

archives

SOCIETY OF ALBERTA

NEWSLETTER

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ASA HONOURARY PATRON

The Archives Society of Alberta is pleased to announce that His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, the Honourable Norman L. Kwong, CM, AOE, has agreed to serve as the Society's honorary patron.

Mr. Kwong was born in Calgary, one of six children of Charles and Lily Kwong, who had immigrated from Taishan, Guangdong province, in China. After completing high school in 1948, he joined the Calgary Stampeders Football Club as a halfback. Later that year, he became the first Chinese-Canadian to play in the Canadian Football League (CFL) and the youngest player to win a Grey Cup. He was traded to the Edmonton Eskimos in 1951, where he won three more Grey Cups. Named Canada's Athlete of the Year in 1955, Mr. Kwong set many records during his career and has been inducted into the Canada Sports Hall of Fame, Canadian Football Hall of Fame, the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame, and the Edmonton Sports Hall of Fame. He continued his involvement in the sports community after his retirement from the CFL in 1961, including co-ownership of the Calgary Flames from 1980-1994 and a period as President and General Manager of the Calgary Stampeders from 1988-1991.

After leaving the CFL, he pursued a career in private sector, focussing on the sale of commercial real estate. He also served the community as the National Chairman of the Canadian Consultative Council on Multiculturalism from 1979-1980 and Honourary Chair of the Easter Seal Campaign in Calgary from 1982-1985. Since his appointment as Alberta's 16th Lieutenant Governor, he has attended hundreds of functions across the province as its vice-regal representative.

The ASA is excited about its new relationship with Lieutenant Governor Kwong and is looking forward to his attendance at upcoming events.



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ARCHIVES NETWORK OF ALBERTA NEWS

Janet McMaster, System Administrator, Archives Network of Alberta

The usage statistics continue to show that there is a high level of interest in the material that is available on-line through the ASA's web site. Statistics showing the level of usage of the ASA's databases and web site are monitored monthly and are summarized in the tables below.

1. Archives Network of Alberta Databases

The ASA maintains three databases:

- ANA Database (fonds level descriptions)
- Alberta InSight (scanned photographs)
- Alberta InWord (scanned textual records; i.e. diaries, letters, etc.)

In addition, there is a Repositories Database that contains contact information about the ASA's institutional members. The figures below represent the total number of user sessions in these databases on a quarterly basis over the last year:

April – June 2006	38,852
July – September 2006	33,510
October – December 2006	36,583
January-March 2007	50,086*
Total sessions	159,031

**highest quarterly number of user sessions to date*

For the last year, the average number of user sessions in the databases has been 13,252 per month, or approximately 440 per day. The "average request per visit" has ranged from 4 to 7, and the "average visit time" has increased over the last year from 1:15 minutes to 1:42 minutes.

These statistics do not take into account usage by our Owner-Editors, who regularly revise and update their on-line material on the back-up server, asaback. These statistics do, however, include sessions initiated from the Canadian North West Archival Network, CaNWAN, as well as from filtered views. (Statistics are also available on an individual basis for institutional members that have filtered views set up to the ASA's databases.)

The total yearly number of user sessions has been monitored on an annual basis since the introduction of the Cinemage databases in 2003. The yearly totals of user sessions are summarized in the following table:

2003/04	55,722
2004/05	87,646
2005/06	116,483
2006/07	159,031

The total number of user sessions has increased significantly since 2003, and over the last year, the total number of user sessions in the Cinemage databases has increased by over 35%.

2. ASA Web Site (www.archivesalberta.org)

A steady increase in the number of page views for the ASA's web site has been evident over the last year. The highest month to date was March 2007, when there were a total of 11,407 page views. The total number of page views on the ASA web site from April 1, 2006 – March 31, 2007 was 79,938, or an average of 220 per day. The most popular pages on the ASA's web site continue to be the home page and the ASA's databases page.

If you would like more information about the statistics, or if you have any questions about the ASA's databases or the web site, please do not hesitate to contact me by e-mail at jmcmast@shaw.ca, or by phone at (403) 236-3406.

FROM THE DESK OF THE ARCHIVES ADVISOR...

Michael Gourlie, Executive Director/Archives Advisor

Recently, there have been some troubling developments in the nation's archival community that strike at its very foundations. First, despite a vigorous campaign by the Saskatchewan Council of Archives and Archivists (<http://scaa.sk.ca/communicate/advocacy-cora.html>), the City of Regina cut the position of City Archivist, leaving the Archives Assistant to administer the records management program, provide public access on an appointment only basis, and perform all other archival functions. Second, in a cleverly worded press release, the Central Conference of the United Church of Canada recently announced that it was ending its fifty year relationship with Victoria University at the University of Toronto effective April 2008 and moving its program to a new, undetermined location. According to the Association of Canadian Archivists' advocacy page (http://www.archivists.ca/special_interest/UnitedChurchAdvocacy.aspx), what the press release does not state is that the Church's entire professional archives staff will also lose their jobs at that time. While the Church's press release indicates that professional archival standards will be maintained, it begs the question of who will be there to maintain them, let alone recognize what they are. While the two situations may result from different origins, the outcome is a reduced archival capacity for those institutions.

It could be stated that threats to the ongoing existence of archival programs come and go over time, and everyone should take a long view of the situation. It just takes an administrator with some power and an idea of how it could all be digitized or somehow done better, usually without the archivist's involvement. Perhaps

archivists just shake their heads when a municipal government or a similar organization cuts back on its archives or tries to remake it in the latest management trend. The ensuing backlog of stored records, the inability to find documents quickly, artful lobbying by stakeholders, and other factors will surely return the archival program to its previous state of quiet efficiency in time. Or will it?

Archivists everywhere can sympathize with the individual archivists affected and rally to the support of the provincial and national archival organizations trying to raise awareness of the critical need for these programs, but there should be a lingering question for every archivist. How secure is the archival program at my institution? With the greying of the profession and many archivists in small to medium sized institutions deciding to retire, will the sponsoring agencies of archival programs look to recruit their successors, or simply let the program quietly drift?

Concrete succession planning, discussions with sponsoring agencies about the archival program's future, and demonstrating / documenting ongoing relevance to the sponsoring agency are critical to ensuring an archival program's survival, with involvement by provincial and national organizations to raise awareness when necessary. While it is too early to consider the setbacks at the City of Regina and United Church a trend in archival administration, it is a direction that the archival community cannot afford to encourage.

NEW ON-LINE COLLECTION MANAGEMENT TOOL AT THE PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES

Scott Goodine, Provincial Archives of Alberta

In October of last year, the Provincial Archives launched the on-line web application of its collections management database HeRMIS. HeRMIS, which stands for the Heritage Resource Management Information System, is a common platform using customized off the shelf software from The Museum System (TMS) that allows the Government of Alberta (in theory) to use one system for all its heritage collection management needs. Needless to say it has been a lot of work trying to convert decades of legacy data into a system that was not designed specifically for archives.

However, after much toil and many tears, the PAA now has a functional database of its holdings. In turn, the public is now available to search our holdings at <http://hermis.cd.gov.ab.ca/paa/>. Available on the website are RAD descriptions at all levels of description, our library catalogue, and a collection of our photographs (8000 and growing). Another interesting aspect of our web application is that we built a public forum to allow

clients to ask questions concerning our services. This has proven to be quite popular and (perhaps) alleviates some reference pressures- although certain clients tend to see it as another way to ask the same question that reference staff had already replied to.

Since our launch we have received a fair bit of media coverage including interviews on Shaw TV, several newspaper articles, and (for a time) a direct link from the Government of Alberta webpage.

A database like this is always a work in progress. We know that ours is not perfect but we made the decision to launch and allow public searchability in order to improve remote access. I encourage any ASA member to take the time to browse our site. I welcome any suggestions for improvements.

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AN INTERVIEW WITH DAVID LEONARD

Lori Podolsky Nordland

David Leonard was born in 1945 in the small town of Fairview, Alberta, and raised in Sexsmith. While living in Sexsmith, he worked as a community reporter for the *Grande Prairie Herald-Tribune* before enrolling at the University of Alberta in 1964. At the UofA, David specialized in History, obtaining a Bachelor of Arts (First Class Honors) in 1968 and a Masters of Arts in 1969. At this point, David worked for two years at the Provincial Archives of Alberta before going back to school to get his PhD. He received his doctorate in 1975 from the University of Sheffield in England.

Shortly after returning to Canada, David became the Assistant City of Edmonton Archivist, a position he held until December 1978, when he became the first Territorial Archivist of the Northwest Territories, stationed in Yellowknife. In February 1981, he returned to Edmonton to assume the position of Head of the Government Records program at the Provincial Archives, a position he held for 15 years. In April 1991, he became the Acting Provincial Archivist, and from 1993 to 1996, was the Provincial Archivist. In 1991, he began teaching archives and records management courses at the University of Alberta's School of Library and Information Studies, and continues with the archives course as an adjunct professor.

David also began to develop a deep interest in the history of the Peace River Country, which soon led him to begin the research of the settlement of the region, and he began to work with different heritage groups in the area. His interest in the Peace River Country and background in History and Archives made him an ideal candidate to assist in setting up a local archives and promote the protection of the area's many historic sites. This culminated with his transfer, in 1996, from the Provincial Archives to the Alberta Historic Sites Service, where he assumed the role of Project Historian for Northern Alberta. He continues to work with groups like the Monkman Homestead Preservation Society, the McNaught Homestead Preservation Society, the Sexsmith Museum Society, the Fort Dunvegan Historical Society, and the Spirit of the Peace Museums Network to preserve the built heritage of the Northwest.

David Leonard (Edmonton) - for his efforts as an archivist and historian to preserve and share the province's history, particularly that of northwest Alberta was awarded The Alberta Order of Excellence. The Alberta Order of Excellence honours select Albertans for their outstanding contributions to the quality of life enjoyed by their fellow Albertans and Canadians.

Below is the interview with David Leonard, and his fascinating answers to some questions about his archival career, and the future of archives as a profession.

Many thanks to David for taking the time to answer these questions.

LN: When did you begin working in the field of archives? Where was your first archival job? What memories do you have of your first archival job?

DL: I began my archival career in September, 1969 as a regular archivist at the Provincial Archives of Alberta.

My memories include how relatively empty the storage areas were, as the institution had only opened a couple of years earlier. My memories also include how ill informed the public was in general about archives as distinguished from museums. We were, at the time, a division of the Provincial Museum & Archives of Alberta, and almost universally, members of the public approached us with questions about fossils, arrowheads, etc. I have fond memories of the provincial archivist at the time, Alan Ridge, who I believe possessed all the knowledge, energy and tack to have made the place the success I believe the PAA became. He was particularly effective in beginning the records management program within the government of Alberta, and, for a while in the early 1970s, records management was a function of the PAA. He was also very effective in persuading organizations like the Oblate Fathers, the Anglican Dioceses of Athabasca and Edmonton, and the Alberta Conference of the United Church to deposit their records with the PAA.

LN: What was your most memorable job as an archivist? Why?

DL: My most memorable job as an archivist was the job of Acting Provincial Archivist during 1991-93, a time when the government department of which we were a part, Culture, was required to take a 46% cut in finances over a three-year period. The memory therefore was not all that pleasant. Our staff, which had included 22 full-time employees in 1988, was subsequently reduced to 14. Survival was the challenge, particularly since, in the spring of 1990, the PAA lost its status as an independent branch of government and became part of a larger branch called Historic Sites & Archives.

LN: What was the highlight of your archival career? Why?

DL: I suppose the highlight of my archival career was being appointed Acting Provincial Archivist. In the spring of 1993, I was named the Provincial Archivist, but, at this time, the position of Provincial Archivist was made to report to a new Director who, at the time, did not have a background in archives.

LN: I understand that you were the acting Provincial Archivist for the Provincial Archives of Alberta. How had your previous work experience prepared you for that role? How had being the Provincial Archivist prepared you for your subsequent positions, in particular your role as archival educator at the University of Alberta?

DL: Prior to being named Acting Provincial Archivist, I had served as the Head of the Government Records Program at the PAA since 1981. From 1978 to 1981, I served as the first Territorial Archivist of the Northwest Territories. From 1976 to 1978, I was the Assistant City of Edmonton Archivist. That, plus serving on various committees with the ACA, on the ACA executive, and the executive of the local chapter of ARMA, allowed me to explore and experience the many facets of modern archives, deliver a number of conference papers, and compose several articles on archival subjects, and one monograph in co-operation with Victoria Lemieux. My background as a historian with research experience in a variety of archival institutions was also good prep work. I presume all this was considered, along with my Ph.D in History, when I was offered contracts to undertake both the archives and records management courses at the School of

Library and Information Studies at U of A in 1991. For the next 16 years, the archives course was undertaken with co-operation with archivists and archival institutions in the Edmonton area. Bryan Corbett, Marlena Wyman, Keith Stotyn, Victoria Lemieux, and many others were of great assistance in the delivery of the course. The Records Management course was delivered in concert with Cindy LaFleche and Joanne Holm. I have now retired from teaching either course.

LN: As an archival educator, where do you see the future of archival programmes, such as the University of Manitoba, UBC and University of Toronto, heading?

DL: I believe the archival community in Canada has come a long way in the last 30 years towards the realization of professional standards. Prior to 1975, there was no ACA, and the only training was at the Dominion Archives, or through certain extension courses offered at certain universities, such as the U of A course developed by Jim Parker in the early 1970s. The program offered at Manitoba offers students a comprehensive look at archives apart from libraries, with Terry Cook and Tom Naismith having strong backgrounds in history as well as pure archives. I feel the programs at UBC and Toronto are also undertaken with high professional standards. However, rather than integrate the information sciences, I think the integrated programs there are serving to distinguish the professions, as most of the graduates seem to become specialists rather than generalists. In considering this, I recall vividly the key-note address of Emelio Lodolini of Rome at the ICA conference in Montreal in 1992, when he put forward that the information sciences were actually diverging rather than converging. Archival Studies in Canada, especially with the development of RAD and other standardization principles, is evolving increasingly as a distinct science. Lodolini's message for archivists, to which I subscribe, was that a good archivist must know, first and foremost, the history of the community of which he/her is a part, and the law of that community.

LN: At the University of Alberta, you are teaching a segment on electronic records. What sort of education and training do you see as necessary for archival students to have to cope with electronic records?

DL: With respect to electronic records, my firm belief is that the archival management of such systems can only be properly undertaken with the full understanding of the entirety of the records of an organization. Although principles such as provenance and original order can blur, a full understanding of entirety of the records will help to determine and identify master records, with safeguards built in to ensure their archival protection and use from the point of time of their creation. Modern archivists must therefore, of course, have a proper foundation in electronic records systems and their management.

LN: What impacts do you see for archival organizations dealing with electronic records? What advice do you have for the smaller archival institutions as we become responsible for the access, management and preservation of electronic records?

DL: Electronic records have been around for decades, and archivists and records managers have been considering their preservation and use as research materials for just as long. Regrettably, not much concrete has been undertaken towards their scheduling and archival storage, even though this topic has dominated sessions of the ACA and other archival associations more than any other in the past three decades. Smaller institutions have an advantage in that the archivists do not have to deal with large bureaucracies, or records systems managers who are not archivally inclined. They should be able to pinpoint small but significant programs to have copied and transferred to archival custody without upsetting the day-to-day flow of business. The archivists in small organizations should also be close enough to the CEO or institutional head to persuade them to have resources directed towards the archival management of electronic records.

Indian Residential School Resolution Canada (IRSRC) is a federal department dedicated to resolving issues arising from the legacy of Indian residential schools. IRSRC has identified some gaps in its document collections is therefore extending the scope of research to community archives in an attempt to fill these gaps. Documents sought are those containing student and/or staff names. Examples of document types include yearbooks, newsletters, quarterly returns, half-yearly returns, enrolment registers, student registers, admission and discharge documents, reunion books and prize lists that provide student and/or staff information. Photos are potentially useful, provided that they are captioned and it is known who provided the caption and when it was captioned.

IRSRC welcomes any information on relevant archival material in your collections, and any suggestions as to relevant repositories. Please note that all Federal Archives, Provincial Archives, native centres and religious archives have been considered in a separate phase of research.

For more information on IRSRC, please see: <http://www.irsr-rqpi.gc.ca/english/index.html>

For more information on the Indian residential schools settlement process, please see: <http://www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca/>

Please direct comments to Alison Biely, Research Consultant, IRSRC at 604-775-9986 or bielya@irsr-rqpi.gc.ca.

CALGARY AND DISTRICT SQUARE AND ROUND DANCERS ASSOCIATION FONDS

Susan M. Kooyman, Glenbow Archives

Calgary cultivates its western image and Calgarians play along willingly. Every Stampede, office workers don jeans and cowboy hats and take to the streets, enjoying the spectacle. Alongside the horses, chuck wagons, and gunfighters are the square dancers: men in western shirts and string ties twirling ladies with big crinolines. But few realize that square dancing as we know it today is a relatively new image of the “old west,” and the cowboys of Calgary’s mythical past never danced like that at all!

That fad only hit Calgary in 1950 after a local high school principal spent his summer vacation attending “Pappy” Shaw’s dance school in the United States. Upon his return, Collier Maberley taught others, who spread the word and within two years there were sixteen square dance clubs in gyms and community centres all across the city. The names were cute and colourful: Queens and Jacks, Dots and Dashers, Roses ‘n Thorns, the Gadabouts, the Merry Go Rounders.

The first project of the Calgary-based Canadian Square Dance Association was to organize a massive square dance for all the local clubs. Called the Stampede Round Up, it was held at the Stampede Corral on May 3, 1952, was a huge success and became an annual event. In 1954, the Calgary and District Square Dance Association formed as a separate entity, adding “Round” to the name in 1975 to reflect growing local interest in round dancing (an adaptation of ballroom dancing to country music).

Square dancing was promoted to all ages, but married couples tended to predominate and the average age rose as the years went by. Clubs came and went, but there were still about twenty operating in the local area when Calgary hosted the fifth national square and round dancing convention in 1986. And hundreds of local square dancers were recruited to entertain during the opening ceremonies of the Winter Olympics held in Calgary in 1988. But since then, square dancing in Calgary has been in decline and many local clubs have folded.

Luckily, an enthusiastic local dancer and caller appreciated the historical significance of the trend and began collecting papers, photographs, recordings, costumes and other memorabilia before these items were lost. Initially gathered for a Memory Lane exhibit at Convention ’86, Ray Woodard donated this material and many additional records to the Glenbow Museum in a number of small accessions from 1986 to 2005. Costumes and most sound recordings were transferred to the Museum’s cultural history department but the Archives retained just over four metres of textual records and photographs in the Calgary and District Square and Round Dancers Association fonds.

The collection includes scrapbooks and other memorabilia from local dancers and callers, newsletters and executive records from the association as well as from local clubs, and a significant collection of newsletters and magazines from other Canadian and American square and round dance groups. With the assistance of a recent Access to Holdings grant from the Archives Society of Alberta, these records have now been organized by contract archivist Jennifer Hamblin and made available in a finding aid viewable at www.glenbow.org/collections/search/findingAids/archhtm/square.cfm on the Glenbow website.



*Mayor Jack Leslie square dancing,
Calgary, Alberta, 1967*

PEOPLE & PLACES

Congratulations to **Glynys and Jeremy Hohmann!**
Glynys and her husband welcomed a baby girl,
Cecilia Faye, on May 8.

On May 1, Christe Teterenko was appointed
archivist for the Southern Alberta Institute of
Technology (SAIT).

The University of Alberta Faculty of Native Studies recently launched its online Metis Archival Project at <http://metisnationdatabase.ualberta.ca/MNC/index.jsp>. A collaborative project between several Metis organizations, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and the Faculty, the site is a web-interfaced database that contains textual information extracted from archival documents relevant to the historical Metis Nation.

A MARRIAGE OF ARCHIVES AND THEATRE – THE INSPIRATION FOR *LETTERS FROM BATTLE RIVER*

Karen Simonson

What happens when you bring theatre people to an event where archival documents are being read? Inspiration! The event in question was the Provincial Archives of Alberta's second Voices of the Past, held during Archives Week at the beginning of October last year. At this annual event, archival records are brought to life through reading by prominent people from the community, to the delight of the audience. In 2006, one of the readings involved the letters of Dr. Mary Percy Jackson.

The Mary Percy Jacksons fonds at the Provincial Archives of Alberta includes transcripts of letters to family and friends when she arrived in Alberta in 1929. Born in England and trained as a doctor, Dr. Jackson answered an advertisement in the February 23, 1929 *British Medical Journal*: "Strong energetic Medical Women with post-graduate experience in Midwifery, wanted for country work in Western Canada, under the Provincial Government Department of Health." She soon learned, from Dr. Emma Johnstone, that "The ability to ride a saddle horse would be a great advantage." With little horse-riding experience but full of determination and an adventurous spirit, Dr. Jackson was posted to Notikewin in the Peace River region, far from the life to which she was accustomed. In reading the letters, one cannot help but be captivated by her humour and experiences:

Going for walks is anything but the simple thing it is in England though. I shall have to redress myself. Before I can go out, I must put on about 6 layers of wool! Actually a wool vest, woolen combs (ankle and elbow length) thick wool knickers, breeches, a thick wool sweater, a thick woolen coat, a moose hide coat, a thick camel hair and wool scarf, a wool cap with ear flaps, camel hair and wool mitts, and big fur and moose hide mitts coming almost to my elbows on top. And if I were going out in a sleigh I should add my big blanket lined leather cat, my traveling rug, an enormously heavy

traveling robe and a charcoal heater for my feet!!! And even then get frost bitten probably!! Alas! My nose will never be the same again. I've had it bitten three or four times already! (Jan 5th, 1930)

As it happened, one of the readers at Voices of the Past was David Cheoros (my husband, and a theatre director and producer). When he and Heather Swain, an actor and writer, sitting in the audience, heard the letters of Dr. Jackson, they both had the same thought: "These would make a great play." They were impressed by the force, wit and intelligence of Dr. Jackson's writing. David was hoping to draw me (an archivist by trade) into the theatre world by involving me in his next Edmonton Fringe project. As we drove home after the event, the passion these two theatre people felt for these letters was thrilling for me, the archivist. And what better way for a husband and wife to collaborate than on a project that involved both their passions – theatre and archives!

The plan was then set in motion. The letters were read in their entirety, and include too many fabulous tales to be included in a 45 minute play. With two individuals who had both worked for the Fringe Festival, we had experience behind us in the initial planning. Slowly but surely, the pieces fell into place. The play was to be a BYOV (Bring Your Own Venue), in which the producing artists take responsibility for securing and equipping their own theatre venue. The location was booked: the newly-renovated Strathcona Branch of the Edmonton Public Library. Not only is the Library a historic building, but it has a long history of programming accessible word-based work at the Festival.

Photographs and moving images were found in the Provincial Archives holdings. The Provincial Archives is thrilled to be part of this exciting



Dr. Jackson riding Daniel, ca. 1929
Private Collection

project. A draft of the play has been completed (titled *Letters from Battle River*). A preview performance is scheduled, presented as an element of the Edmonton & Athabaska District Historic Festival.

So don't miss your chance to see this exciting new play, based on our own fabulous Alberta history, combining Mary Percy Jackson's words with images from the Provincial Archives' holdings. The preview performance will be held **July 27, 7pm at the Roxy Theatre** (10708 - 124 Street). Call the box office at 453-2440 for ticket information.

Don't fret if you can't make that performance! *Letters from Battle River* can also be seen during the Edmonton Fringe Festival, **August 16 to 26, with weekday performances at 6:00 pm, Saturday performances at 3:00pm and 6:00pm, and Sunday performances at 1:00pm and 4:00pm.**

Tell a friend, and share the passion for Alberta's fabulous history!



Skating on the Battle River, ca. 1929
Private Collection

PROCESSING THE BARRETT PAPERS

Shelley Respondek, Staff Archivist, Red Deer and District Archives

You have probably just read the title and wondered who and what are the 'Barrett' papers and how does it relate to the Archives Society of Alberta. Well, this is your lucky day, as you will soon learn that the Barrett family was quite prominent in the City of Red Deer's history, for Mr. R.E. Barrett served as Red Deer's 20th mayor from 1965-1974.

From the period beginning in 1982 and periodically until 1999, the Barrett family donated its records to the Red Deer and District Archives for safekeeping. Acutely aware of the need to keep records for posterity, Mr. and Mrs. Barrett kept an impressive array of information about the growth of Red Deer as a community and in particular, as a city. In 2006 the Red Deer and District Archives applied for and received an Access to Holdings grant from the Archives Society of Alberta to process these records so that the unique and varied information could be shared with the general public as well as City of Red Deer staff. From October 2006 until March 2007, I spent time processing the fonds which ultimately comprised of over 3 meters of records and is divided into three distinct areas: Mr.

Barrett's professional life including his time at the Alberta Meat Market and then as a City of Red Deer alderman and finally as mayor; his personal and family life, including his hobbies and associations, as well as that of Mrs. Barrett; and finally within the context of the Knox Presbyterian Church in Red Deer, which includes their participation in various church organizations, as well as on the Board and simply as congregational members. The rest of this article will provide you with a little look into the professional and personal life of Mr. Barrett and his family.

Robert Edward (Ed) Barrett was born on 9 January 1904 in Hamilton, Ontario and in the fall of 1918 he moved to Red Deer with his parents. In 1928 he married local A.G.T. telephone operator, Jessie Wright, and they had two daughters, Jeanne (Harrison) and Charlotte (Jestin). Not long after arriving in Red Deer, Ed Barrett found work at the Alberta Meat Market owned by Jack Teasdale. In time, he bought out Mr. Teasdale and ran the operation until his retirement in 1964. It was at this

point he ran for and was successful in becoming the new mayor of Red Deer. Under Red Deer's commission form of government, the mayor was one of the two commissioners governing the civic administration. However, Ed Barrett was the first to make the position of mayor a full time job. During his time as mayor, Mr. Barrett was instrumental in bringing industries such as Canada Packers and Parkland Mall to the City. With the blessing from Council, Mayor Barrett approved of the City purchasing Sorensen Bus Lines and officially creating the City's transit system in 1966. His attitude was to let the city grow slowly but efficiently and he wouldn't make promises he couldn't keep.

Mr. Barrett was also instrumental in many other initiatives. With the closing of the Air Base at Penhold, Mayor Barrett officially opened Red Deer's first regional airport on July 9, 1966 with an inaugural air show. During our Nation's Centennial in 1967, he also arranged a good will agreement with Cite du Cap-de-la-Madeleine, Quebec to become Red Deer's sister city. Representatives from both cities met and signed a proclamation to commemorate the occasion. Another little known fact about our 20th mayor was that he was quite adept at handling a gun. In fact, he was awarded the title "Fastest rifle in Central Alberta" at the 1967 Lacombe Kinsmen Indoor Rodeo.

Outside of the office, Ed was known to frequent music halls, gardens and the Knox Presbyterian Church. An avid singer, Mr. Barrett performed at many functions from graduations to official openings. He also enjoyed the outdoors and spending time in his garden enjoying the sights and sounds of nature. Finally, Ed and his wife Jessie were very active members of Knox Presbyterian Church where they were both church elders, and where she taught Sunday school as well as being the Sunday school Superintendent, and he served as treasurer, member of the Board and was the Choir Master for many years. Mrs. Barrett passed away in 1983 and Mr. Barrett followed her in 1990. They are both buried in the Red Deer Cemetery.

For more information on this collection of records, please contact the Red Deer and District Archives at (403) 309-8403 or visit our website at www.reddeer.ca/archives.



(L-R) Alderman McCullough, Pilot and Mayor Barrett with the 1st plane to arrive at Red Deer's new airport

SUBMISSIONS? QUESTIONS? SUGGESTIONS?

The *Archives Society of Alberta Newsletter* is published quarterly by the Archives Society of Alberta. Submissions, questions and suggestions should be directed to the Newsletter Editor c/o

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Individuals and institutions are encouraged to submit articles, reviews, reports, photographs or Letters to the Editor to the *ASA Newsletter*, Issues #2, 3 and 4. Submissions are preferred in electronic format as Word files for textual submissions, or as JPG files for graphic submissions.

Submission deadlines are:
September 30th Issue #2 - Winter
January 15th Issue #3 - Spring
April 30th Issue #4 - Summer

*Issue #1 is reserved for Annual Reports of the Society and its committees

The views expressed in the *Archives Society of Alberta Newsletter* are not necessarily those of the Archives Society of Alberta or its Editor.

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