



SOUTHERN ALBERTA PIONEERS AND THEIR DESCENDANTS

Southern Alberta Pioneers Memorial Building • 3625 4th Street SW Calgary Alberta T2S 1Y3 • Phone 403-243-3580

Vol. 57 No. 1

Website: www.pioneersalberta.org

E mail: sap.office@pioneersalberta.org

October 2024



Dexter Nelson
President 2023-2024

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I present my last SAPD report.

EXTREMELY URGENT!

Having volunteers is critical for our organization's future. The successful continuation of SAPD raises an urgent call for members to volunteer for one of the following important positions:

- 1. Secretary**
- 2. Social Committee Chair**
- 3. Male 2-year Director**
- 4. PR and Communication Chair**

You could be perfect for this, so please contact SAPD at president@pioneersalberta.org or volunteer@pioneersalberta.org.

President's Message

Summary of a great year

You will appreciate that July in particular and August are busy times for the SAPD.

July 5th to the 14th - The Historical Display at the Calgary Stampede Angie Boyes and Alan Lynas

The SAPD has had a display at the Stampede since 1999. It has evolved over time and, since 2004, we have drawn from the SAPD's archives of 1000+ digitized photos of historical significance.

I had the pleasure of volunteering to host the photo display for one of the volunteer time slots. We were located in a corner of the New BMO Centre with the Calgary Stampede Historical Committee Display beside us. People were generally curious about Calgary and Southern Alberta History. The picture of Calgary from over 100 years ago and the one 100 years later consistently drew people's attention. To see these changes and to be able to locate key locations was quite riveting. My compliments to the volunteers

who consistently do a great job organizing this display.

July 5th - The Stampede Parade Sandy Pedlar

Yearly, the SAPD have participated in the Stampede Parade since its beginning in 1912. I had the privilege of riding in an authentic eight-seat Surrey. Jim Long from Stettler (Long's Horse-Drawn Carriage Services) provided two wonderful horses to safely take us along the parade route.

Wendy Thon and Jane Newbold escorted us. Their hooping, hollering, and ye-hawing really got the folks along the parade route hooping, hollering, and ye-hawing back.

SAPD's Pioneer Lady and Gentleman were also part of the sully ride. For 2024, the **Pioneer Lady** is Leanne Bateman, and the **Pioneer Gent** is Neil Brown. Both were accompanied by their spouses.

Sandy Pedlar (Chair for the SAPD Parade Committee) and her grandson were also part of the ride.

Continued on next page

July 6th - The Annual Stampede BBQ Dylan Viste

Compliments to Dylan and all the volunteers who made the Annual Stampede BBQ a success. Well over 100 people participated and the food provided was excellent.

We had two sponsors for this event: [Matt Livingstone from Village Brewery](#) and Martin Ginson from [Eau Claire Distillery](#). As you can see, we chose to source products from businesses who represent the very best in local products and services. Thanks to Matt and Martin.

By the way, Dylan provided us with his singing and musical talent, which was enjoyed by all.



Above: Stampede Royalty were also in attendance: Margaret Holloway (First Nations Princess) and Brooke Fielding (Stampede Princess).

Photo credit - Russell Moore

We always appreciate our relationship with the Calgary Stampede and their generous sharing of their Royalty.

July 8th - Pioneer Tea at the Memorial Building Pamela Hilton

My compliments to Pamela for organizing a great group of volunteers who hosted our Annual Pioneer Tea at the Memorial Building. There was an excellent turn out of "Pioneers" and we again had the privilege of having Margaret Holloway and Brooke Fielding attend.

I would like to take a moment to compliment the Calgary Stampede for their choice of selecting these two young ladies! They could not have

picked better roll models. If they were my granddaughters, I couldn't have been more proud.

July 13th - The Stampede Breakfast Steve Foote and Jeff Hill

Flap Jacks, sausages, fruit salad plus coffee and refreshments were served to a bumper crowd. Thanks again to everyone for working so hard to make this successful. I see great value hosting an event that brings in members and local neighbours to develop and maintain excellent community relations. As I remember, Russell Moore entertained us with some great Country and Western tunes.

Aug 6th and 7th - SAPD Elbow River Casino Gene Blakley

The financial resilience of the SAPD is partly dependent on fundraising. Gene Blakley deserves credit for organizing an outstanding group of volunteers for the two days. I have not heard the final tally, but generally we receive over \$70K from each Casino.

The Final Months of 2024

My tenure as President will end at the upcoming **AGM on October 19th**. Russell Moore is the incoming President, and we all support him in this leadership position.

And please don't forget the **Annual Round Up** at the Palliser Hotel on **November 2nd**.

This wraps up my SAPD report and I want to thank everyone for making this another successful year.

Rideau Pharmacy

TIM HEATON
B.Sc. Pharm. M.Sc.



1711 - 4th STREET S.W.
CALGARY, ALBERTA T2S 1V8
PHONE: (403) 228-5067 OR (403) 228-7065
FAX: (403) 228-5068

Social Events

NOTE: SAPD Social Events are for SAPD Members and Invited Guests only

Pioneer Memorial Building Christmas Decorating

Please join us on November 26* at 10:00 am to decorate the Memorial Building and get an early start at commencing the Christmas Spirit! Extra hands always make this a fun and festive time. *Note: date may change.

July 6 Stampede Barbecue by Dylan Viste

Our annual Stampede Barbecue had great weather and our 140 guests said they had a wonderful time. The number of guests was a bit below last year. We had amazing food, fun prizes, live music and even a line-dance lesson. The stampede royalty were in attendance (see photo on page 2) and they spoke about their own family history in Alberta and ways to keep tradition alive. We managed to stay within our expected budget for this event. Our warm thanks to the many volunteers who made this event happen and made this day special for us.

Christmas Luncheon

Join us for a traditional Christmas meal at the Memorial Building on November 30 at noon.

Decoration Removal

Thanks for coming back to take down the building decorations on January 5 at 10:00 am.



Photo credit - Russell Moore

July 8 Pioneer Tea

by Pamela Hilton

It was a very beautiful stampede morning when we gathered to enjoy the 2024 Pioneer Tea at our Memorial building. We had a blast sharing the good times with fellow Pioneer descendants and friends.



It takes a small village to put this tea on and I send a huge thank you to the wonderful volunteers who set up the tables, decorated them with lovely blue and gold

centerpieces, made sandwiches, cut and plated the delicious repast, made tea and coffee, served guests, and washed the numerous plates, cups and utensils as part of dismantling the room after the tea. I am so grateful to call each and every one of these people my friends and family.

The tea had fewer guests than previous teas, which we have been celebrating for more than a 100 years as a nod to our Pioneer forefathers who enjoyed the comradery of a break during the first part of July.

This get together was traditionally held on the Stampede Grounds in the Shack, and later in the Rotary House building when the Shack was demolished leaving only the stone fireplace, which is still visible today. What grand stories could be shared if those stones could talk.

President Dexter Nelson was there to welcome us and we were pleased to have the Stampede Princess, Brooke Fielding, and the First Nations Princess, Margaret Holloway, join us (see photo on page 2). Both spoke of their past and present duties during the year of their reign. Thank you Royalty and entourage.

SAPD's Historical Committee led by Alan Lynas set up a display of photos in the lower level, which was very much enjoyed by the group.

Membership Report

by Sharon Hoiland, Membership Secretary

Membership update since the last newsletter.

Welcome Back to Returning Descendant Member

- ◆ Margaret A. Glasford - Descendant of William G. & Nellie Hutchison, 1886 (Paternal), George E. & Mary E. Glasford, 1888 (Maternal)

New Gold Card Members

Gold Cards are given to SAPD Members when they turn 80.

- ◆ Ric Arthurs
- ◆ Ron Moore

In Memorial

- ◆ Jim McDonald
- ◆ Karen Nelson
- ◆ Moyra Ferguson



Membership Dues

The 2024 SAPD Membership Fee is \$40/annually.

For the 59 members who have not yet paid for their 2024 Membership, there are **two ways to catch up:**

1. Send your cheque to: SAPD, 3625 - 4 Street SW, Calgary, Alberta T2S 1Y3 Attn: Membership.
2. Send an e-transfer to membership@pioneersalberta.org, which is auto-deposited (i.e., no security questions/answers needed)

Please write the names of those members for whom the fees are being paid either on your cheque or in the message space in the e-transfer.

**Thank you to everyone who have paid their Membership Fee for 2024.
Only paid members can participate at the AGM (e.g., vote, nominate).**

Please notify any member of the Membership Committee of member deaths, changes to mailing or email addresses or to phone numbers. We can be reached at membership@pioneersalberta.org.

The current membership committee includes:

- ◆ Sharon Hoiland (Chair and Membership Secretary)
- ◆ Joan Christianson (Telephone Tree)
- ◆ Lynne Marquess (Cards and Remembering)
- ◆ Megan Ballard (Administration) and
- ◆ Maureen Peckham (Guidance and Wisdom)

If you are interested in joining the committee, have ideas or have time to volunteer, please contact Sharon at membership@pioneersalberta.org

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS AS AT AUG. 31, 2024

- ◇ Descendant members – 245 with 48 in arrears
- ◇ Descendant Gold Card – 115
- ◇ Associate members – 33 with 5 in arrears
- ◇ Associate Gold Card – 28
- ◇ Friend members – 20 with 6 in arrears
- ◇ Honorary members – 5

Total: 446

Successful Casino—Faithful Convener

by Gene Blakley

Once again, our involvement in a Casino has contributed a generous amount to our bank account. Let me voice my greatest appreciation to everyone who helped out on those two days. But I am stepping down now, which opens up a chance for another SAPD member to convene the next casino in about 22 months. I will gladly shadow and consult to make the changeover as seamless as possible. Contact SAPD at volunteer@pioneersalberta.org.

The SAPD Board of Directors extend their sincere thanks to Gene for the many years he faithfully convened the Casino Fundraisers.

SOUTHERN ALBERTA PIONEERS'
and THEIR DESCENDANTS



Annual General Meeting

Saturday, October 19, 2024 at the Memorial Building
Lunch commencing at 12:00 PM. Meeting follows at 1:00 PM
Presiding: Dexter Nelson, President 2023-2024

AGENDA

1. Lunch served courtesy of Karen Clark
2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held October 14, 2023*
3. Business arising from the minutes
4. President's Report — Dexter Nelson
5. Treasurer's Report — Brian Rogers
6. Membership Report — Sharon Hoiland
7. Committee Reports
8. Election of the SAPD Board of Directors for 2024 - 2025

URGENT CALL TO FILL THE FOLLOWING BOARD POSITIONS:

- 1. Secretary**
 - 2. Male 2-year Director**
9. Introduction of the Incoming President — Russell Moore
 10. Incoming President's Remarks
 11. Motion to Adjourn

The Southern Alberta Pioneers' Foundation meeting will follow the SAPD's AGM to appoint Directors to the Foundation Board.

There will be an early-bird draw at the 2024 AGM for the Fairmont Door Prize that will be awarded at the Round Up.

*All members are encouraged to attend the Annual General Meeting. Members must be in **good standing and not in default of their fees** in order to attend.

If you wish to renew an inactive membership, a renewal table will be set at the AGM; it will close at the commencement of the meeting (1pm) – or – Memberships can be renewed as directed on our webpage at <http://pioneersalberta.org/dues.html> in advance of the meeting. For more information, please contact Sharon Hoiland, Membership Secretary, at membership@pioneersalberta.org.



102nd Annual Round-Up Dinner & Silent Auction

Saturday, November 2, 2024 at the Palliser Hotel

The theme this year is “Glitz and Glamour.” Step into a night of elegance where sparkling lights meet timeless sophistication. Whether you choose to dazzle in your finest attire or come as you are, every moment is a celebration.

- ◆ Tickets are \$105:
 - ◇ The non-refundable tickets must be purchased **by Monday, October 21** in one of three possible ways:
 - Drop a cheque off at the Memorial Building **OR**
 - Mail to: SAPD Memorial Building
3625—4 St. SW, Calgary, AB T2S 1Y3
Attention: Dexter Nelson
 - E-transfer to
membership@pioneersalberta.org
E-transfers are set to auto-deposit
 - ◇ When you purchase tickets, tell us the names of who the tickets are for in an email or enclosed note, and state your seating and/or meal preferences, dietary restrictions, or allergies
 - ◇ Tickets will be picked up at the RoundUp
- ◆ 5:30 pm Cocktails
- ◆ 6:30 pm Dinner
- ◆ Post-dinner: Introductions and Speeches
- ◆ Silent Auction
 - ◇ We are counting on members to find or be Donors or Corporate Sponsors for Silent Auction items
 - ◇ When arranged, contact Dexter Nelson in advance at president@pioneersalberta.org
 - ◇ **Corporate Sponsor donations must be made to the Southern Alberta Pioneers FOUNDATION to be eligible for an Income Tax Receipt**
- ◆ 8:30ish pm: Stick around to dance to the music of Jana & Danny

President's Announcements:

1. We are always looking for extra volunteers to help run this event. Email me at president@pioneersalberta.org to say we can count on your help.
2. Two guests at the AGM will have won the Early Bird Draw to end the night with a stay at the Fairmont Palliser.

Following the Round-Up, consider staying the night at the *Fairmont*
PALLISER

The SAPD has a century-old relationship with the Fairmont Palliser Hotel. Once again, this historical downtown Hotel is pleased to give guests to the SAPD Round-Up a special guestroom reservation rate for the night of Nov. 2, 2024. It's important to book your reservation through this link.

<https://book.passkey.com/go/SOUTH1124>



Fairmont Palliser Hotel, 133-9th Avenue S.W. Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2P 2M3

2024 Speaker Series

October 16
7 - 8:30 pm

Doug Coats
Calgary's Railway Story

November 20
7 - 8:30 pm

George Edworthy
The Man, The Park & Moore

Memorial Building

This free event is
open to all

Limited seating

Reserve a spot by clicking
on the SAPD Logo



History Committee Report

by Alan Lynas

We have had a busy summer even though we didn't meet on our usual Monday mornings at the Memorial Building.

The largest event for the Southern Alberta Pioneers (SAPD) was the Calgary Stampede display.

As in previous years, we were positioned in the Western Showcase area next to the Calgary Stampede Historical Committee display. SAPD's theme this year was changing technology over the years. Our most popular display was a panorama of downtown Calgary, comparing the early 1900s to modern day Calgary. Special thanks to those who volunteered to man the booth.

2025 will be the 150th anniversary of the founding of Calgary with the arrival of the NWMP. This will be our obvious theme for next year and we will be highlighting the event in our displays at the Memorial Building as well as in our displays at various events.

Our other major display event this summer was the [Priddis-Millarville Fall Fair](#) in mid-August, which was a success. We were a complementary display to the Millarville Historical display. It is always fun to share an event with likeminded people. Special thanks to Marcel Hebert, Angela Boyes and Russell Moore for their support at this event.

On a personal note, I enjoy this event. Where else would I get a chance to witness a rooster crowing contest?



© Memo Angeles, Vecteezy

For those of you who follow this event, the winner was the smallest entrant, and he was the repeat winner from last year. Another example of proof that size doesn't matter.

Calgary History Week in late July and early August saw Calgarians invited to learn the history of the Southern Alberta Pioneers and Descendants Association as presented by Kathleen Rogers. Special mention to members of our historical committee who made independent presentations. Thank you, Manfred Baum and Doug Coats.

An event that we participated in this year for the first time was the Lilac Festival on 4th Street in Calgary in June. Organizers estimated that over 200,000 visitors strolled down 4th Street. Marcel Hebert and I remained busy talking to visitors. Our attendance was well worth the effort and will be repeated.

In late May we completed our Speakers Series and plans are in place for a similar series for next year.

Finally, the History Committee returned to its regular Monday meetings on September 1st. Members are welcome to sit in.

Southern Alberta Pioneer Fund Now Active!

by Shawn Hendry, Past President & Fundraising Committee Chair and Brian Rogers, Treasurer

Exciting news!!! Our new Southern Alberta Pioneers Fund with the Calgary Foundation that we introduced to you in the last newsletter is now active. This Fund will provide an additional annual revenue stream to cover the Memorial Building expenses.

Information sessions were held on June 17 and June 20, 2024, at the Memorial Building with approximately 25 people in attendance. Calgary Foundation staff gave a presentation and answered questions on their history with supporting charities using Endowment Funds.

Also in June, the Board unanimously approved opening the fund with a \$10,000 deposit from the Southern Alberta Pioneers and their Descendants Investment Account, which was built up over many years of fundraising efforts including the two Pioneer Kitchen Cookbooks. It is the start of growing the fund to our target of \$100,000.

For those who are interested in this important initiative, tax deductible donations are easy to make using a cheque or by going online.

1. Write a cheque payable to **Calgary Foundation** and include the Fund name (**Southern Alberta Pioneers Fund**) in the memo of the cheque or in an attached note. Then mail it to the Calgary Foundation office at #1180 - 105 12 Ave SE, Calgary, AB, T2G 1A1.

The Calgary Foundation will send a tax receipt to you. If you prefer, drop off the cheque at the Memorial Building to the Attention of Brian Rogers, who will track and forward to the Calgary Foundation.

2. Make an online donation straight to the Fund by visiting calgaryfoundation.org, clicking "Donate" at the top right, then selecting "Donate to an Existing Fund". Then search for the Fund name "**Southern Alberta Pioneers Fund**" and make a credit card donation directly to the fund. You will receive a tax receipt from Calgary Foundation.

If you would like assistance in identifying our Fund or would like to make a gift of publicly listed securities, please call the Calgary Foundation at Tel: 403-802-7700, and they will be happy to help.

Thank you for your continued support with this initiative; it will reduce our reliance on external revenue to maintain the Memorial Building in tip-top shape.

Glen Godlonton 403.829.9500	
For a list of <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recent sale prices• Low down payment properties• All in your neighbourhood, <i>Please call me</i>	Proud member of the Southern Alberta Pioneers <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Native Calgarian• Free in-home appraisal• No pressure assistance, whether you are buying or selling a home 
	www.Godlonton.com Glen@Godlonton.com
Experience Makes the Difference.  CIR REALTY	



COULD YOU DONATE A WAGON WHEEL OR 2?

Gabrielle really would like to make the memorial building even more beautiful and she thought some wagon wheels that are still intact would make great decorations around the building.

So we are asking our members to consider rehoming 1, 2 or more wagon wheels if you have them. Contact SAPD at 403-243-3580 or sap.office@pioneersalberta.org

James Abel Hornby

by Margaret Buckley, Granddaughter
June 10, 2024

James Abel Hornby (Jim) was born on February 28, 1861, in Springfield, Ontario. He was the son of Mark Homby who came to Canada from Lincolnshire, England around 1840. His mother was Jemima (Biggar) Homby, a member of a United Loyalist family.

His education came from a farm school and he learned the carpenter trade with his Uncle Amos Biggar by reading books.

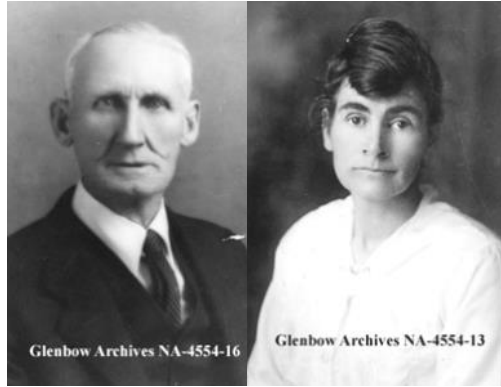
Jim always wanted to come out west, so a neighbour bought him a ticket to Calgary and put him on the train, with his carpenter tools. He arrived in Calgary in 1886 at the age of 25 years. Upon recovering from typhoid fever and he worked for Thomas Underwood as foreman in the construction business.

After 10 years with Underwood, Jim established his own firm. His jobs included bridging the Bow River at Center Street, which had been demolished by a flood. Jim built a steel and wood water-level crossing in 1897. Unfortunately, in 1915, the river swept it away leaving the almost completed "lion" concrete bridge that we know today.

In 1890, Annie Isabel MacRae came west. Annie's mother ran a boarding house and Annie was one of Calgary's first telephone operators. Annie's father died of tuberculosis.

On June 24, 1896, James married Annie in the house he had built at [1209 1st Street East](#). In 1910, Jim built another house at 124 - 15th Ave. N.W. where he and Annie raised a family of eight children.

Jim entered civic politics and successfully represented Ward 3 on



James Abel Hornby [ca. 1930s] (CU1125899),
Annie Isabel Hornby [ca. 1920-1922] (CU1125895)
Courtesy of Glenbow Library and Archives
Collection, Libraries and Cultural Resources
Digital Collections, University of Calgary

Council from 1901 to 1904. In 1905 and 1908, he had two unsuccessful runs for mayor, so he went back to being an alderman, a role in which he was very effective. He served the city for 15 years, 13 consecutively.

In 1904, Jim visited a number of eastern cities to study their sidewalk construction. He returned with the firm opinion that downtown Calgary should have sidewalks three to 3½-metres wide and to use cement sidewalks in place of the rickety two and three plank mud-puddlers that were in place at the time.

Another contributions to the city's progress had to do with the growing "family" of street subways beneath the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. As Chairman of the Board of Public Works, Jim led the group through a jungle of rights, releases and concessions resulting in an amicable settlement between Calgary and the railway.

In 1906 or 1907, Jim and his friend Jack Townsend bought a farm at Beddington. After spending a very harsh winter in a tent, Jack decided to sell his share and Jim bought it in his wife's name. The farm was

located two miles from Beddington Station. After building a house and barn, the family started using it in 1909. The three oldest children started school in the Beddington school house.

In 1908, Jim retired from contracting to be an insurance adjuster and valuator for E.A. Lilly. He also served on the Hospital Board for six years.

Prior to 1914, Jim was a director of the Calgary Exhibition Company, served terms of office on several boards in connection with the city, and was member and chairman of the Board of Revision for many years. He had plans to give up his interests in Calgary and retire to the farm as soon as he could, but this dream did not happen until he was 70 years old.

Jim's good friend Bob Edwards, of the Eye Opener newspaper, gave him the nickname of "Sunny Jim". Carriers of the Eye Opener would open a house's front door and throw the paper onto the front hall floor. But Annie was a staunch member of the Suffragettes and thus would not touch that paper as Bob Edwards was a drinker of alcohol. She even made her children walk around the paper lying on the floor, never touching it until Jim came home and rescued it.

He was also a close associate of W.M Davidson, former owner of the Albertan newspaper.

In 1944, James A. Hornby passed away in Calgary at the age of 83, predeceased by his son John in 1901, his daughter Joy in 1919, and his wife Annie in 1927. At the time, he was survived by six daughters and two sons, and 23 grandchildren.

Snippets of an Interview with George Edworthy

Submitted by Jean Stewart
Edited for space by Val McKinney

My parents were Myrle and George E. Edworthy. My birthplace was my parents' bedroom on the evening of March 24, 1933. My first recollection was of a wicker pram and my mother's and dad's beautiful faces. I grew up in a four-bedroom, 1^{1/2} bathroom home that was designed by my father in 1928 and built beside a triangular park in Scarborough. The two-story Scarborough district house is listed in the Historical Calgary Index.

My parents were fantastic to me and my older brother Jack. The Great Depression was almost over when I was born in 1933. Despite the challenges in the war years, the social climate made things very favorable for us both and we lacked for nothing. Dad could even afford maids for Mother.

My father, George E, was very active at Scarborough United Church as were Jack and I with Sunday school and Young People. At age 40, my father became manager of the Western Division of the United Grain Growers.

Jack and I had lots of jobs and responsibilities at home. We did domestic chores (e.g., making our bed, washing dishes and floors, picking up our toys), we tidied the basement and kept the garage floor free of mud and grime. And we fed the dog and cleaned up his messes.

During the day, we played outside on our own; a whistle was blown when it was time to come in at night.

Grade one I took from Montessori when I was five years old. Sunalta School, which is only a few blocks away from home, is where I went from grades two to nine. I had several great teachers and made many lifelong friends.

A vision problem made school more difficult for me, particularly affecting visualizing or seeing instructions, and spelling. Although it created a learning problem, I did graduate from grade nine. The problem was not detected and corrected until I earned a Dr. of Optometry degree in 1961.

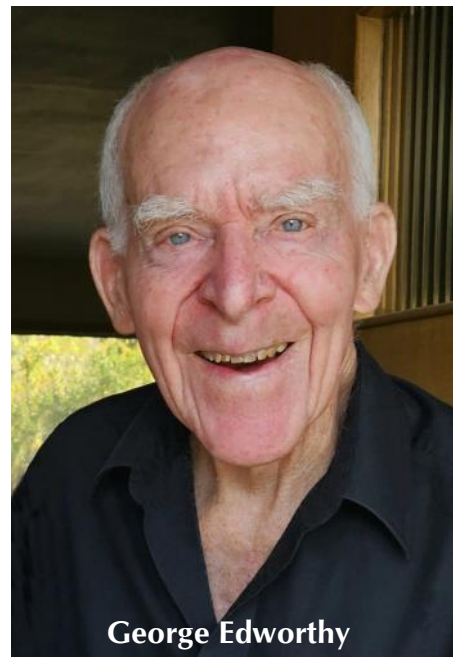
Western Canada High was my high school where I joined a fraternity, played football with the junior and senior teams, and won a trophy as all-star centre for the senior team in 1949. In the winter, I played hockey with the Buffalo league from midget through to junior. We played in the Corral at Stampede Park and practiced in the old hockey arena in what is now Eau Claire.

Several from my grade 12 class took engineering in Edmonton, so I followed along, forgetting about my learning disability!!! I knew at Christmas that I was in trouble.

My uncle, Art Livingston, a bachelor, was a grandson of the famous Sam Livingston, and had homesteaded at North Pine east of Fort St John, BC. When he passed away in December 1951, he left his ranch and holdings to my brother Jack and me. This was my way out of a difficult life decision: I would become a rancher and farmer!! Believe it or not, I survived without someone killing me or my stupidity killing me.

One problem though; I had been going steady with a girl, Bonnie Bickell, since grade eleven and here I was going to be a farmer in British Columbia, 1000 miles N at that time.

Bonnie Jean Bickell was my partner of 60 years. I first admired her in grade 10 at Western High School. She was a sorority girl, very popular, ran for Miss Western and was active in the drama club and other activities.



George Edworthy

Photo credit - Russell Moore

In grade 11, after geometry class, I got up the nerve to ask Bonnie for a date the next Saturday. We went to a movie at the Grand Theatre in my new-to-me 1929 Essex, which I had recently purchased for \$100.

We could go to basketball games at each of four high schools in those days and Sateen dances often on the weekend. Bonnie and I got engaged at seventeen but did not tell our parents, which did create some problems eventually.

In 1951, while I was at the farm at North Pine, I grew a red beard. But Bonnie would not have anything to do with me until I shaved off the beard and a mustache. I finally got a kiss and a squeeze.

When I came back to Calgary, I got a job at the Calgary Stampede working in the center field getting the stock ready to go into the chutes. This was most exciting and a job that I really enjoyed.

Bonnie and I were married on February 7, 1952. We stayed in my folk's apartment on 17 Avenue until we could head to the farm at North Pine, BC. We purchased a used two-

ton GMC truck with a grain box. Boy, was I a happy camper and we started loading it with all we needed to take to North Pine: a wood stove, an ice refrigerator, curtains or material to make them, paint, toilet paper for the two-seater out back, etc.

In those days, there were corrugated roads in northern Alberta, which were logs in the muskeg so you could drive without getting bogged down. In Fort St. John, the local roads were under several feet of packed snow. Rural traffic was by team and sleigh.

We drove the truck with chains on until we hooked a team of horses in front of the truck, cut the fence and forged our way across the quarter section of the home quarter. Still, we got stuck many times.

We were certainly neophytes, living in the boondocks with no facilities apart from sixteen batteries and a Delco light plant in the dugout basement. Our 12-foot-square icehouse had walls about two feet thick. It needed sawdust to cover and insulate the ice, which was cut off the Peace River in the winter. Then there was the two holer out back with the old Sears catalog as paper. Bonnie made short work of that with paint and new tissue!

After summer passed, we went back to Calgary, rented a basement suite on Broadview Road, and I got a job with the Alberta Wheat Pool as a ledger keeper.

Bonnie got pregnant and was due in April, but I had to leave her in my parents' care even though my dad,

George E, had a serious heart attack and almost died.

Bonnie delivered Jason Thomas, our first born, while I was in BC at the farm! When Jason caught a bad cold, we had to take him to and leave him at the hospital in Pouce Coupe, seventy miles away, for a week. Bonnie cried the whole time, and wanted to go back to civilization. We sold the farm for a pittance.

That fall I worked in Dawson Creek at the United Grain Growers grain elevator as second man, learning the trade, shoveling, and loading railway cars. The winter in Dawson was very cold: -60F. Our wee house behind Aspol Motors was a condemned company house with a pot belly stove in the living room and bedroom. Inside, things froze to the wall.

Once we moved back to Calgary, I got a job as the agent of an elevator in Hanna, and Bonnie was again pregnant. But our new baby girl had a heart defect and only lived for three months. Her death compromised Bonnie's immune system and she got infected with polio while we were visiting friends in the Peace River district. So Jason and I had to be quarantined too.

We had our second son, Gene, in 1958, and were thrilled that Bonnie could conceive and deliver another baby after her polio. In 1960, our daughter, Georgeanne, was born, and our life was complete.

In the 60's and 70's, I was elected to the Stampede Committee. I got to sit in the Judges' stand with the famous voice of Warren Cooper to

time events. I timed the chuckwagon races at night with the celebrated announcer Joe Carberry.

When I was accepted in pre-Optometry at Pacific, we lived in an apartment on Sunset Drive in Forest Grove, Oregon. This is where I got visual therapy. In 1961, I graduated with my Dr. degree with honours, and Bonnie with a PHT, *putting hubby through*.

In 1965, I became president of the Calgary Society of Optometrists, and in 1988, I manage the eye care for the athletes during the Olympics in Calgary. My son, Dr Gene, Dr. of Optometry, took over the practice in 1989 after the Olympics.

Antique cars have always been a big part of my life, but my hobby created a car inventory problem, which created a parking problem! We had a company build a 40x80 foot Quonset in the field. It could store most of my fifteen cars.

In 1990, the provincial government decided to build a ring road around Calgary. Our land was at the west end of this road. So we sold our land and then rented it back from the government.

Bonnie passed away in 2011. I had a stroke in 2015 and was no longer able to perform my duties as a Dr. of Optometry. My optical career spanned 55 wonderful years.

Onto a new life and another very good happening for an old guy! In 2017, I met Georgia Jacques, a widow, at Woodcliff United Church. She sat beside me for coffee after church and that started a romance that still exists. "WOW," I said to myself "I want to get to know her!"

And I did. Georgia was born in 1938 on a farm near Hodgeville, Saskatchewan She is a descendant of Germans living in Russia.



Editor's Notes:

1. Grandfather Tom Edworthy came to S. AB in 1883.
2. Please join George and Russell Moore on Nov. 20 at the Memorial Building for ... the rest of the story!

BULLETIN BOARD

Click on the links below to browse the [website](#) of the SAPD.

- ⇒ [Southern Alberta Timeline](#)
- ⇒ [Pioneer Profiles](#)
- ⇒ [SAPD Archives, Publications](#) and [Library](#)
- ⇒ [Initiatives](#): information about our Historical Photo Display & Pioneers Digital Memory Project
- ⇒ [Historical and Other Related Alberta Sites](#) includes links to places of interest
- ⇒ Cards & Remembering: Notify the office at sap.office@pioneersalberta.org to report any illnesses or a death in your family.
- ⇒ Historical Committee: Contact Alan Lynas at 403-228-7815 to ask about committee meetings or how to have your Family History entered into our archives.
- ⇒ Send your stories, articles and photos to Val McKinney at newsletter@pioneersalberta.org by the last week of the month prior to these publication months. **NEWSLETTERS CAN BE READ AT and PRINTED FROM www.pioneersalberta.org/newsletter/**
- ⇒ Advertising: To place an ad in the newsletter, email your draft to Val McKinney at newsletter@pioneersalberta.org by the first Tuesday of the publication month. Questions? Call Val at 403-512-1585.



Members are encouraged to support the businesses that advertise in this publication.



Currently delivering to Calgary & Claresholm
(587) 223-4305
hello@burkecreekranch.com

Buffalo Head Lapel Pins

Gold and **Blue**
with SAP Logo
\$15.00 each

Contact the office at
sap.office@pioneersalberta.org



Who are your Southern Alberta ancestors? What can you tell us about them? Please share your memories and stories by sending them to us at newsletter@pioneersalberta.org. Thank you.