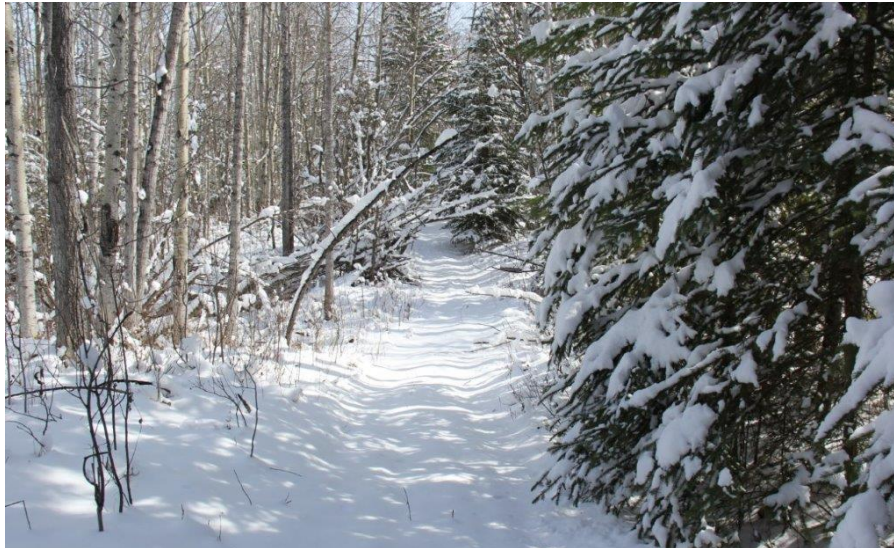




# ***KEEPING HISTORY CURRENT***

## ***SPECIAL ISSUE #2***     *Service in our communities*



Subject:

### **LETS MAKE TRACKS**

- photo  
The snowy trail is in the Saddle Hills;

" A winter's walk awaits"

- submitted by –  
Pat Wearmouth

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### **Upcoming Events**

NEXT EVENT being developed is the history of the Air Cadets in the area. this presentation will have to be virtual rather than a gathered audience and we will email everyone when it is ready. An event not to be missed.

Next Scheduled newsletter Volume 10 issue 4 – December – lets celebrate Peace Country Christmas traditions, and feel good stories.

Editors Note – This newsletter is produced, compiled and created for YOU the members of the Peace Country Historical Society. This being the case the only way we can carry on is with your input so send in your stories and or articles, so we can continue on. I have asked various (active members of PCHS and their local communities) people to submit stories; One of these was when I asked John and Dorothy Lieverse to write on the Legion of Frontiersmen which was a world-wide organization started by a retired police officer, based on military protocols and order who provided voluntary security for events and special occasions. This group was very active in the Peace Country over most of the 1900's. Please enjoy.

## President's Message – Pat Wearmouth

Hello;

This is November, the month in which we take a day to remember and honor war veterans. The Remembrance Day tradition began in 1919 when several countries across the world declared the day would be held on November 11<sup>th</sup>, the day WWI ended in 1918. That conflict ended on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month at 11 o'clock in the morning. The day was called Armistice Day until it was renamed after WWII. The change was made in order that both World Wars could be commemorated.

As many of you know, one of the great sources for information about our local history is the South Peace Regional Archives. One of the SPRA projects is research which results in a Soldier's Memorial and appears on their website. The site currently lists 1,100 WWI and over 2,300 WWII soldier's histories. The site also notes that "during a World War II, on a per capita basis, the Peace Country sent more soldiers to the front than any region in the Dominion. "(Herald Tribune-March 4, 1943). If you have ever wondered about a family member or a friend in this regard, have a look.

On another topic, I am sad to report that Dave Merriam, who served on the PCHS Board for a time, passed away last month. He was appreciated for his interest in, and enthusiasm for, our local history. In the last Newsletter I spoke to some of the issues facing our Provincial organization, the Historical Society of Alberta. The HSA Council continues to work methodically through these, focussing largely on how each of the functions the Society carries out, can be done in a more cost-efficient manner. Although I stated that things were looking better, it was so largely because we better understood the situation and what might have to be done. The real challenge still lies ahead.

This edition of the Newsletter includes articles on recognition of Remembrance Day, a group called the Frontiersmen and their work in the South Peace, a story of a war veteran who served as a clergyman on the B.C side of the South Peace, and a story of the first agriculture research plots established in the area. In addition, there is a series of short articles, just for the fun, although even they have historical context.

Finally, please consider making a gift to someone from our selection of books, or a membership to the PCHS.

Regards

Pat Wearmouth President, PCHS

## Peace Country Historical Society

P.O. Box 687 Station Main  
Grande Prairie, AB T8V 3A8

[Facebook.com/peacecountryhistoricalsociety](https://www.facebook.com/peacecountryhistoricalsociety)

/

[www.pc-hs.ca](http://www.pc-hs.ca)

**Vision:** To encourage the appreciation of the history of the Peace Country.

**Mandate:** The mandated area of the Peace Country Historical Society is the Alberta portion of the Peace River Country.

### Board of Directors

Pat Wearmouth – President  
Charles Taws - Vice- President  
Wanda Zenner – Treasurer  
Janet L. Peterson – Secretary  
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Fran Moore – Heritage Plaque program  
Susan Thomson – Heritage Fair, Educational Kits  
David Leonard – Advocacy & Land Settlement  
Janet L. Peterson – Newsletter, membership  
Charles Taws – Web presence

Contact Us

Newsletter editor:

Janet L. Peterson 780-354-3634 – leave message  
[jlscreations@telus.net](mailto:jlscreations@telus.net)

## Contributions to Newsletter – *this is your newsletter*

*Specifics for contributions to next newsletters –*

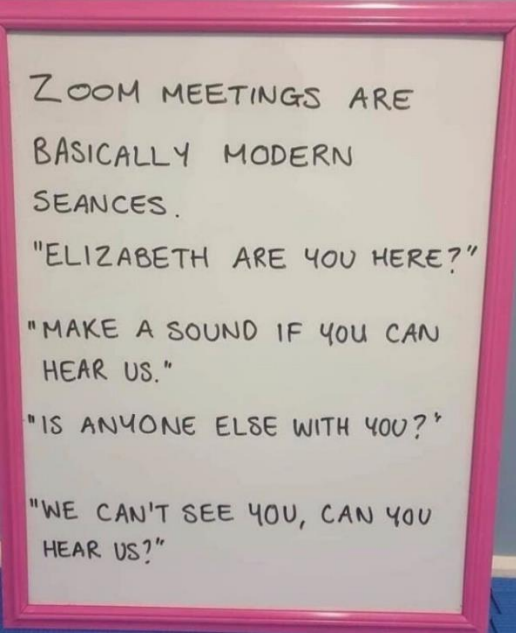
*December Newsletter is looking for winter and or Christmas articles – Deadline December 5, 2020.*

*Contributions to this newsletter are gratefully accepted. If you have a family story you want to tell, a memory you think would inspire others, or a snippet from the history of the Peace Country you want to share, please contact Janet at the email above, must be in word for me to be able to use it. We do reserve the right to accept and edit (with your approval) all contributions. Thank You*

# FUN & TRIVIA PAGES

## Coded Message – *hint* – The value of studying history

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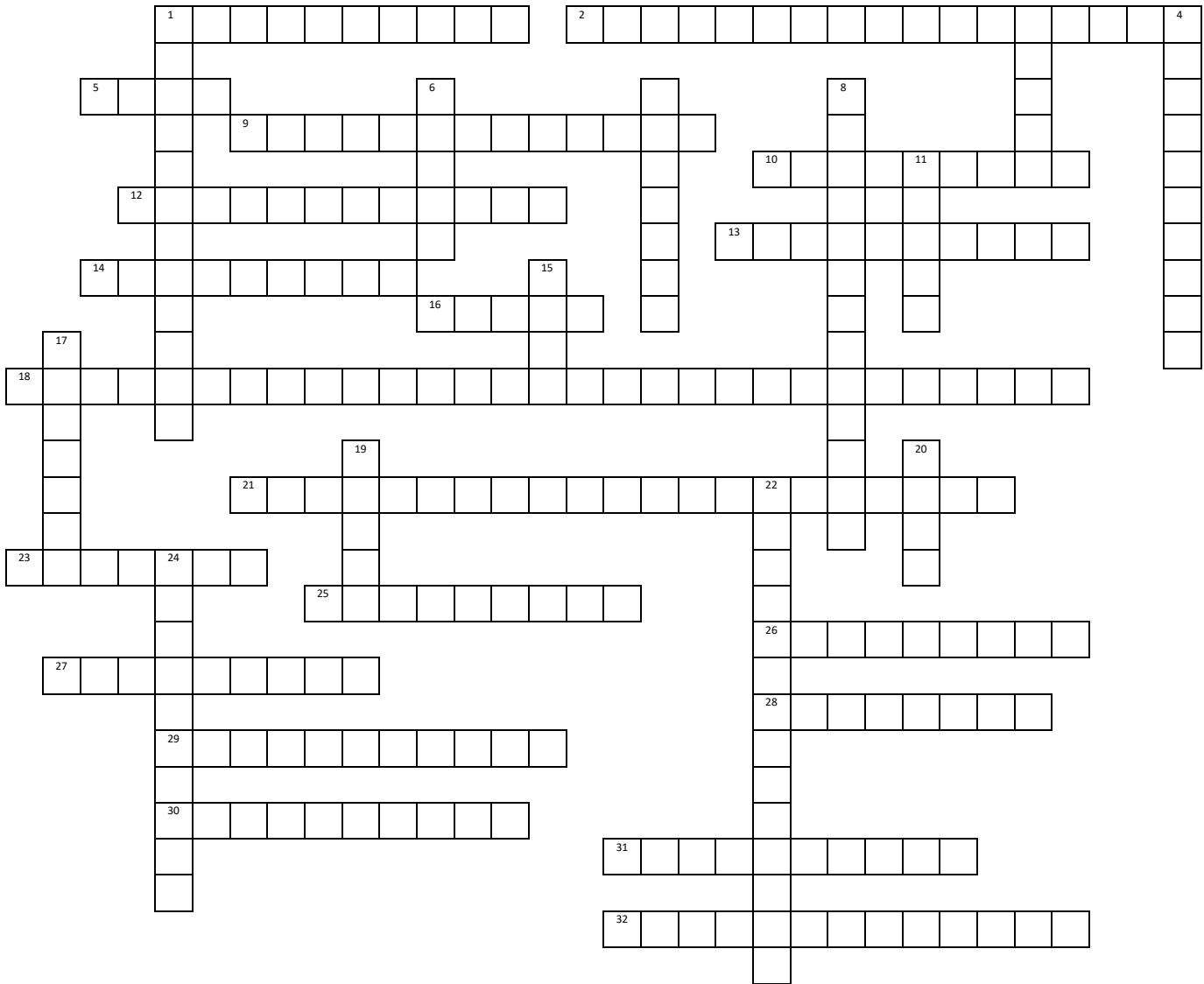


## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- #1 The Frontiersmen, \_\_\_\_\_, Grande prairie, was officially disbanded in 2000
  - #2 First in the Grande Prairie region
  - #5 New form of Séance joke
  - #9 Organized in 1911 in \_\_\_\_\_
  - #10 Code used in message is
  - #12 Civilian Volunteer group started in 1904
  - #13 Puzzle answers found in
  - #14 These ingredients make; wheat, sugar, yeast and water.
  - #16 Sandwich Spread ingredient - vegetable
  - #18 5<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Historical Society of Alberta
  - #21 PEACE COUNTRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY motto
  - #23 Historian and writer - Dr. David \_\_\_\_\_
  - #25 President and writer – Pat \_\_\_\_\_
  - #26 Mr. Webb traveled by means of the \_\_\_\_\_ to the Peace Country.
  - #27 Mr. Webb made plans to head west to partake in land ownership by means of \_
  - #28 Cow Camp that was located by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - #29 partake in land homestead ownership by means of homestead \_\_\_\_\_.
  - #30 Mr. Bezanson thought Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ would be a suitable partner and that make an excellent candidate to conduct the experimental plots.
  - #31 the wet season made it impossible for express passage making this an unreliable route \_\_\_\_\_
  - #32 Revillon Freres Company had a herd of cattle at \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: **Winter 2020 Humor**  
 - a photo of found sign  
 - submitted by – Pat Wearmouth

## *HOW WELL DID YOU READ?*



### **DOWN**

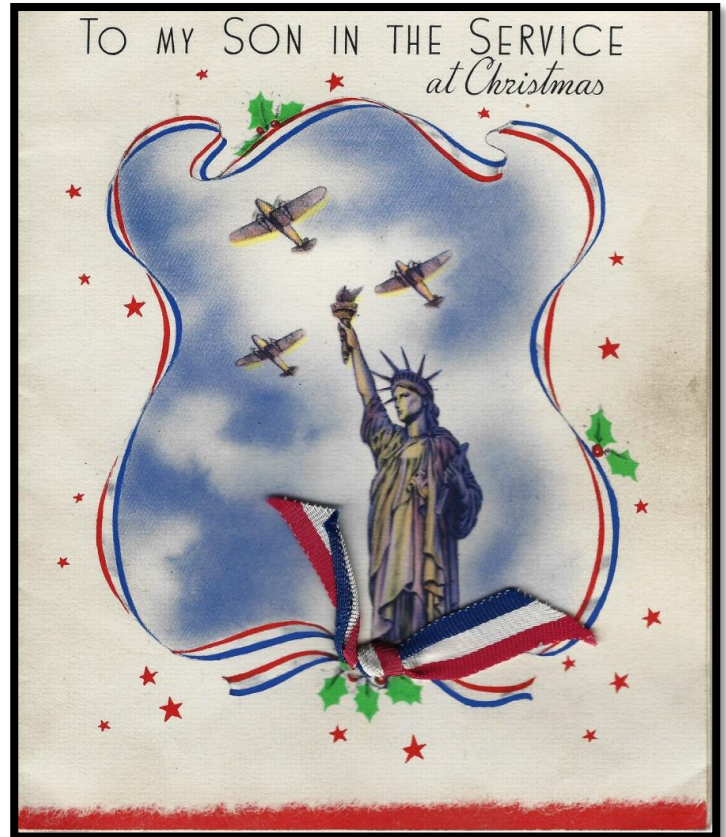
- #1 attending meetings in uniform, attending drill parades (many at \_\_\_\_\_) in Grande Prairie, safety and first aid courses and duty and security work.
- #3 \_\_\_\_\_ to be an Albertan
- #4 Location near Bezanson Townsite where Sidney J. Webb started in 1910
- #6 See Down #15 - Finally potatoes to make \_\_\_\_\_
- #7 Marie Johnston was an accomplished \_\_\_\_\_
- #8 Willis Johnston received a \_\_\_\_\_ from Marie
- #11 Next \_\_\_\_\_ local history of Air Cadets
- #15 Recipe part 1 -Boil \_\_\_\_\_ in water, add Brown sugar
- #17 Newsletter theme Community \_\_\_\_\_
- #19 Sandwich Spread ingredient – fruit
- #20 Sandwich Spread ingredient - fat
- #22 Mr. Bezanson was looking for assistance in his \_\_\_\_\_
- #24 Dr. Saunders asked \_\_\_\_\_ to start an Experimental Station in his area.

# IN RECOGNITION & CELEBRATION

## REMEMBRANCE DAY

By Wanda (Johnston) Zenner

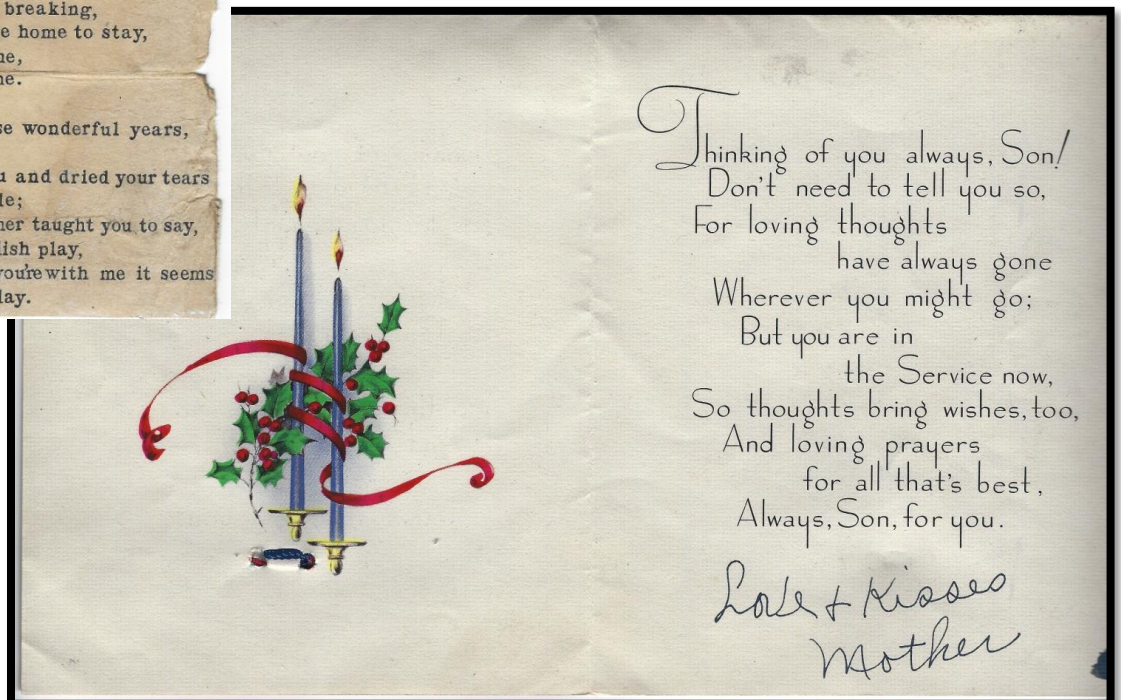
At this time of year, we all take the time to reflect on friends and family; especially those who are no longer with us. This Christmas card was sent to Willis Johnston during WWII by his mother, Marie Johnston. She also enclosed in the card a very touching song entitled "Dear Little Boy of Mine". As Marie was an accomplished pianist, she would have played the song on many occasions. Words written underneath the heading are in Willis' handwriting.



Dear Little Boy Of Mine  
*Recd*  
*While on Active Service*  
*In Canadian Army Overseas*  
 Oft when I'm lonely my memory swings  
 Back to your baby days,  
 Feeling the joys that a baby brings  
 Out of God's wondrous ways;  
 Seeming to hear the first pray'r that you said  
 Longing to tuck you in bed—  
 There's no one knows how I long for you now  
 Here with my arms outspread.

Boy of mine, Boy of mine,  
 Altho' my heart was aching,  
 I seemed to know you'd want to go,  
 Pride in your manhood waking.  
 I'll be here, waiting, dear,  
 Till at a glad dawn's breaking,  
 I'll hear you say you're home to stay,  
 Dear little boy of mine,  
 Dear little boy of mine.

Out of the mist of those wonderful years,  
 I see your baby smile,  
 Days when I kissed you and dried your tears  
 Seem such a little while;  
 Hearing the words mother taught you to say,  
 Watch you at your childish play,  
 For always in dreams, you're with me it seems  
 Just as you'll be some day.



# Legion of Frontiersmen

(no connection with Canadian Legion)

The Legion of Frontiersmen was founded in England in 1904 by Captain Roger Pocock, an ex N.W.M.P. who froze his feet while on patrol duty and was invalidated out of the force. He then organized the Frontiersmen, a civilian volunteer group, 18 years of age and based the rules, regulations and uniform on a semi-military operation.



Right – John Lieveise 1970 before leaving home for G.P. parade.



Left – 1971 Legion of Frontiersmen at County Fair Parade

The group is world wide and organized in Canada in 1930. Fort Scott, Alberta is their dominion headquarters and their aim is to assist the R.C.M.P., government and local authorities in civilian protection and emergencies. Back then they helped guide

settlers to their homesteads. The Frontiersmen boosted over 10,000 members world wide and in W.W.I sent a battalion over to Europe to fight. During W.W.II 600 joined the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry in Edmonton and went to fight.

In Grande Prairie, the Frontiersmen organized in 1911 and were officially called; Frontiersmen “D” (Alta) Troop, Grande Prairie. Our original members were Joe DeRoover, Jack Roy, Bill White and Sam Dunbar.

New volunteers had to be trained in wearing the uniform with pride, learning how to march, do drill, obey commands, and line up for inspection. It was expected that their personal conduct on or off duty, would be above reproach at all times. They worked on a point system for attending meetings in uniform, attending drill parades (many at DCOY Armories) in Grande Prairie, safety and first aid courses and duty and security work. These points accumulated allowing them to earn medals which were to be worn on special occasions; such as; church parades, Remembrance Day parades, the Annual Ball and Canadian Citizenship Ceremony.

The coveted TORCHBEARERS medal was presented to some of our members by our local M.L.A. Bob Elliott.

The Annual ball was a formal military ball in full dress uniform including wearing earned medals. Our colors ‘flags’, were marched in to a decorated Hall with a master of ceremony, many times Deb Cough and of course good jokes and stories followed with a delicious meal. Sometimes we had entertainment, Ernie Middlestead; and then our Grand March and dancing.



Right -Full Dress uniform Group photo 1971

We danced to the music of many different bands; 1970 – Blinn Brush and Band, 1974 – The Swinging Doors, 1981 – Dexus Band, 1996 – Miller’s Cave.

Sunday was our church parade, taken in turn at four local denominations; Catholic, United, Anglican and Lutheran. Full uniform and medals were worn and colors as usual were marched in. In some of the churches our members participated in the Bible readings and liturgy. After church we would go for coffee at a local restaurant. In 1973, the church parade was held at the Catholic Church in Beaverlodge with Father Skalura officiating, after the sermon we went to Wayne’s Café for coffee. Poor Wayne couldn’t make coffee fast enough.

In 1975, the Ladies Auxiliary was formed with uniforms; they were disbanded in 1984 to become Frontiersmen. There was also cadets and Junior Frontiersmen, at the time usually children of the Frontiersmen.

As most organizations we had our Christmas supper, usually at the Golden Star and a children’s party many times at the D Coy Armories. From 1974 – 1980 we invited the Peace School of Hope (special needs children) to participate in our children’s Christmas party with singing, games, Santa Claus and gifts.

In the summer time we would have a family picnic, at a local park or at a member’s farm, many times John and Dorothy Lieverse. One of our members went on to become a R.C.M.P. members for 25 years. A junior member Louisa Smith, in 1978 was sponsored by Skylark Shoes Ltd. To run in the Miss Grande prairie Queen contest. She did not become queen, but was honored with the title of Miss Congeniality.

The main function of the Frontiersmen was to direct, park traffic, security and crowd control. We also participated and assisted other groups.



May 31, 1, 2, 3/84  
Stompede Days

L-R - JOHN LIEVERSE  
- LOUIE PALMER  
- BEN PALSER

Summer Uniform



L-R - CHARLES BORGESON  
- JOHN LIEVERSE  
- BEN PALSER



L-R - CHARLES BORGESON - LOUIE PALMER  
- JOHN LIEVERSE - BEN PALSER  
- TRUDY LIEVERSE - ELEANOR RIGLER  
- DANNY HOF

DISPLAYING NEW SIGN IN FRONT OF OLD BLUNDER.

The following is a list of community events that we helped.

1. Remembrance Day parade and services and Citizenship Day at the courthouse – both yearly events.
2. Dances at High School, graduation and community in Beaverlodge, Grande Prairie and Grovedale.
3. County Fair Days – participated with a float, marched in parade, parked cars, and security at beer gardens.
4. 1971 – first load of cement being poured for Proctor & Gamble pulp mill followed by a beef barbeque for 2,000 people.
5. 1973 – Grande Prairie Air Show and in 1975 the Snowbirds and Skyhawk Paratroop, sponsored by C.F.S. (Canadian Forces Station) Beaverlodge.
6. 1972 – Opening the Gulf Service, Wayfarer Center – Wayne and Shuster in attendance.
7. 1973 - Science Fair at Montrose Junior High School
8. 1973 – Wedding reception at Park Hotel in Grande Prairie
9. 1973 – Served as escorts for Swan City Figure Skating Club and Carnival Queen.
10. 1973 – Ann Murray concert and Stampeders Rock Group from Calgary
11. Horse Shows
12. 1973 – Assisted dragging operations for drowning victim
13. Assisted R.C.M.P. and citizens band radio on Halloween and later on with vandalism control.
14. 1974 – R.C.M.P. Musical Ride and honor guard to Governor Ralph Steinhauer at Grande Prairie Friendship Center.
15. Carnival at Sexsmith, children’s movie time at Beaverlodge.
16. 1975 – February 1 – a visit from Prime Minister Trudeau and wife Margaret at a chilling temperature of -40 F.
17. North Stars Home Hockey Games – many years and in 1974 0 Bobby Hall in attendance.
18. 1977 – Christmas season security at Grande Prairie, Prairie Mall with Santa Claus arriving by helicopter. We worked 203 hours that Christmas.
19. 1978- Craven A – antiques car security.
20. 1978 - Stampede Days – Buffy St. Marie, Al Cherney and Slim Pickens in attendance.
21. Kinsmen Bingos and Stock Car racing.
22. 1978 – Queen Elizabeth visited Grande Prairie and turned sod for new hospital which was officially opened in 1984.
23. 1979 – security of helicopter crash at west end of Grande Prairie, across from Golden inn.
24. 1979 – Square Dance Jamboree – six groups combined to become the Peace River Globe Promenades, caller from Japan and in 1981 the caller was from the Netherlands.
25. Parking at the South Peace Centennial museum at Beaverlodge. We did this for 27 years – 1971 – 1998 and then did security in the grounds.
26. 1981 – Hot Air Balloon Races
27. Boxing Matches, Shriners Circus, Roller Skating and Grovedale Fair.

The Frontiersmen became like an extended family, that looked after and helped their members, while also serving their community.

Right - 1984





Our members were becoming old and tired, retiring, moving and passing away and the need for our volunteers' services were no longer there.

Other groups have specialized in security and their employees receive a regular paycheck.

Right – October 13, 1984 Supper Awards

The Frontiersmen, "D"ALTA TROOP, Grande prairie, was officially disbanded in 2000 and in 2005, our minutes, pictures and a uniform were donated to the Grande Prairie Archives.

We served our purpose at a time when we were needed, an era that is now finished, and so we say Good-bye.

"D" (ALTA) TROOP, GRANDE PRAIRIE.  
O.C.: CAPTAIN B.H. PALSER, C.D.M., A.M.M.  
7630 PATTERSON DRIVE, GRANDE PRAIRIE, ALTA. T8V 3Z6  
SCRIBE: FRTSWN G.B. LIEVERSE  
P.O. BOX 553, BEAVERLODGE, ALBERTA T0H 0C0

After a hectic beginning of August, it ended with some very pleasant duties for our Troop.  
The Alberta Square and Round Dance Federation were having their annual convention here in Grande Prairie for four days. People came from all parts of Alberta, some 700 in all. They were using the Grande Prairie Composite High School and also the St. Joseph Catholic High School for their meetings and dances.  
It all started on Friday evening, August 31st and ended Monday afternoon, September 3rd at about 2 o'clock. We put in 12-hour-shifts. All in all we worked 137 hours.  
My husband and I, (we are also Square Dancers) missed out on all the fun, because we were on duty, and could not participate in the festivities. There was one lucky thing, we could not hear the music from where we were in the equipment room!  
Saturday, October 13th was a very important day, nine members from Edmonton made the trip to Grande Prairie, under supervision from Colonel Debenham. We all went to the "Golden Star" Restaurant for a meal fit for a king. Later on, we met in the Trumpeter Swan Motor Inn for coffee (which was very slow in coming) and discussions. Colonel Debenham presented Colour Sergeant Borgeson with the Canadian Divisional Service Cross and 2nd Bar (the Gold Beaver) for the many years of service in the Troop. Sgt D. Lieverse and Frtsm L. Palmer received the Alberta Merit Medal. Congratulations to all.  
We were all asked if there were any questions. My question was, "What was the retirement age for a Frontierswoman?" Well, the answer was what I expected, "No age limit for that!" We had a most enjoyable evening. About 23.00 hours, we all said 'good-bye' and a safe return home to the Big City. Thanks to all for coming to Grande Prairie.

God Guard Thee,  
Frtswn Trudy Lieverse,  
"D" (Alta) Troop Scribe.



Left – Taken at the Golden Star with the Edmonton Frontiersmen

From left to right- Corporal Eleanor McNally, Frontiersman Louis Palmer, Sergeant Dorothy Lieverse, Frontiersman Palmer Nordhagen, Fronierswoman Trudy Lieverse, Sergeant John Lieverse, Captain Ben Palser, Lieutenant Case Lieverse, an Edmonton member and at the end is Colonel Debenham.

1984

Submitted by members of (Frontiersmen and PCHS) John and Dorothy Lieverse.

Transcribed by JL Peterson

# OLD FASHIONED REMEDIES, TIPS & RECIPES

## REMEDIES

**Corns** – apply common black axle grease over the affected part for 3 nights and soak in hot water each morning until the corns drop off.

**Boils** – boil buckshot in milk and drink it. Please strain the buckshot out through your teeth.

**Toothache** – rinse the mouth with hot water. Press 3 fingers firmly on each side of the head in front of the ears. Drop the jaw and keep up the pressure for 2 minutes.

**Chest Cold** – take a piece of old woolen underwear, spread with lard and sprinkle nutmeg onto it. Place on over door of wood stove to heat. Place on chest, put an undershirt over top and pin to keep in place.

## DANDELION WINE

Take 4 quarts of yellow dandelion petals into a large pan or crock. Pour 1 gallon boiling water over them. Stir well and allow to stand covered for 3 days stirring often. Strain and boil the liquid for ½ hour with rind and juice of 1 lemon and 1 orange. Add a bit of ginger and 2 ½ pounds of sugar. When cool put in jars.

## MOONSHINE

3 gallons cracked wheat (no flour)

60 lbs. sugar

½ box yeast (6 tbsp) dissolved in warm water

Put all in a 40 gallon barrel and fill to within 6 inches of the top with warm water. Leave 3 days until finished working. Let settle for another 3 days.

## TIPS

### TO RESTORE RANCID BUTTER

Use 1 pint water to each lb. of butter, add 20 grs. chloride of lime to each pint of water, wash well the butter in this mixture, then re-wash in cold water and salt. Or melt the butter in a water bath with animal charcoal coarsely powdered and well shifted to free from dust, skin, remove and strain through flannel.

### SAVING SUGAR

If you dissolve the sugar in the milk before you add the cereal, only half as much sugar needs to be used.

## RECIPES

### YEAST

Boil ¼ pound of hops in 7 quarts water for 15 minutes, strain and add 2 cups brown sugar, set away for 3 to 4 days but stir occasionally. At the end of this time heat the hop water and add 6 potatoes mashed fine. Let it stand 12 hours and put into a jug and set away in a cool place. Shake well before using and for 3 loaves use ½ cup yeast.

### STARCH

Let squeezed-out potato water settle. Drain, add fresh water, drain, repeat until starch is white. Let dry.

### TO CURE BUTTER

Take 2 parts of fine salt, 1 part loaf sugar, 1 part salt & pepper, mix completely. Use 1 oz. of this mixture to each pound of butter, work well. Bury your butter firkins in the earth in your cellar bottom, tops nearly level with the ground, or store away in a very cool place covering the butter with a clean cloth and strong brine on the top and it will keep two years if desired.

### IMITATION MAPLE SYRUP

Boil clean corn cobs in water, remove cobs, add brown sugar and boil to nice thick syrup. One can hardly tell it from genuine maple syrup. The cobs give it the maple flavor.

### OLD-TIME MOLASSES PULL TOFFEE

1 ½ cups brown sugar	2 tbsp. vinegar
½ cup water	¼ tsp. cream of tartar
½ cup molasses	1/8 tsp. baking soda
	3 tbsp. butter

Mix sugar, water, molasses and vinegar and cook until mixture boils. Add cream of tartar and continue cooking until mixture is brittle when tried in cold water. When nearly cooked, add the butter and soda pour into a greased plate and when cold enough, pull it. Cut in lengths with scissors and chill a few minutes more to harden.

### LARD & ONIONS SANDWICH SPREAD

½ lb. lard  
1-2 large onions sliced  
1 apple diced  
1 pinch marjoram

Melt the lard in frying pan. Add onions and apple. Cook the onions until brown. Pour this mixture into a pan to set. Sprinkle on spice. Serve on fresh bread with salt to taste.

### PIONEER PANCAKES

Some water (before we had milk). Some flour. Some eggs. Some baking powder. We had these every day. They were our main food.

# ESTABLISHMENT OF EXPERIMENTAL PLOTS

## “In the Peace Country”

Contrary to popular belief, the first experimental plots were not implemented at Beaverlodge but were commenced near the **Bezanson Townsite** on the Smoky flats by Sidney J. Webb in 1910 – a full five years before plots were established at Beaverlodge.

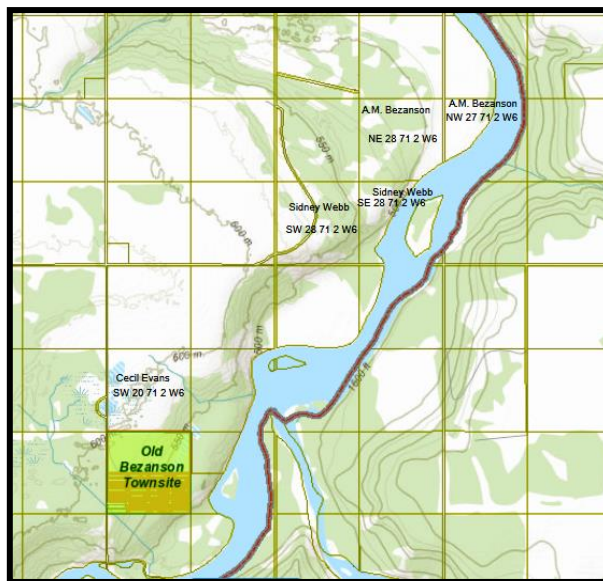
On one of his trips to Ottawa during the winter of 1909 – 1910 to meet cabinet ministers, A.M. Bezanson also met with Dr. William Saunders who had developed Marquis Wheat along with other early maturing seeds and was in charge of the Canadian Experimental Stations. The meeting was well-received as A.M. Bezanson had convinced his audience of the agricultural possibilities of the Peace Country. The following day, Dr. Saunders asked A.M. Bezanson to start an Experimental Station in his area. Although Mr. Bezanson did not think his property on the Smoky River flat was suitable for such a purpose as it was 500’ to 600’ below the prairie land, he did agree to the proposed arrangement with the stipulation that as soon as he could find someone that he could consider competent that was living on the prairie, then he would turn the endeavor over to him.

On the same trip, A.M. Bezanson met Sidney Webb who had read “The Peace River Trail” and was enthused about the potential of the area. Mr. Webb, born in London, England in 1874 had been operating a dairy and mixed farming operation in Ontario for 15 years that was located within a mile of the Ottawa Experimental Station. In 1899, he had married a widow, Elizabeth Lees Evans (born 1862) who had three small children, Grace (1892), Cecil (1894) and David (1897). They subsequently had three children, Ethel (1901), Eva (1902) and Harold (1903). As Mr. Bezanson was looking for assistance in his cattle business, he thought Mr. Webb would be a suitable partner and that Mr. Webb would make an excellent candidate to conduct the experimental plots. Thus Mr. Webb along with his step-son, Cecil made plans to head west to partake in land ownership by means of homestead applications, with the intention that Elizabeth and the children would relocate once Mr. Webb had established a home.



The partners were notified that the Revillon Freres Company had a herd of cattle at Lake Saskatoon that was for sale. Maynard left immediately in February 1910 with supplies. Mr. Webb left in June and upon arrival in Edmonton, purchase the stock and traveled by means of the Long Trail to the Peace Country. The trip took two weeks at which time he took over the Cow Camp that was

located by Bear Lake. Mr. Webb filed on S ½ 28-71-2-W6. **He established the first plots on SE 28-71-2-W6 (X) in 1910.**



Dr. Saunders’ report from March 31, 1912 noted that S.J. Webb was to carry on experimental work on his farm near the Smoky River. The next annual report stated that the seeds sent to Mr. Webb in March did not arrive until June 6, too late for any planting that year. As well, the thermometers that were sent to him by means of the Edson Trail never arrived as the wet season made it impossible for express passage.

The Dominion Experimental Farms report by the direct for March 31, 1913 stated:

**“Mr. Webb estimated the grain crop of 150,000 bushels. A good safe harvest had commenced on August 20; wheat averaged 30 bushels, oats 50. He took to Ottawa a very good collection of grains grown by his neighbors and himself.”**

Unfortunately, 1914 was a very dry year and a less than favorable report was filed. However, 1914 became a busy year for Mr. Webb as in May he became the courier for mail service that was established between Grande Prairie and Bezanson via Leslie’s Post Office. Cecil Evans, Mr. Webb’s step son, assumed the position of postmaster. A.M. Bezanson wrote Webb that the railway seemed assured and requested him to hire McFarlane to survey the first units of the townsite into plots.

In September A.M. Bezanson put Mr. Webb in charge of building the grade on the eastern and western slopes of the new trail to the Townsite.

The September 25, 1914 issue of the Grande Prairie Herald reported:

**“By this new route a better grade is afforded the traveling public on both sides of the river. Those who have traveled the hills on both sides of the Smoky at the present crossing will welcome the new trail which practically eliminates the steep grade besides making a saving of nine miles. The Provincial Government is arranging to put in a ferry at Bezanson.**



The November 3, 1914 issue of the Grande Prairie Herald reported”

**“S.J. Webb is building a barn 30’ x 90’ and a fine two story bunk house with a restaurant in connection.”**

Mr. Webb left in December 1914 with the intention of bringing his family back with him in the spring of 1915 however due to an illness was unable to do so. After spending five years on the Prairie, WWI broke out and it became increasingly difficult for Sydney to find hired help. It also became apparent that the railway was not going to access the Bezanson Townsite and in fact entered Grande Prairie from the north in 1916. Mr. Webb decided to sell his property to the Goodwin Brothers and returned to the Ottawa area. Mr. Webb had also served as the Justice of the Peace for the area.

Once back in Ottawa, Sidney found employment with the Department of the Interior’s Seed Grain Branch. However, Duty-to-Country beckoned Sidney and on April 26, 1917, at age 43, he enlisted in the Army, Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, Railway Construction and Forestry Corp at Ottawa. Once discharged on March 18, 1919, Sidney again found employment with the Government, this time with the Surveyor General Office – a position he kept until the office was disbanded.

Elizabeth passed away in 1926, Sidney in 1972 (at age 98); both being buried in the Beechwood National Cemetery in Carleton, Ontario.

#### Reference

- Pioneers of the Peace History Book
- Sodbusters Invade the Peace by A.M. Bezanson
- Grande Prairie Herald Old Timers Historical Edition
- Various Newspaper articles
- Interview with grandson, Sydney Webb Jr. from Ottawa

Written by Wanda Zenner

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# ANSWERS TO *FUN & TRIVIA PAGE*

## Coded Message

Remember and celebrate your past; but remember the past so as not to repeat past mistakes in the future. Learn everyday to ensure growth and always pass knowledge on to the next generation.

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The MORSE code letters and numerals are made up of dots and dashes.

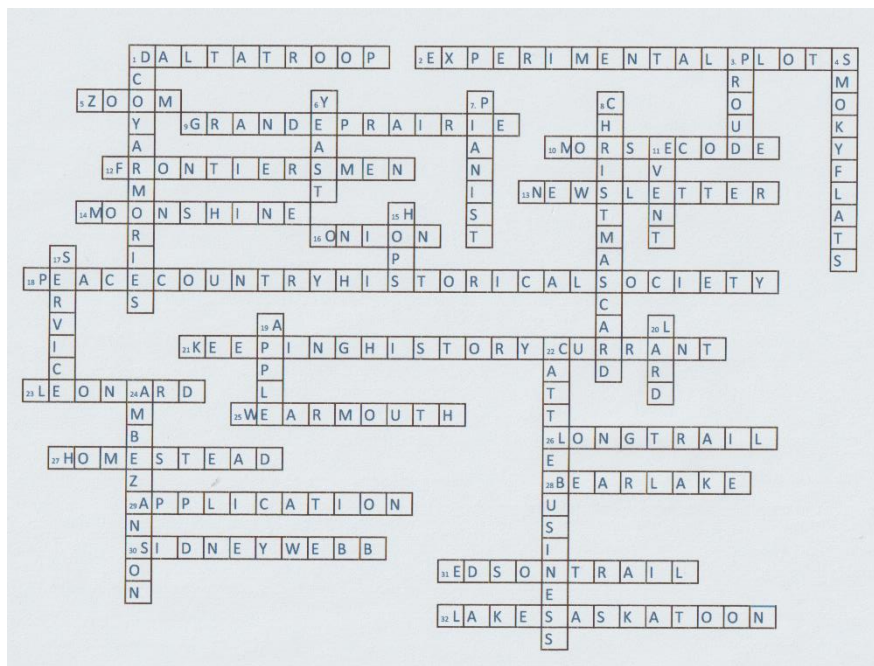
## ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD

### ACROSS

- #1 "D" ALTA TROOP
- #2 EXPERIMENTAL PLOTS
- #5 ZOOM
- #9 GRANDE PRAIRIE
- #10 MORSE CODE
- #12 FRONTIERSMEN
- #13 NEWSLETTER
- #14. MOONSHINE
- #16 ONION
- #18 PEACE COUNTRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
- #21 KEEPING HISTORY CURRENT
- #23 LEONARD
- #25 WEARMOUTH
- #26 LONG TRAIL
- #27 HOMESTEAD
- #28 BEAR LAKE
- #29 APPLICATION
- #30 SIDNEY WEBB
- #31 EDSON TRAIL
- #32 LAKE SASKATOON

### DOWN

- #1 DCOY ARMORIES
- #3 PROUD
- #4 SMOKY FLATS
- #6 YEAST
- #7 PIANIST
- #8 CHRISTMAS CARD
- #11 EVENT
- #15 HOPS
- #17 SERVICE
- #19 APPLE
- #20 LARD
- #22 CATTLE BUSINESS
- #24 AM BEZANSON





## *Keeping History Current*

# A few thoughts on why to join PCHS

Just a bit of interesting PCHS history for anyone:

- 2008 A Heritage Symposium held at GPRC and the idea of forming a new chapter of the Historical Society of Alberta was conceived.
- At a meeting held in December the idea was approved and, under the guidance of Campbell Ross, a steering committee was formed to draw up Goals, a Mission statement, & Bylaws.
- 2009 The Peace Country Historical Society, following a membership drive and consultation with the proper authorities on bylaws, became a legally recognized society and an official branch of the Historical Society of Alberta.

Chapters provide regular newsletters, informing of programs, meetings, upcoming events, regional history stories, reviewing past events, and sharing local heritage issues.

Chapters are also mandated to publish or sponsor publications relating to the local or provincial history.

Members are invited to serve on boards and committees. The more members the wider the variety of projects able to be undertaken at the local and regional level.

### Membership Privileges-

As a member of the Peace Country Historical Society (the newest and fifth chapter of the Historical Society of Alberta – covering the Peace country of Alberta) you will be a part of the diverse and vibrant community sharing knowledge and information about heritage with each other and the public. As well as having a dual membership with the Historical Society of Alberta (incorporated 1907). Dual membership includes

- Individual (\$15.00) and family (\$25.00) membership – quarterly newsletter History Now
- Combined – membership and Alberta History subscription (\$35.00) – includes both newsletters
- An Affiliate Membership (\$55.00) for museums, schools, and libraries – has both newsletters an invaluable history resource for students and teachers.

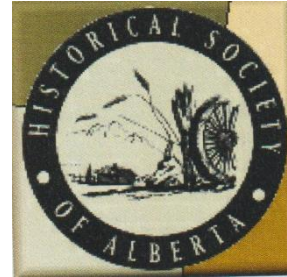
Membership allows members to receive discount rates on society tours, special events, provincial publications, etc.

Attend chapter program events, presentations, tours, workshops, book launches, socials, banquets, celebrations, AGM's and conferences.

**A MEMBERSHIP IN THE PEACE COUNTRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL GIVE THE PEACE COUNTRY OF ALBERTA A VOICE IN THE PROVINCIAL ORGANIZATION.**



# Membership Information



This membership is  new  a renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Publication preference (Newsletters and Alberta History) Postal \_\_\_\_\_, email \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Membership: \$15.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Alberta History* Subscription only: \$25.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Membership and *Alberta History* Subscription: \$35 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Family Membership: \$25 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Alberta History* Subscription only: \$25.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliate Membership (school/ museum/library) \$55 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliate Membership (corporation/foundation) and subscription \$120.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to donate to the: PCHS Projects \$ \_\_\_\_\_

HSA Endowment Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheques payable to:

The Historical Society of Alberta  
and mail to

P.O. Box 4035 Station "C"

Calgary, Alberta T2T 5M9