Fort Calgary House has seen its last Stampede.

The 25-year-old structure surrounded by palisades in the northwest corner of the grounds — not to be confused with historical Fort Calgary by the Bow and Elbow Rivers — has to go to make way for LRT, said the Stampede's construction manager Friday.

LRT tracks shaving off the Stampede grounds northwest corner also means the palisade-style entrance gates, the old post office and the North West Mounted Police post have to be relocated, said Howard Engstrom.

Fort Calgary will be replaced by a similar lodgepole pine cabin — the old design plus an addition — which will be built on a location nearby in the grounds for \$379,000.

The Stampede wanted a bigger building. It was just as feasible to build a new one as it was to move and put an addition on the old one, Engstrom said.

To dispel confusion over the name Fort Calgary, the new structure will be called Rotary House in honor of the service organization donating \$200,000 towards its construction. The area around it will be called Pioneer Village.

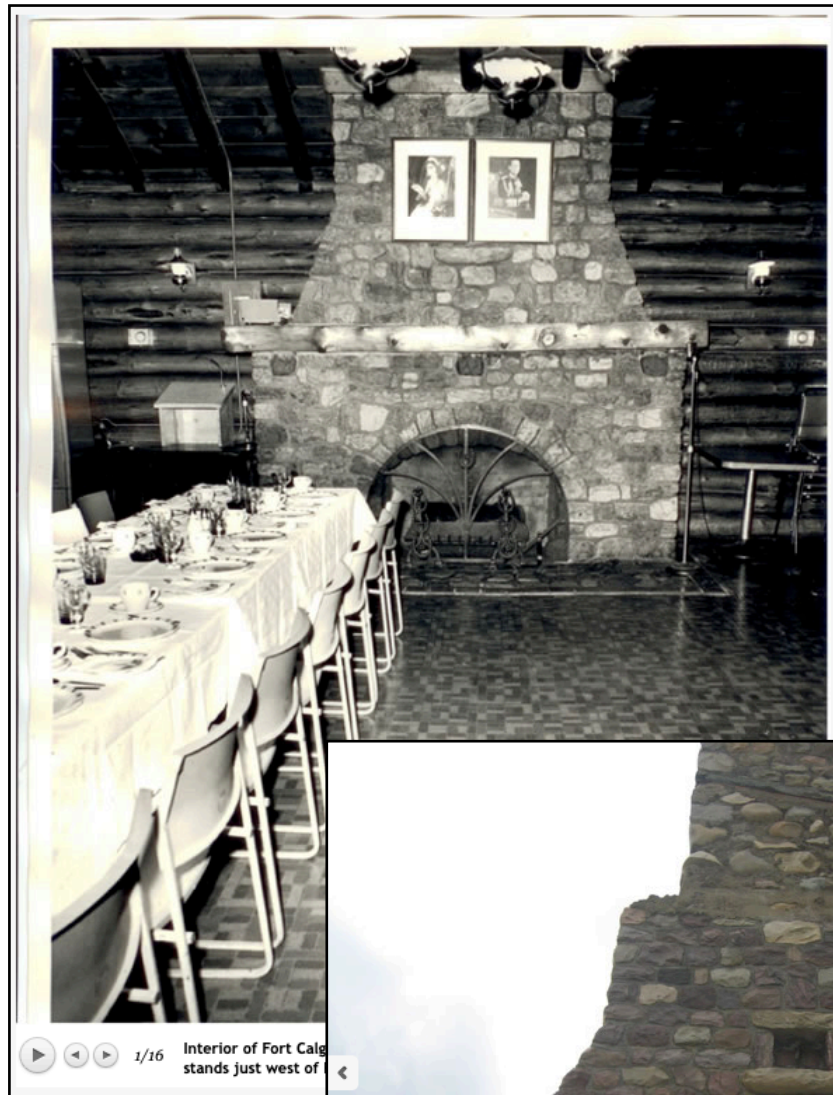
Fort Calgary is largely used for private functions such as company parties, weddings and service club meetings.

Liquor regulations only allow a capacity of 110 people in the current structure. That's just "too small" for the organizations that use it, Engstrom said. The new building will hold 180.

1979 July 7

# Fort Calgary House

## The Chimney





When I responded to the inquiry about the chimney, it was a relief that the wording on the plaque was a bit ambiguous and I could reply with an equally ambiguous agreement until more details were unearthed.

There **was** a log cabin erected in 1923 and that cabin **was** on the original Exhibition Grounds, although the exact location was further to the east

Along with the Hudson's Bay Company trading post, the original shack formed the beginnings of a pioneer town alongside the Indian Village. By 1925, these were joined by the NWMP building had been brought in from Morley and the Dominion Forestry Building (which would become known as the Post Office Building),

Charles Jackson oversaw the construction of the sod roof hut. The fireplace was constructed of mud and willows and had a mud mantel shelf on which a stuffed badger was placed.

In 1925, for the Jubilee anniversary of Fort Calgary and the arrival of the NWMP, the hut was re-roofed and a small kitchen attached.

In 1950, the huts were moved over to the newly built Fort Calgary stockade in the NW corner of the grounds.

In 1955, for the Provincial Jubilee, the shack was torn down and replaced by a Dowler built log structure. Fort Calgary House would be the Stampede Week home of the Old-Timers for 25 years. This same year the Memorial Building was constructed. Since we know that Hobart Dowler built the fireplace in the Memorial Building, we would assume he built this new fireplace as well.

In 1979 the LRT was built and Fort Calgary House was sold and moved off, leaving the fireplace. It has been understood that the building moved to a farm east of Calgary.

The present chimney appears to be in the identical spot as when it was in Fort Calgary House and is marked by the plaque. Perhaps we can do a correction but why let the truth get in a way of a good story?

This Fireplace was part of a Log Cabin. A Log Cabin was constructed in 1925 on the original exhibition grounds by the Southern Alberta Pioneers



In front of the Oldtimers' hut built at the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede, Calgary, Alberta.



Digital Identifier: NB-16-411

Creator: Oliver, W.J., Calgary, Alberta

People: Armstrong, Robert; Boyd, Elizabeth; Costello, Michael C.; Hutchings, R. J.; Linton, James; Lougheed, Lady J.; McDougall, Mrs. David; McDougall, Mrs. John; McHugh, J. J.; Millar, Mrs. Malcolm T.; Muir, James; Thomas, Mrs. R. C.; Thomas, R. C.; Shaw, Mrs.

