



## Promoting, Preserving, Publishing Our Heritage



**Kleskun Lake Panorama**

Photo by Ron Thoreson

### Events

In-person events are back, at least for the summer. We held the Annual General Meetings in-person on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. On the same evening we also heard a presentation by David Leonard on the Peace Country Land Settlement Database. The PCHS initiated the project and partially funded it. Then on June 4<sup>th</sup>, David Leonard led us on a tour of the Kleskun Lake Ranch.

In the virtual world we have two presentations for your viewing. Go to YouTube, and search for Peace Country Historical Society. There you will find:

- A presentation titled “On the Wings of Discipline”, a history of the Air Cadets in Grande Prairie
- A presentation titled “Warming up to the Cold War”, the South Peace Experience.

Your Board of Directors is now planning events for the rest of the summer and fall. These will include:

- A tour on August 6<sup>th</sup>, of a school, a church, a post office site, and early homesteads which are all west of Sexsmith.
- The historic Forbes Tea in August.
- A second tour of the Kleskun Ranch on September 24<sup>th</sup>, during the time of the fall colours we hope.
- Please keep an eye out for announcements on these events. You will be notified by mail or email and our Facebook Forum page.

## President's Message

Greetings to You All;

This is the Summer Solstice edition of our Newsletter. The second edition of our twelfth year as a Society.

The Peace Country teems with new life as this year's crop of new plants and animals appear and grow. The landscape is green again.

Change is perpetual, and two changes occurred at our 2021/22 Annual General Meeting on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Al Bromling resigned his PCHS Director's position, as he took on the Provincial leadership of the Alberta Genealogical Society. The PCHS greatly benefitted from Al's time on our Board, and he will be missed. He remains a member. Thanks Al.

He was replaced by Linda Schofield who joins us to lead activities in a partnership recently formed. The Grande Prairie Seniors Reading Theatre is group who collect and tell stories about our region. They have joined us, and will continue their work as a committee of the PCHS.

Welcome to those new members.

This edition contains reports on the Annual General Meeting, the in-person events recently held, and a Senior's Week booth.

And to complete the issue, there are articles on a historic book club and the Kleskun Lake Ranch. Thanks to all the authors.

Regards,

Pat Wearmouth

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## Membership Dues

- The Historical Society of Alberta has a policy on membership dues. Members will be reminded to renew lapsed dues after three months. If no renewal is forthcoming, they will cease to be a member at the six month mark.
- The due's year has also changed. Dues are now due on April 1<sup>st</sup> and expire on March 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year, or multiples thereof.
- The Society keeps the master membership list, and receives dues on our behalf.
- Please go their website, [www.albertahistory.org](http://www.albertahistory.org),  
OR  
phone their office at (403) 261-3662 for details on your dues and the categories and amount of dues and subscriptions

## **Peace Country Historical Society**

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

**Mandate:** The mandated area of the Peace Country Historical Society is the northwest region of Alberta

### **Board of Directors**

Pat Wearmouth –President  
Duff Crerar - Vice- President  
Susan K. Thomson – Treasurer  
Charles Taws – Secretary  
David Leonard – Director  
David Rhody – Director  
Ron Thoreson – Director  
Doug Spry –Director  
Linda Schofield – Director

### **PCHS Committee Chairs**

Irene Nicolson – Phoning  
Susan Thomson – Heritage Fair, Education Kits  
David Leonard – Advocacy & Land Settlement  
Pat Wearmouth – Newsletter/Web presence  
Ron Thoreson – Facebook Forum  
Charles Taws – Historic Plaque Placements  
Linda Schofield – Reader's Theatre Stories  
Janet Peterson – Information Table

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## **What We Can Offer**

- A chance to help set direction for our Peace Country Chapter at membership meetings or by other communication means.
- A chance to learn about Peace Country history during presentations and tours, through Facebook, the Newsletter, the Website, and at membership meetings.
- A chance to meet other people who enjoy history.
- A chance to contribute as a volunteer in various projects that we carry out.
- A chance to advocate for the history of our area.
- We hope that you choose to continue with, or join, our Society.

## **Reports**

### **The Annual General Meeting(s)**

Actually, two PCHS AGMs were held on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022. The reason for the two was to transition our fiscal year from the calendar year to our current one which runs April 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>. The main purpose of these meetings was to present reports to the membership and to vote on legally required (and other) matters which are entered into the records. These included:

- For the three month period January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021
  - Adoption of the agenda
  - Adoption of the May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting minutes
  - Approved financial statement.
  - Affirmed the Board for the period.
- For the year 2021/2022
  - Adoption of the agenda
  - Minute adoption delayed until next meeting
  - Approved financial statement
  - Approved budget for 2022/2023
  - Acclaimed the new Board of Directors. This was our first alternate year election, which means we have some Board continuity going forward.
  - Appointed David Rhody and Ron Thoreson as financial statement auditors
  - Appointed Susan Thomson, Duff Crerar, and Charles Taws as authorized signers. The treasurer is authorized to carry out online banking.
  - Through a courtesy motion, thanked Al Bromling for his past Board service.

### **The Peace Country Land Settlement Database.**

David Leonard made a presentation on the Peace Country Land Settlement Database Project following the AGM on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The result of the project is a searchable database available on the South Peace Regional Archives website and found under the Research heading. The database, initiated and partially funded by the PCHS contains over 30,000 applications for Crown land, homesteads, and other lands by settlers in the Peace Country. The information will be of interest to people looking for ancestors or seeking to understand settlement patterns. Names or legal land locations can be used in the search.

The full story of how this work was completed is also found on the SPRA website.

## The Kleskun Ranch Tour



The PCHS's Kleskun Ranch tour on June 4<sup>th</sup> was a big success by all accounts. David Leonard did a great job of planning the tour. He discussed and showed the locations of various parts of the Ranch itself via comments on the bus and a lunch time presentation. A bonus for participants was his running commentary as the bus made its way to the Ranch sites. For instance, he used the family names and church denominations of early settlers to illustrate how people of similar ethnic backgrounds settled a particular township or area.

A mid-morning break was provided by Doug and Shirley Spry at their farm in the North Kleskun Hills, a historic site in itself. The group was also hosted in the Teepee Creek hall by Ken Binks and the Teepee Creek Rodeo Association who provided the space and

coffee for lunch. Many thanks to these people for taking the time.

For those of you who missed the tour, there may be another opportunity in the fall if enough people register. Watch for announcements via email and the Facebook Forum page. Members and non-members are welcome.

## PCHS Booth the Grande Prairie Senior's Week

June 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> was Senior's Week in Alberta. It is a week in which we celebrate seniors and all that they have contributed to the development of the Province, and the local regions.

The week was also an opportunity to showcase the Peace Country Historical Society along with other organizations providing information that might interest seniors. We set up a booth on the Monday in the Bonnetts Energy Center in downtown Grande Prairie. The booth was staffed by PCHS members Susan Thomson, Duff Crerar, and Pat Wearmouth. Our new PCHS brochures were handed out and questions answered. Susan Thomson set up a draw, with PCHS books as prizes. Ninety four people put their name in the draw, and 7 prizes were awarded.

Thanks to Susan for developing this idea into a successful promotion of our Society.



## History of the Grande Prairie Book Club

Margaret Bowes & Betty Grunau

The Grande Prairie Book Club was formed in 1939 and continues today. As you can see from the history attached, it began with 20 and then changed to 21 members meeting monthly except for the summer months. Meetings were held in members' homes and the hostess and her committee would often have a short program - a speaker or perhaps a guest musician. As the '60s with affordable travel developed, several of the members gave accounts of their travels to many European, Asian and other countries.

When monthly attendance began dropping, the club changed to quarterly dinner meetings which have worked well. Many women have been part of the club over the years, with membership changing as a lot of the members' husbands were transferred to other towns, moved in retirement to other places or were prevented by health problems from continuing.

When a member resigns, remaining members suggest someone else who might be interested in the club and that way we have managed to maintain an active club over 83 years!

We hope you find the attached history interesting.

### First 50 Years (1939-89)

The Grande Prairie Book Club held its first meeting in September 1939 at the home of Mrs. Tracy. The purpose of the club was to circulate books amongst its members. Members initially decided on meeting monthly, that membership would not exceed twenty ladies, and to exchange books every two weeks. The first executive included Mrs. Tracy, President; Mrs. Pickard, Vice-President; and Mrs. Swanston, Secretary-Treasurer. The book buying committee was comprised of Mrs. Carlisle and Mrs. Fawcett and books were protected with plastic covers. Twenty books were purchased from book dealers in Edmonton each term; in 1939, membership fees were \$2.50, in 1968 membership fees of \$6.00 covered the cost, \$120.00, of twenty books, and by 1979 fees had risen to \$15.00. (In 2022, fees are now \$30!)

A circulation list  
c. 1945 showing the  
dates assigned to each  
member to read a  
particular book

2. The Constant Star			
Butchart	Sept. 3 -	Sept. 17	17
Pickard	17 -	Oct. 1	1
Caldwell	Oct. 1 -	" 15	15
Evans	" 15 -	" 29	29
Dalglish	" 29 -	Nov. 12	12
Pratt	Nov. 12 -	" 26	26
Rothwell	" 26 -	Dec. 10	10
Patterson	Dec. 10 -	" 24	24
Charters	" 24 -	Jan. 7	7
McIntosh	Jan. 7 -	" 21	21
Nelson	" 21 -	Feb. 4	4
Davies	Feb. 4 -	" 18	18
Ewing	" 18 -	" 3	3
Carroll	" 3 -	Mar. 17	17
Carlisle	Mar. 17 -	" 31	31
Johnson	" 31 -	Apr. 14	14
Balfour	Apr. 14 -	" 28	28
Swanston	" 28 -	May 11	11
Christie	May 11 -	" 25	25
Robinson	" 25 -	Jun. 8	8
Ross	Jun. 8 -	" 22	22
	" 22 -	July 5	5

Guests, Speakers &  
Program Committee



At each monthly meeting the hostess provided lunch, assisted by several other members. A program committee was established to provide entertainment and education at the meetings, and which often involved a guest speaker or a presentation.

Over the years many diverse guest speakers have been hosted: Archie Calliou, the founder of Grande Prairie's Friendship Centre; Evy McBryan, who documented the building of the Alaska Highway with Euphemia McNaught; Glen Patterson the manager of Canfor when the new industry of plywood was introduced; the émigré Baron Fausenhousen and his delightful wife, prepared a fruit soufflé on the stove; and Bill Sargent, who spoke and showed slides of a trip on the Nahani river. Many important Grande Prairie residents have presented on local history, including Gerald Carveth, who compiled a history of Grande Prairie and Rycroft, and Pete Eager during the centennial celebrations in 1967 when the Bear Creek Park entrance gate was officially opened. Also in 1967, Roma Gauk gave a demonstration of Ukrainian Easter egg decorating. In 1968 and in 1971 memorials were held, respectively, for members Dorothy Caldwell and Marion Evans.

### **Record Keeping and Constitution**

In 1969 Mrs. Patterson presented a 25-year history of the book club written by Mrs. Swanston. But in 1972 the question of the historical record's location and discussion of importance of preservation arose. In that year a constitution was written (using the minutes from previous years) which included the purpose: "...to circulate among members the books selected by a book buying committee; and to present nine programs a year for the edification, entertainment, and fellowship of the members."

### **Monthly to Quarterly Meetings**

In the June 1979 meeting, it was noted that attendance was dropping as a result of members' involvement with other activities, and Margaret Bowes' proposal of having four dinner meetings a year instead of twelve lunches was accepted. As a result the first dinner meeting was held at the Bowes' residence on September 5<sup>th</sup> 1979, with a full membership of 21 and 2 guests, and with hostesses Margaret Bowes, Margaret Simpson, June Murray, and Doreen MacDonnell. In December 1979, the club celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with Rose Patterson, the last remaining charter member.

In January 1989, the new club secretary, Alice Lorenz, reminded members in writing of their duty according to their constitution to pass books on or before the dates printed on the list inside the cover of the book.

### **Present Day**

President, Vice-President and Secretary positions are voted to office, as they always have been. The book buying committee is comprised of three members chosen alphabetically each year. All members contribute their annual fee at the September meeting to the book

buying committee, and, should there be a surplus, it is given to the succeeding book buying committee.

### **Book Selection and Circulation**

The committee spends a lot of time checking out the reviews of new books, and considers members' suggestions. When the 21 books are chosen the committee then, as the first committee did, wraps them in plastic. A secure space is left inside the cover where there is a sheet for a 'Critique' sheet where each reader writes a few lines regarding the book and rates it from 1 to 10. The committee also has to prepare a list for each book that is distributed in September. Each list has all the names and exact two week date (except three weeks in December) that the book is to be delivered to the next person. The last book received in June belongs to that recipient.

### **Host Committees**

The quarterly host committees are chosen by drawing names at the September meeting. Each host committee chooses what format the meeting will take: a potluck dinner at one of their homes; dinner prepared by the hostesses; a dessert; or, eating at a restaurant where each member pays their way.

### **Meetings during the Pandemic**

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, two bring-your-own-lunch meetings have been held at Susan and Arnie Meyer's hangar where it has been easy to maintain social distance. The meetings are usually held the first Tuesday in September, December, March and June. By September, each member will have given their 'Critique' sheet to Betty Grunau who does an excellent job of summarizing the comments and ratings of each book. She identifies which books were the favourites, and presents her findings at the December meeting.



# 1. The Burnished Blade

Ayre	Sept. 6	-Sept 20	
Butchart	Sept. 20	-Oct. 4	
Pickard	Oct. 4	- Oct 18	
Caldwell	Oct. 18	- Nov. 1	
McIntosh	Nov. 1	- Nov. 15	
Evans	" 15	- " 29	
Gray	" 29	- Dec. 13	
Pratt	Dec. 13	- Jan. 3	
Patterson	Jan. 3	- " 17	
Rothwell	" 17	- " 31	
Nelson	" 31	- Feb. 14	
Carlisle	Feb. 14	- " 28	
Kujath	" 28	- Mar. 14	
O'Brien	Mar. 14	- " 28	
Carroll	" 28	- Apr. 11	
Charters	Apr. 11	- " 25	
Ross	" 25	- May 9	
Swanston	May 9	- " 23	
Dalglish	" 23	- June 6	
Balfour	June 6	- " 20	
Simpson	" 20	- July 4	

1. The Burnished Blade	Scheenever
2. Sod Busters	MacEwan
3. The Chain	Wellman
4. Life of Conan Doyle	Carr
5. Southern Cross	Knight
6. On Being A Canadian	Massey
7. The Innocent Traveller	Wilson
8. Peace of Soul	Sheen
9. The Precipice	MacLennan
10. This Is Newfoundland	Young
11. Catch A Falling Star	Van de Water
12. The Mackenzie	Leslie Roberts
13. Mary Wakefield	de la Roche
14. Crooked House	Christie
15. High Towers	Costain
16. Bride of Fortune	Knox
17. Angels In The Dust	Kossak
18. Africa of Albert Schweitzer	Joy and Arnold
19. Cleft Rock	Hobart
20. Bird of Time	Hall
21. Master of the Girl Pat	Orsborne

# 11. Torch for a Dark Journey

Nelson	Oct. 3	--- Oct. 17
Carlisle	Oct. 7	---Oct. 31
Kujath	Oct. 31	---Nov. 14
O'Brien	Nov. 14	---Nov. 28
Carroll	Nov. 28	---Dec. 12
Charters	Dec. 12	---Dec. 26
Ross	Dec. 26	---Jan. 9
Swanston	Jan. 9	--- Jan.23
Dalglish	Jan 23	---Feb. 6
Balfour	Feb. 6	---Feb.20
Simpson	Feb.20	---Mar. 6
Ayre	Mar. 6	---Mar.20
Butchart	Mar. 20	--- Apr. 3
Pickard	Apr. 3	---Apr. 17
Caldwell	Apr. 17	--- May 1
McIntosh	May 1	---May 15
Evans	May 15	---May 29
Gray	May 29	---June 12
Pratt	June 12	--- June 26
Patterson	June 26	---July 10
Rothwell	July 10	---July 24

1. The Spanish Gardener	A.J. Cronin
2. The Legacy	Nevil Shute
3. Western Approaches	Fitzroy MacLean
4. Red Cloak Flying	Margaret Widdie
5. The Audlark	Theodore Bonnet
6. Every Inch a King	Da Costa
7. Our Jerusalem	Bertha Stafford Vester
8. Frequent Hearses	Edmund Crispin
9. Out in the Midday Sun	Monica Bertie
10. The Cardinal	Henry Morton Robinson
11. Torch for a Dark Journey	Lionel S. Shapin
12. The White King	Samuel B. Harris
13. The Cullen of Beltmore	Judith Robinson
14. The King's Cavalier	Samuel Shellabarger
15. Love Story	Ruth McKenry
16. Last Chance in Africa	Negley Carson
17. A Sort of Traitors	Negel Balchin

18. Stanger and Alone	J Saunders Re
19. The Egyptian	Mika Waltari
20. I Leap over the Wall	Monica Baldwin
21. Jubilee Trail	Gwen Bristow

The Circulation and the Book Lists. The one on the right is for 1966.

Note that the books arrived late that year so circulation was not commenced until October rather than the normal September.

## The Kleskun Ranch -KR

David W. Leonard



Ever since Charles Horetzky and John Macoun began to promote the Peace River Country as ideal for large-scale farming in the 1870s, the region held a special appeal for colonization ventures. For years, nothing substantial took place due to the absence of a railway, and, when the Canadian Northern finally began a “Peace River” line from Edmonton in 1909, the Dominion government was committed to developing the land with small farms under the homestead provisions of the Dominion Lands Act. In 1909, a Peace River Land Office was opened in Grouard and surveyor Walter McFarlane contracted to outline 17 townships on the Grande Prairie and subdivide them into quarter-sections. The result was a land rush which saw over 6,700 applications for land in the region prior to World War I, despite the absence of a railway.

Prior to the war, cattle raising had been small-scale in the Peace River Country, with most homesteaders inclined to dry-land farming, with the necessary horses and a few cows around. Cattle ranching always required a large outlay of capital, and few homesteaders were wealthy. Shortly after establishing a trading post on the west shore of Lake Saskatoon in 1900, Alex Monkman maintained a few head of cattle there on behalf of the firm of Bredin & Cornwall, as did Louis Calliou near Flyingshot Lake.<sup>1</sup> On 19 July 1904, the *Rocky Mountain Echo* (Pincher Creek) reported that a party including Addison Hall and Jim McCreight:

... took a bunch of about 70 head of cattle and located on the east end of Bear Lake, in the Grand Prairie. Their losses last winter were very severe owing to the heavy snow fall during the latter part of the season. In March there were two feet of packed snow on the prairie. However he (Hall) is not discouraged but is working hard, and waiting with hope the construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, which it is expected will tap the district in which he has located.

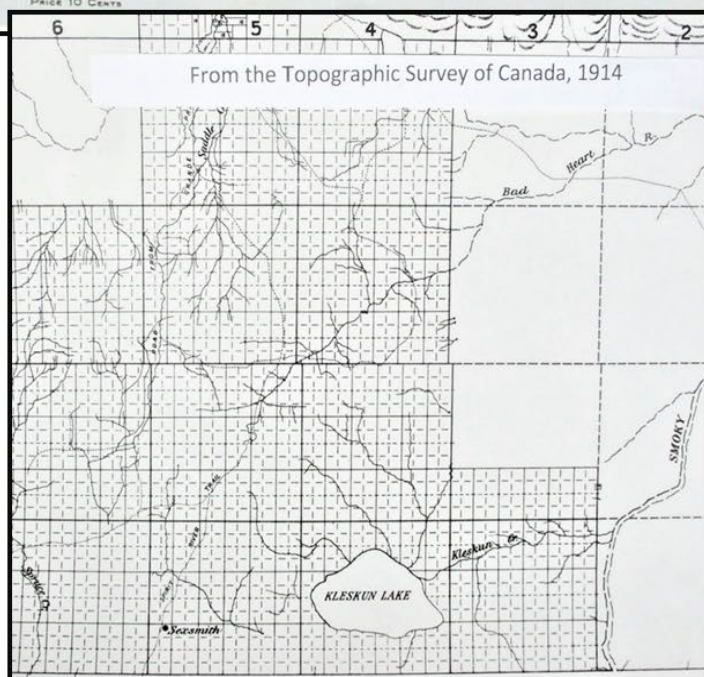
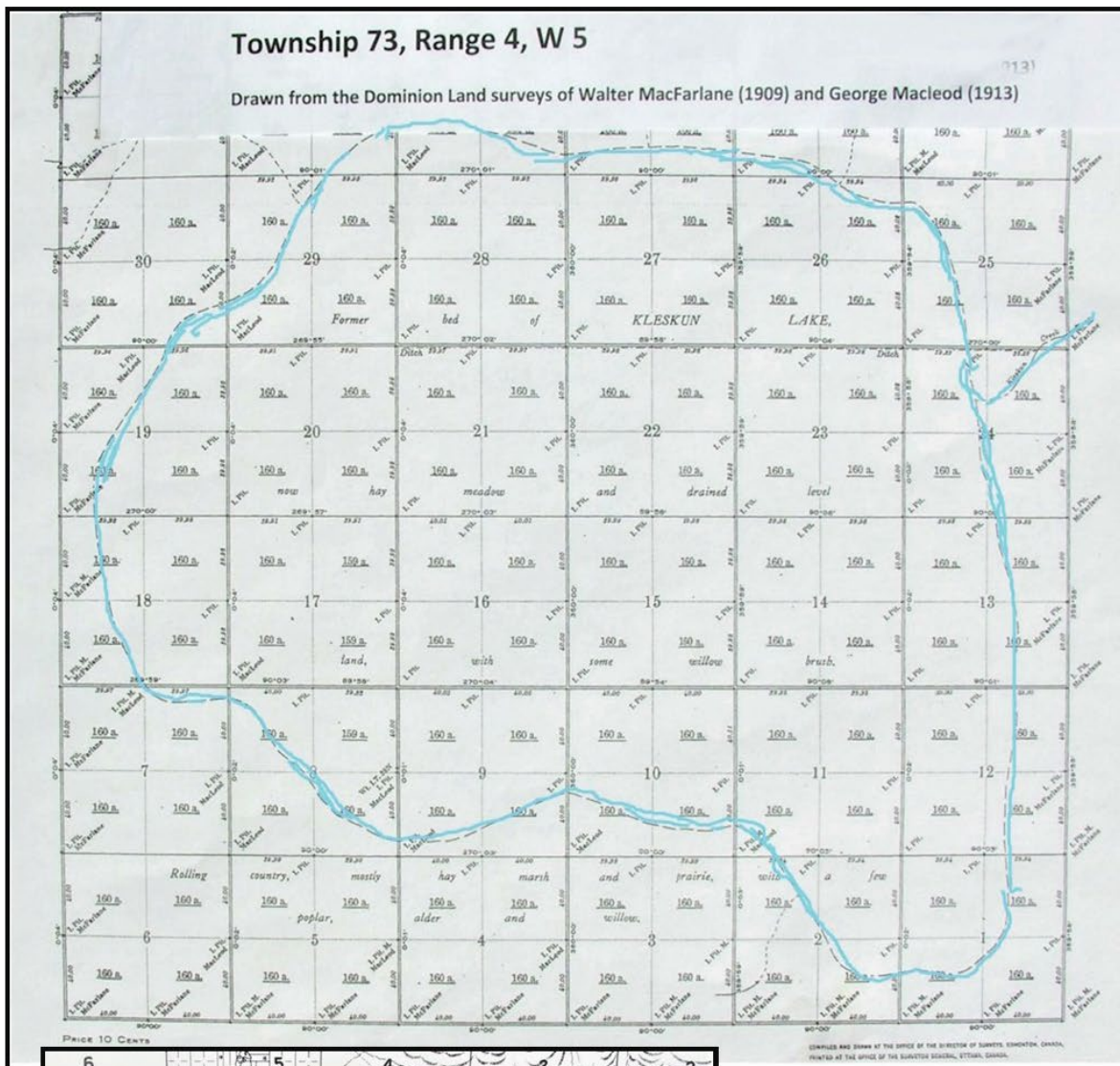
Many of these cattle died due to the harsh winter, and, in 1906, the remainder were sold to Monkman who had just begun farming on his own off the shore of Cutbank Lake, with his “cow camp” maintained off the north shore of Bear Lake. The only actual ranch on the Prairie prior

to World War I was established in the Scenic Heights district by Harry Adair, with nine quarters acquired for the operation.<sup>2</sup> It was principally a horse ranch however, with some 700 head having been brought in on a famous drive from Montana during 1907-09.<sup>3</sup>

As land settlement exploded in the Peace River Country after 1909, so did the demand for cattle. The problem however was that practically all the open surveyed land was set aside for small, 160-acre homesteads. Besides, driving large herds of cattle over such a long distance of swamps and forested hills would have been almost impossible, in spite of the apparent success of the Hall and McCreight drive in 1903-04. Even Adair's success with horses was regarded as Herculean, and took two years.

There was, however, one township on the Grande Prairie which had been left open from settlement, this being TP73 Range 4 W6. When McFarlane attempted to subdivide this land north of the Kleskun Hills in June 1909, he wrote to the Director of Surveys that "the water became so deep around Kleskun Lake in the hay meadow and marsh that we had to leave it for a while and will finish it later."<sup>4</sup> It was not until the summer of 1913 that G.W. Macleod was able to mark off certain quarter-sections along the outer edges of this township. Even then, the suitability of the land for grain farming was problematic, for, as Macleod pointed out in his report:

The township consists of Kleskun Lake with marsh land surrounding it occupying from one-third to one-half of the township, and rolling park-like country to the north and south. Kleskun Lake is a shallow body of open water, the limits of which are more or less indeterminate. It is simply a patch of open water in a marsh. The marsh land is dotted with open depressions and is practically impassable. Surrounding this marsh is a strip varying from one quarter to a mile and a half in width and carrying a growth of slough hay. In dry seasons considerable hay can be cut. The flat of hay marsh is quite distinct from the marsh described above. Surrounding the hay flat and on the same level is a strip of light woods, consisting of poplar, willow, alder and an occasional spruce. An escarpment varying from twenty to forty feet in height encloses this flat on all sides except the east. Above this escarpment the country is generally rolling prairie dotted with clumps of poplar, willow and alder. The upland soil consists of from four to six inches overlaying a clay or sandy clay subsoil and is quite suitable for agriculture. The hay flat provides hay in fair quantities every year. At or near the foot of the escarpment on the north side of the lake are found many so-called mud springs which are exceedingly treacherous.... No minerals were seen. Fuel is scarce. No water-powers occur. Ducks, geese and swans are plentiful. Prairie chickens are found in the uplands.<sup>5</sup>



Above:  
The Extent of Kleskun Lake  
on Township 73, Range 4, W6

Regional Topographic Map 1914



Though depicted as basically unfavourable for dry-land farming, the central part of Township 73 did prove attractive to certain speculators who may have taken special notice of Macleod's contention that "apparently the lake and surrounding marsh could be easily drained by opening up Kleskun Creek, which at present has a sluggish appearance due to vegetable growth; this would greatly increase the hay production."<sup>6</sup> On 13 November 1913, just after the release of Macleod's report, two Belgian businessmen stationed in Calgary named Raoul Pirmez and George Raels applied to the Minister of the Interior for:

... permission to purchase certain lands underlying and abutted upon Kleskun Lake ... for reclamation by drainage, comprising eighteen thousand four hundred (18,400) acres more or less. Approval of the drainage and reclamation of the said lands has been given by the Director of Surveys of the Province of Alberta ... and no known interests will be prejudicially affected by the drainage works. Investigations made by an engineer of the Department of the Interior show that the lake serves no useful purpose as a source of water supply, and that its drainage and reclamation of the underlying and adjacent land would be in the public interest. The land is valueless in its present condition.<sup>7</sup>

It was apparently the intent of Pirmez and Raels to settle a number of Belgian immigrants on the reclaimed land, and so all but the very southern and very northern portions of the township was reserved by the Department from "other disposition," such as homesteading.

By the time Pirmez and Raels got around to organizing their scheme however, World War I was underway, and, in August 1914, combat in western Europe began with the German invasion of Belgium. As a result, both Pirmez and Raels returned to their home country to engage in the conflict. As the war dragged on, the scheme collapsed, and, on 31 December 1915, it was reported that the application for the Kleskun Lake project had been transferred to one Frederick Adams, "and the said Mr. Adams on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1917, transferred his interest to Edmund Thompson of Kingman, Alberta and both have been accepted, and registered by the Department of the Interior."<sup>8</sup>

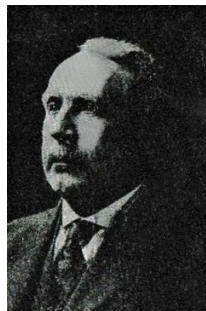
Ed Thompson was a farmer/rancher of Norwegian descent from near Camrose, who owned a ranch of about 5,000 head.<sup>9</sup> By the time of his acquisition of the Pirmez-Raels claim, there were several new incentives to make the drainage project attractive. The main one was the arrival of the Edmonton, Dunvegan & British Columbia Railway, which reached Grande Prairie in April, 1916. Another was the fact of the war, which resulted in great demand for western Canadian beef in Great Britain and eastern Canada. The already growing demand for the product in the United States was enhanced in 1917 with the American entry into the war. Still another incentive was Alberta's Livestock Encouragement Act, commonly known as the "Cow Bill", which passed in 1917.<sup>10</sup> This provided low-interest loans for farmers to go more

into cattle-raising, a development strongly encouraged by the director of the Dominion Agricultural Research Station at Beaverlodge, Donald Albright.

On 24 July 1916, *the Grande Prairie Herald* reported that local farmers were now “going extensively into livestock.” The previous February, the Mountain Creek Ranch was opened on a lease some 13 km south of Grande Prairie with the purpose of allowing farmers to graze stock at \$2.50 per head summer feeding and \$10.00 per head winter feeding.<sup>11</sup> With this news, Thompson began to seek out partners for his venture on Kleskun Lake. The principal one soon became one James Pike, the manager of the Merchant’s Bank of Canada in Kingman, who was, no doubt, a friend of Thompson. So committed was he in fact that he persuaded his brother, Frank, who managed the Merchant’s Bank of Canada in Edmonton, to join the project.<sup>12</sup>



FRANK PIKE



ED THOMPSON

Both Pikes were, by now, accustomed to lending money to potentially successful farming ventures. Still another investor was Mike Sheady, a retired railway contractor known to the Pikes, who had much experience in construction.

In the *Canada Gazette* for 6 April 1918, it was noted that:

... the Committee of the Privy Council have had before them a report dated 7<sup>th</sup> February, 1918, from the Minister of the Interior, stating that application had been made to the Irrigation Branch of the Department ... for permission to drain Kleskun Lake ... and to purchase the land to be thereby reclaimed, and the application has been favourable considered.

The following September, the Kleskun Ranch Company was officially incorporated with assets totalling \$200,000, the objective being to develop land in and around Kleskun Lake into a workable ranch, including a substantial drainage project.<sup>13</sup> The shareholders at \$50,000 apiece were Thompson, Sheady, and the Pike brothers. Thompson was listed as the president and Frank Pike as the secretary-treasurer.

With this commitment, the Kleskun Ranch Company began to organize itself into a functional business, having received a loan of \$40,000 from the Merchant’s Bank of Canada. They immediately purchased land to the east along Kleskun Creek from Dan and Lewis Gulick,

and Louis Fehrman, the land giving them access to the creek as it flowed generally east-northeast into the Smoky River. They also obtained grazing leases of up to 25,000 acres off the west bank of the Smoky and up to the mouth of the Bad Heart River from the Dominion Lands Branch, where cattle were expected to graze during the summer months. With 18,400 acres expected to be reclaimed from the lake bottom and surrounding grasslands, the entire project was expected to encompass 45,000 acres, almost two townships.

In the meantime, Thompson and the Pikes proceeded to round up more investors, for it was clear that a massive commitment had to be made, as returns would not be achieved until the Ranch was in a position to export cattle, and this would be several years away. It was apparently the Pikes who travelled to New York and Boston to promote the Company, no doubt alluding to the glowing reports from the Department of the Interior, the publicity of the Peace River Country for agricultural potential, the recent arrival of the Edmonton, Dunvegan & British Columbia Railway, the high prices then being paid for western Canadian beef, and the financial commitments already made to the project, including the direct involvement of the Bank of Montreal. Their campaign proved highly successful, with a number of American investors jumping on board. Another important investor became Verner W. Smith of Camrose, a ranching friend of Thompson who would win the riding of Camrose for the United Farmers of Alberta in the provincial election of 1921.

On 27 July 1919, the Kleskun Ranch Company was re-incorporated and authorized to raise capital to the extent of \$600,000.<sup>14</sup> Ed Thompson was reconfirmed as president and James Pike named as Secretary-Treasurer. The principal shareholders at \$100 per share were the Perry Corporation of New York (696), Mike Sheady (600), Edmund Thompson (575), A.P. Bowditch of Boston (549), James Pike (450), and the Bank of Montreal (450), there being 5,175 shares in all. On the strong recommendation, if not insistence, of some of the Americans, in particular A.P. Bowditch, the first manager of the Ranch would be named as one M.N. Stewart of Billings, Montana, who was a proven ranch foreman.

All the while, local farmers and farm hands were being hired, and work begun on turning the marshy grasslands surrounding Kleskun Lake into a workable ranch. In the summer of 1919, a group of potential investors travelled to the district to view the project first hand. They would have witnessed the construction of barns, stables, blacksmith shops, bunkhouses, cook houses, and other ranch buildings, the laying out of fencing, the dredging of canals, the laying of pipe, and, of great importance, the beginning of the drainage project, which was estimated to cost \$100,000.<sup>15</sup>

To undertake the drainage, the Company contracted the construction services of Dempster Treadway of Edmonton who proceeded first of all to dam Kleskun Creek near its mouth on



NE24 TP73. He then undertook to excavate the creek in places where blockages were evident, all this being done by terms of the provincial Reclamation Act, which provided financial assistance for such projects.<sup>16</sup> Then, in the fall of 1918, the dam was removed and the lake water allowed to flow into the creek, gradually lowering the water of the lake which was then at its annual low point. The flow proved easy as it was all downhill.

Most of the employees at the Ranch were local, the population of the district having grown considerably since the arrival of the railway. Apparently, the going wage was \$90 per month plus room and board. War's end also saw the opening up of the Teepee Creek and Bad Heart districts for farming, many veterans taking advantage of the benefits offered by the Dominion Soldiers Settlement Board. In its annual report for 1919, the Alberta Department of Agriculture pointed out that:

... in addition to the farmers and settlers increasing their livestock holdings, several ranching enterprises were established in the north, the largest perhaps being the Kleskun Ranch Ltd. in the Grande Prairie district, to which 700 head of breeding stock were shipped during the past season.<sup>17</sup> The brand for the Company's cattle was identified as "- K R"<sup>18</sup>

Most of the first imported breeding cattle came from the ranching operation of Ed Thompson near Camrose, others acquired from other ranches in south and central Alberta. The cattle were shipped in cattle cars to Sexsmith, from where they were driven east to the Ranch.<sup>19</sup> In its annual report of 1918, the Department of Agriculture announced that "the movement of cattle northward is being followed with a keen interest by southern Alberta stockmen with a view to ascertaining the possibilities of the Peace River district as a cattle growing country."<sup>20</sup> In the Dominion Census of 1921, it was pointed out that, since 1916, the number of cattle in Census Division 16 (including the Peace River Country west of the Smoky River) had increased from 6,350 to 39,675.<sup>21</sup>

The Kleskun Ranch itself would soon feature five different camps, three of them permanent.<sup>22</sup> The main buildings were located off Kleskun Creek on NE30 TP73 R3, on land acquired from Dan Gulick and later belonging to Ed Grant. The western camp was located on NW19 TP73 R4, on land later owned by George Fraser. The northern camp was located on SW34 TP73 R3, on land later owned by Alf Bisgrove. With so much cattle acquired by the Ranch, it became the practice to drive the herds to the several grazing leases acquired on the west bank of the Smoky River up to the mouth of the Bad Heart. The drives to the leases would take place during the early summer, after which Ranch hands would proceed to make hay on the Ranch land for storage in the several barns the Ranch had built. Then, in late fall, the cattle would be driven back to the Ranch to feed off the hay harvested earlier. Oats were also cultivated to provide feed for the cattle and horses, and, no doubt, gardens grown to help feed the men.



The Main camp of the Kleskun Ranch was located on NE30 TP73 R3 W6

It was therefore with great enthusiasm that the Ranch proceeded with operations into the 1920s. On 11 October 1921, the *Grande Prairie Herald* reported:

What is reported to be the largest sale yet of purebred livestock in northern Alberta was completed on Thursday morning when the honourable V.W. Smith, minister of railways and telephones, disposed of his fine herd at Camrose to the Kleskun Ranch Co. at Sexsmith, for around \$25,000. Negotiations, which have been underway for some days, were ended and arrangements made for the transfer. There are 150 head of cattle bought by the ranch company, all being the Fairfax Hereford breed which has given so many prize winners to western showings. A purebred Percheron stallion was also bought in the deal....

The stock will be added to the company's herd at Sexsmith, augmenting the 1,600 high grade Herefords now there. The last big buy for this company was last spring when six prize Hereford bulls were purchased from J.C. Sherry and shipped north.

There was an article on the Ranch composed by Harry Laughy for the Toronto *Saturday Night* magazine and repeated in *Alberta Agriculture*.<sup>23</sup> In March 1922, another story by Charles Jenkins appeared in *Maclean's* magazine entitled "Ranching on the Bottom of a Lake".<sup>24</sup> Both articles were laudatory and praised especially the initiatives of Thompson and the Pikes.

By this time however, there were ominous signs in the air. With the massive return of war veterans to the land, and the encouragement of other veterans to take up farming in western Canada, the output of farm produce soon exploded, in grain as well as livestock and dairy products. This of course meant a glut in the market and a decline in prices, in Canada and abroad. Then, to exacerbate conditions, the United States undertook to raise duties on imported cattle, no doubt to aid its own struggling ranchers. As the Department of Agriculture lamented, "The fall of 1920 saw a great slump in prices of all farm products, and of the classes

of livestock, cattle and sheep were most affected. Cattle dipped to pre-war prices.”<sup>25</sup> In its annual report of 1921, the Department lamented:

Conditions pertaining to the livestock industry during the previous year 1921 gave cause to no small degree of alarm, particularly in regard to beef cattle. The United States government thought it was wise to impose a tariff on Canadian cattle entering the United States. The stockmen of Alberta look upon the Stock Yards of Chicago as their natural market. Stock sold at tremendous loss.<sup>26</sup>

Exports were also hampered by a brief embargo Great Britain placed on cattle in 1921, also to aid their own struggling farmers.<sup>27</sup>

The slump was compounded in the Peace River Country by the excessive freight rates farmers and ranchers had to pay in order to get their produce to the lake head in Ontario or to Vancouver. In addition to this, regional operations had to contend with the inconsistent service of the Edmonton, Dunvegan and British Columbia Railway, with constant delays caused mostly by washouts along the south shore of Lesser Slave Lake and land slippages along the banks of the Smoky River near Watino. Sometimes, trains were delayed for up to a month. The livestock industry was especially affected since, unlike grain or dairy products, exported cattle had to be fed and watered during transit.

This all caught the directors of the Kleskun Ranch off guard. They had spent two years building up their supply of beef cattle, and now it was proving too costly and onerous to ship anything out. The economic woes were compounded by local resentments. Until the Ranch had begun to fence off its land, the open grasslands surrounding Kleskun Lake had been regularly used by local farmers to graze their own cattle. This was no longer allowed. Also, many of these farmers engaged in trapping, mainly muskrats, along the marshy shore of the lake, and this too was no longer allowed. One disgruntled homesteader was George Robinson who had taken land on NE6 TP73 R3, just southeast of the lake. A war veteran, he later disclosed that, when he returned late 1918:

I found things very different ... a large dredge was working day and night to furnish ditches. The panicky government had turned 22,000 acres over to the company to drain, ostensibly for the purpose of producing food for a country at war. Settlers' interests were entirely disregarded and our lake which was used to furnish hay, cut along its edges of the lake for a mile or two out for winter feed and muskrats in the winter for summer grubstakes, was drained down Kleskun Creek.<sup>28</sup>



**George Robinson  
at his Cabin, c.1920**

Another complaint concerned the driving of cattle to the several grazing leases the Ranch maintained on the western banks of the Smoky River up to the mouth of the Bad Heart. This often involved the perhaps unintended trespassing of land recently ceded to local farmers, with the Bad Heart and Smoky Heights districts now rapidly filling up with homesteaders, many of them war veterans. One such veteran was Nobby Clark who had taken out a Soldier's grant near Bad Heart and even worked for the Ranch a while. When learning that his own land had been crossed however, he apparently threatened to shoot any future violators, and would soon be in court for assault.<sup>29</sup> He and other locals were also upset by the fencing off of the Ranch's grazing leases which, hitherto, they had been allowed to use. The book-keeper for the Ranch during 1919-20 was Kent Purdy, and, in later years, he recalled:

The Company leased rangeland on the Bad Heart and Smoky Rivers, but encountered difficulties in attempting to evict squatters from the area. These four or five veterans, including Nobby Clark and Herman Klukas, were supported by the Legion [Great War Veterans Association] in their fight to hold their land. The Company wanted them off as they had taken land around springs (soap holes). Also, rumour was around that some of the -KR cattle had mysteriously disappeared.<sup>30</sup>

The precarious operation of the Ranch soon became apparent by the rapid succession of managers since its incorporation. As Purdy recalled from his brief time at the Ranch, "Due to his inexperience in operating a cattle ranch in such a northern latitude as the Peace River, [M.N. Stewart] was replaced by a Camrose cattleman by the name of Linstrom [no doubt an acquaintance of Edmund Thompson] about Christmas 1919.<sup>31</sup> Linstrom, in turn, was followed by Ted Gardner in the summer of 1920, with Pete Bendickson, Abe Edburg, W. Roy Roberts, and James Burnett following in the early-mid 1920s.<sup>32</sup> One of the operational problems turned out to be the unpredictability of the water levels of Kleskun Lake, which continued to rise in early

summer due to the run-off from the many creeks flowing into it from the north and south. This, despite the apparent success of the drainage project.

In May 1922, Thompson himself resigned as president of the Ranch, no doubt heart-broken by the mounting debt of the Company and its inability to sell much of its stock to outside markets at reasonable prices.<sup>33</sup> He then returned to his home near Kingman and died in 1926. The good news was that he was replaced by Verner W. Smith who had just won the riding of Camrose for the United Farmers of Alberta and was now Minister of Railways and Telephones. The UFA victory was also good news, for, in its platform, it had promised to fight for farmers' (and therefore ranchers') interests, and especially to challenge the high federal freight rates.

In its annual report of 1922, the Department of Agriculture stated that prices for cattle and horses "have perhaps never been lower in the history of the province," noting that the United States government had chosen to raise the duty on imported beef ever higher.<sup>34</sup> It also noted however that "the long controversy over the British embargo has now been settled ... large shipments are expected to go through this coming season." Indeed, there was a sharp rise in the extent of cattle carried by the railways in Census division 16, with 7,572 tons handled as opposed to 2,786 in 1921.<sup>35</sup> On 28 October of that year, the Edmonton *Bulletin* carried a story stating that:

A total of 4,000 tons of hay and green feed was put up this season on the Kleskun Ranch in the Grande Prairie country, says Michael Sheady, director of the company who recently visited the north. This winter 2,300 head of cattle will be wintered [and] 76 horses will also be fed during the cold weather season as well as 300 pigs. An additional 100 head of young heifers and steers have just been purchased and it is the manager's intention to buy another 200, there being plenty of feed to carry over this large herd of stock. Taken all around the big northern ranch has had a most successful season, and fall stock ready for the market will be marketed in January.

Despite the expressed optimism, prices continued to be generally low for beef cattle throughout the early-mid 1920s. It is not known how much the Ranch was able to export because their records were not kept, but, occasionally, stories would appear in the *Grande Prairie Herald* such as the one on 9 January, 1923 stating that "the Kleskun Ranch Company sent out ten cars of cattle to the Edmonton Stock Yards on Saturday, Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>." In addition, smaller sales were made locally, but, overall, the operation was gradually reduced, with some of its property mortgaged to raise capital.<sup>36</sup> On 13 July 1925, notice was given that the head office of the Ranch had been transferred to the legal firm of Mothersill & Dyde in Edmonton who then set about to try to dispose of the Ranch's property on the best terms possible.<sup>37</sup>

One interesting proposal involved the Ukrainian Immigration & Colonization Association of Canada which was seeking to settle some 150 families of Ukrainians from Russia who had sought refuge in China, and were now seeking to settle in western Canada.<sup>38</sup> A price of \$15 per acre was apparently agreed upon with the Association, but roadblocks were put up by the Immigration Branch of the Dominion government which required that the cost for such an undertaking would have to be borne by the Ranch and the Association, and the proposal fell through. Other portions of the ranch land were then subdivided and sold to prospective farmers, but this caused something of a scandal when much of the land proved too marshy for cultivation. As George Robinson observed:

One R.P. Allen, a high-pressure salesman, was brought in. Mr. Allen proved a good salesman and the greater part of the project was sold, at least a down payment was collected on it, which was all the company wanted, and, in fact, many parcels changed hands many times, a down payment of course being collected every time. These settlers proved to their own satisfaction that it was better to abandon their holdings and lose their initial payments than to try to farm this land....

So eventually these farmers learned the lesson nature was trying to teach them and they, all but a few die-hards, abandoned the land which reverted to the company, who too had learned the lesson (at the settlers expense) and the land reverted to the Municipality [of Grande Prairie] via the Tax Recovery Act.<sup>39</sup>

Eventually, word got around that land close to the lake was unsuited for farming, and so it was decided to liquidate the Ranch, with the property reverting to the provincial government which had initially purchased it from the Dominion government in order to facilitate the drainage operation. On 28 February 1927, the following ad appeared in the *Grande Prairie Herald*:

**Big Auction Sale**  
**KLESKUN LAKE RANCH**  
12 Miles East of Sexsmith, on  
**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23rd. 1927**  
Commencing at 10:00 a.m. sharp

Heavy work Horses, Cows, Farm Machinery of every description, Harness, Horse Collars, Granaries, Guns, Furniture, Blacksmith Outfit complete, Power Horse Clipper, and Hundreds of other Articles.  
**16-30 Rumely Oil Pull Engine all new gears**  
**International 22" Separator with all belts,**

Blacksmith Outfit, Furniture, Odds and Ends etc. to be sold before Lunch. All the rest of the Chattles at 1:00 p.m.  
Accommodation for men and teams over night. Barn room and feed for horses. Bring your own blankets & grub box.  
For further information see large posters.

**Kleskun Ranch, J. Burnett, E. J. Holtom,**  
Owners. Mgr. Auctioneer.

Full liquidation of the company actually took several years to complete, but its folding came at a time when cattle sales, like all other agricultural products, were actually on the upswing. Due to the Locarno Pacts in Europe and other factors, international trade was never greater. Between 1926 and 1930, the Peace River Country experienced its greatest population explosion, as farmers felt the twin benefits of high crop yields and high grain prices. The co-operative movement was now in full swing, with many local farmers/ranchers subscribing to the Grande Prairie Co-operative Live Stock Marketing Association. Founded in 1919, the Association now had outlets in Grande Prairie, Clairmont, Hythe, Beaverlodge, Wembley, and, the biggest of them all, in Sexsmith. In fact, in 1929, Sexsmith would lead all other communities in Alberta in the export of cattle, as well as grain, with 1,180,000 bushels of grain and \$229,000 worth of cattle shipped out.<sup>40</sup> Ironically, the Secretary of the Co-op at the time was W. Roy Roberts, who had been the manager of the Kleskun Ranch for a while during 1923-24.<sup>41</sup>

Shortly after taking over the Kleskun Lake land, the provincial government turned it over to the Municipal District of Grande Prairie, and the question remained as to what to do with it. In February 1939, the Grande Prairie *Herald-Tribune* carried a story headlined "M.D. Grande Prairie Ratepayers Endorse Strong Resolution for Proposed Conservation Project," and, the following October, the *Edmonton Journal* carried the story that Kleskun Lake was to be dammed and the lake and shore monitored by Ducks Unlimited.<sup>42</sup> Nothing appears to have happened during the war however, but, in the late 1940s, the issue was renewed. Voicing his opinion that the lake should be dammed for conservation purposes was George Robinson, who, in 1948, wrote that the greatest argument for this was much needed water conservation, and that:

The other aspect of the conservation question is, of course, the wild life. Before being drained, the Kleskun Lake was a perfect breeding ground for all types of marsh life and to drain it was a crime against nature itself, as well as a crime against the inhabitants of the district and posterity. By draining it they turned a thing of beauty into a general eyesore.<sup>43</sup>

The Municipal District however would choose the option of a controlled communal pasture, a condition the land had experienced before being given over to the Kleskun Ranch in 1918.





Ed Grant boating on Kleskun Lake, c.1950s

#### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> See Monkman's story in David W. Leonard, *Delayed Frontier: The Peace River Country to 1909* (Calgary: Detselig Enterprises, 2018), pp.218-20.

<sup>2</sup> See David W. Leonard, *The Grande Prairie of the Great Northland* (Grande Prairie: County of Grande Prairie, 2005), pp.94-96.

<sup>3</sup> See Betty Kilgour, "A Pioneer Horse Drive," *Alberta History*, Vol.44 #4 (Autumn, 1996), pp.22-26. See also *The Grande Prairie of the Great Northland*, pp.94-96.

<sup>4</sup> Provincial Archives of Alberta, 85.34 (Correspondence Files of Dominion Land Surveyors), file 1105, McFarlane to Edouard Deville, 24 June, 1909.

<sup>5</sup> Canada, Department of the Interior, *Description of Surveyed Townships in the Peace River District of Alberta and British Columbia*, 3rd edition (Ottawa: King's Printer, 1916), pp.185-86.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Provincial Archives of Alberta, 82.104 (Orders-in-Council issued by the Department of the Interior), #14580, 20 June, 1918, P.C. #1510.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> See the story of Thompson and his family in *A Harvest of Memories* (Kingman AB: Kingman Silver Club, 1981), pp.64-65.

<sup>10</sup> See *Statutes of Alberta*, 1917, Chapter 9.

<sup>11</sup> See the *Grande Prairie Herald*, 27 February, 1916.

<sup>12</sup> See Rodney Pike, "The Kleskun Ranch Venture," *Alberta History*, Vol.44 #4 (Autumn, 1996), pp.2-5. Rodney was the son of Frank Pike who visited the Ranch in the early 1920s with his son and his brother, James.

<sup>13</sup> See Alberta Corporate Registry file 2000490939-001.

<sup>14</sup> See *ibid*, file 200051043-002.

<sup>15</sup> See Rodney Pike, *op. cit.*

<sup>16</sup> See *Revised Statutes of Alberta*, 1922, Chapter 47.

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- <sup>17</sup> Alberta Department of Agriculture, *Annual Report*, 1919, p.13.
- <sup>18</sup> See Kent Purdy interview held by the Glenbow-Alberta Archives, MG4560, (Loggie interviews), B23.
- <sup>19</sup> See the *Grande Prairie Herald*, 23 July, 1918.
- <sup>20</sup> See the *Annual Report* of the Alberta Department of Agriculture, 1918, p.65.
- <sup>21</sup> *Sixth Census of Canada*, 1921, Vol. V, p.89. See the breakdown in C.A. Dawson and R.W. Murchie, *The Settlement of the Peace River Country: A Study of a Pioneer Area* (Toronto: MacMillan Company of Canada, 1934), pp.58-60.
- <sup>22</sup> See Jean Rycroft, "The Kleskun Ranch Story" in *Wagon Trails Grown Over* (Sexsmith: Sexsmith to the Smoky Historical Society, 1980), pp.1056-68. See also Jean's articles in the *Grande Prairie Booster*, June, 1977.
- <sup>23</sup> See *Alberta Agriculture*, August, 1920, p.9, copy held in the Kleskun Lake information file held by the South Peace Regional Archives.
- <sup>24</sup> See *Maclean's Magazine*, 1 March, 1922.
- <sup>25</sup> Alberta Department of Agriculture, *Annual Report*, 1920, p.11.
- <sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, *Annual Report*, 1921, p.10.
- <sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*, *Annual Report*, 1922, p.12. See also the *Grande Prairie Herald*, 21 January, 1922.
- <sup>28</sup> George Robinson letter to the *Grande Prairie Herald-Tribune*, 22 April, 1948.
- <sup>29</sup> See *ibid.*, pp.1060-61. See also *The Grande Prairie of the Great Northland*, pp.138-40.
- <sup>30</sup> Kent Purdy interview. Many stories about local people involved in the affairs of the Ranch can be seen in the work of Jean Rycroft, *op. cit.*
- <sup>31</sup> Ken Purdy interview.
- <sup>32</sup> See Jean Rycroft, *op. cit.*, and p.663. See the story of Roberts on pp.1064-66.
- <sup>33</sup> See the *Grande Prairie Herald*, 9 May, 1922.
- <sup>34</sup> *Annual Report* of the Alberta Department of Agriculture, 1922, p.11.
- <sup>35</sup> See C.A. Dawson and W.R. Murchie, *op. cit.*, p.59. The numbers included both imported and exported cattle.
- <sup>36</sup> See Corporate Registry file 200051043-002.
- <sup>37</sup> See J.D. Mothersill to the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, 13 July, 1925 in *ibid.*
- <sup>38</sup> See the correspondence with the Dominion Minister of Immigration in the records of the Immigration Branch held on microfilm by the Provincial Archives of Alberta, accession 76.189, cc.7815, file 227785.
- <sup>39</sup> George Robinson letter, *op. cit.*
- <sup>40</sup> See the *Grande Prairie Herald*, 12 September, 1930.
- <sup>41</sup> See *ibid.*, 21 June, 1932.
- <sup>42</sup> See the *Edmonton Journal*, 10 October, 1939.
- <sup>43</sup> See George Robinson letter, *op. cit.*

#### **Photo credits.**

Page 1, David Leonard

Page 4, *Alberta Agriculture*, August, 1920

Page 6, Rodney Pike

Page 8, South Peace Regional Archives 2006.22.04

Page 10, South Peace Regional Archives 2006.22.02