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What better place to beat the heat than Rotary Park's splash park and pond. More water feature photos on page 7. Plans are in the works to add a pavilion building to the park that will be fully serviced.

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The News Magazine from the Radical Middle

AUGUST 2006 — VOL. 4 NO. 8 — CIRCULATION 5,250

www.whitecourtweb.com

August 14 marks end of debate

The multi-use debate will at last come to an end with the town plebiscite to be held on August 14 (advance polls August 10). See page 15 for details on voting times and locations.

One could say this would start the healing process from the sometimes divisive

debate, but in the opinion of this writer, that has already started. It is possible that the Town Report by consultant George Cuff had something to do with this.

In any case, it appears that the differences in opinion
(Continued page 5)



Sagitiwa to Whitecourt - Part One



Jerry Graham, left, Nels Lyons and Syd Pomfret in 1920

By Jerry Graham
(Ed - the following is a fair use, first hand account of early days in Whitecourt)

About the Author

Following service with the R.F.C. & R.A.F. during World War One the author, resumed his duties with Imperial Bank of Canada, and was assigned to numerous

(Cont. page 19)

Hidden History

Read about how the early goldsmiths started our current economic system over 300 years ago. Whitecourt pioneer J.W. Leedy, who arrived here in 1908, played a special role in this hidden history. Story starts page 2.



Don't Miss this year's Riverboat Races - Details page 27

Riddle Me That?

I am large as a castle, yet lighter than air. 100 men and their horses cannot move me. What am I? - Answer p. 5.

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Website:
WhitecourtWeb.com
Circulation: **5,250**
Published Monthly

Setting the Record Straight on Whitecourt's J.W. Leedy

by Dan Parker

There has been much written about the inaccuracy of history, with perhaps the most well-known quote being that "history is the myth of the victors". However, this is an overstatement. Archeologists and others reconstruct historical events and personages in a more accurate light, once those involved have left the scene.

For example, in his series *The Christians: Their First Two Thousand Years*, Ted Byfield reiterated how a high official of the Roman Empire charged that Christians indulged in lewd nighttime ceremonies that included the ritual slaughter of infants, whose blood they drank. Roman historian Tacitus, ignor-

ing his own culture's bloody gladitorial events, called Christians "notoriously depraved." However, these big lies — big lies in that they



described the exact opposite of Christian ideals — did not, of course, become an official part of history. Most times,

truth does prevail, eventually.

It is often events in the relatively recent past that are the most distorted, since groups and power structures with an interest in the matter are still around in positions of influence.

As regular readers of *Advisor* political articles will know, this magazine attempts to look past such distortions regarding recent history and history-in-the-making. After all, a free flow of accurate information is critical to the functioning of a healthy democracy.

Much of the last three hundred years of history has

(Continued on page 11)



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A Bad Golfer Meets the SPCA

A man and his friend meet at the clubhouse and decide to play a round of golf. The man has a little dog with him, and on the first green, when he sinks a 20-foot putt, the little dog starts to yip, stands up on its hind legs and walks around in circles.

Amazed, the friend says, "Wow, that dog is really talented! What does he do if you miss a putt?"

"Somersaults," the man says.

"Somersaults?" the friend asks. "That's incredible. How many does he do?"

"It all depends on how hard I kick him."

Once the abusive golfer was made to see the light, the little dog dropped his habit of celebrating every successful putt.

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Differing Perceptions

A man drinks a shot of whiskey every night before bed. After years of this, the wife wants him to quit; she gets two shot glasses, filling one with water and the other with whiskey.

After getting him to the table that had the glasses, she brings his bait box. She says "I want you to see this." She puts a worm in the water it, and it swims around.

She puts a worm in the whiskey, and the worm dies immediately. She then says, feeling that she has made her point clear, "what do you have to say about this experiment?"

He responds by saying: "If I drink whiskey, I won't get worms!"

Warning, Bad Joke Ahead

Steven Spielberg was busy discussing his new action adventure about famous classical composers. Bruce Willis, Sylvester Stallone and Arnold Schwarzenegger were in the room.

"Who do you want to play?" Spielberg asked Bruce Willis. "I've always been a big fan of Chopin," said Bruce. "I'll play him."

"And you, Sylvester?" asked Spielberg. "Mozart's the one for me!" said Sly.

"And what about you?" Spielberg asked Arnold Schwarzenegger.

"I'll be Bach," said Arnie.

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What's in a name?

The young man really liked the perfume the young lady was wearing and asked its name. She looked puzzled for a minute then dumped the contents of her purse on the table between them. She searched through the pile and finally found a small atomizer. She looked at the label and announced, "Unforgettable"



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News you can use

Often times the Advisor makes use of a news service that is called The Good News Agency. This service carries positive and constructive news from all over the world relating to voluntary work, the work of the United Nations, non governmental organizations, and institutions engaged in improving the quality of life – news that doesn't "burn out" in the space of a day.



Good News Agency publishes in English on one Friday and in Italian the next. It is distributed free of charge through the Internet to over 3,700 editorial offices of daily newspapers, periodical magazines and radio and television stations in 48 countries. It is also sent to over 2,500 NGO and service associations in the world.

Sometimes The Good News Agency carries reports of citizen activism, with the latest story along these lines being the European Citizen's Initiative, which was covered in last month's Advisor. There is a very good reason that efforts at government accountability and criticisms of existing establishment structures is good news.

The average person today in the developed countries lives better than the royalty did a few hundred years ago. While many advances are due to technology, changes in the establishment political structure also led to a rise in the general wellbeing of the citizenry. It is important to remember that most of the positive changes that gave people more individual rights and sovereignty did not come without a lot of effort from literally millions of different people through the ages. Some of those who paid the ultimate price in this battle for progress are named on Whitecourt's Cenotaph.

To respect this inheritance, it is critical that one realize such rights are not guaranteed to be there forever, without people getting involved in protecting them. Additionally, a good generation does not only protect the rights bequeathed it, it attempts to do the same as its forbearers, and actually improve conditions for the next generation.



A man is incomplete until he is married... then he is finished.

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(Continued from page 1)

ion regarding the multi-use location are being dealt with in a more civil, professional manner by those on both sides of the issue. It could very well be a sign that Whitecourt is making a rapid and successful transition to the more sophisticated political atmosphere found in larger centres. Here's hoping the professionalism continues during what is sure to be a stimulating campaign leading up to the plebiscite.

By now, anyone who is interested in the multi-use discussion has heard a lot of points both for and against the Sunset Blvd location. One issue that has been missed however concerns a concept known as the 'future value of money'. Large private companies routinely reschedule projects for more opportune times without fear of regular inflation. The reason for this is that the dollars to be spent in the future actually have less value than the dollars spent in the present.

First and most obviously, a company expects its revenues to rise with at least the level of inflation, simply because the increased costs are built into most facets of future economic activity. Wages are going up, prices are going up, taxes are going up, etc. etc. etc. If business is growing, or a town's population is growing, revenues are expected to rise faster than inflation.

Secondly, dollars that are not spent today can be invested, or interest charges can be forgone, at a rate that should

beat regular inflation.

A third concept here is that if a particular industry has prices increasing faster than the rate of inflation, a hard look should be taken at whether that industry will be due for a correction in the future; whereby its rates would increase less than the rate of inflation. For example, in the multi-use case, the labour shortage bubble in Alberta could deflate. Labour migration will likely catch up to the demand engendered by relatively rapid jump in the price of oil. Construction costs might then undergo a minor correction period to bring them more in line with general inflation.

Of course, there are no guarantees in economics. Canadian born economist John Kenneth Galbraith lectured at Harvard for 30 years and served as an advisor to U.S. presidents from J. F. Kennedy to Clinton. Without delving into the details of the complexity involved, or behind the scenes manipulation, he stated: "The only function of economic forecasting is to make astrology look respectable".

If a last word can be said on this matter, it would be to get informed and get out and vote on this issue if you are at all concerned about the multi-use facility. Advance polls are on August 10, with regular voting on Monday August 14. And remember, diverse viewpoints are a good thing, not a bad thing. It's great to hear those on both sides agreeing to support the outcome of the vote.

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On the Future

"The future is not a result of choices among alternative paths offered by the present, but a place that is created - created first in the mind and will, created next in activity. The future is not some place we are going to, but one we are creating. The paths are not to be found, but made, and the activity of making them, changes both the maker and the destination."

Deborah James
Business Consultant

Answer from page 1 - The shadow of the castle.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The reasons why Whitecourt Woodlands Community Action Association (WWCAA) is opposed to the Sunset Blvd Location.

1. The location has absolutely no space available for any future expansion whatsoever.

2. It is located directly beside Highway #43 which is one of the busiest highways in Alberta. According to Alberta Transportation the intersection on Hwy 43 and Sunset Blvd has approximately 15,600 movements per each 12 hour period between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.. There is also a significant amount of dangerous goods transported through Whitecourt on Highway 43. An accident at the intersection of Highway 43 and Dahl Drive, or the proposed intersection adjacent to the Sunset location could be catastrophic.

3. The road to the Hospital is located off Highway 43 on Sunset Blvd directly behind the proposed site. In the event of any major accident along Highway 43, or the proposed intersection during an event being held at the Sunset location would cripple the traffic flow and impede emergency vehicles from the Hospital route.

4. Even with the approval of the proposed new intersection, the current roadways in the area cannot handle the added traffic strain.

5. When the arenas have to be replaced there is no room for them at the Sunset location. They will have to be built in the Valley and the Mayor has already suggested that land is being set aside for the proposed development in the valley.

6. There are no future residential lots available in the hill area. The growth of the Town will take place in the Valley area. It only makes sense to have all the recreational facilities located in a central area in the Valley where it will service the majority of the citizens.

7. At a Special Meeting of Council on March 20, 2006 Mr. Barr of Barr Ryder stated that a site of more than 18 acres is required in order to allow future expansion. The Sunset location only allows for approximately 11 acres and the plans have been made to squeeze the building in. He further states that if Council is looking for a site that offered the opportunity for expansion he would recommend a site approximately 24 acres in size. Both the Rotary and Graham location provide for the recommended acreage.

8. There is inadequate parking available at this location. Administration and Council have stated that the site provides for 500 parking stalls, however, the plans only show parking for 363. The short fall of 117 would be street parking which will result in traffic flow problems. There are already major parking and traffic flow problems when the current facilities at the site are being fully utilized.

Please get out and vote on this issue. We have all worked very hard to be afforded this opportunity and each and every vote is important. - Darlene Chartrand

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The bartender says, "We don't serve mushrooms here."

The mushroom says, "Why?! I'm a fun guy!"

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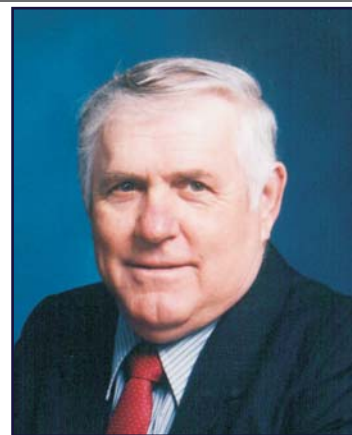
Excerpts taken from the eulogy "A Celebration of his Life" July 14, 2006 by Bob Walker.

Ron was born on June 19, 1931 in the Ukraine and came to Cherhill where he grew up. He then moved to Blue Ridge, worked for CNR, married and raised his family. He owned the Blue Ridge Hotel for three years and worked in the oilfield until he retired at fifty-five. Ron loved spending time with his family, hunting, fishing and gardening. He was also the first president of the Lions Club in Blue Ridge, and a Legion Member for 40 years. He is survived by his wife Eileen (Babe) and his children Wayne, Judy, Bob & Rick.

Ron was an active father and grandfather. He coached his boys in hockey, baseball and any other sport they played. A Ron Worobek's coached team was a tough team to beat, even winning the Hiway 43 championship. Ron had a special relationship with his daughter Judy - as only a father and daughter could have. They shared a lot together - memories, gardening and even their birthdays.

Every person in life has dreams. Some of Ron's was to teach his children life skills, which he did with patience and great passion.

It was Jesus of Nazareth who told the world "We should measure the success of our lives not by what we get, but by what we give".



Ron Worobek ♦ 1931-2006

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In memory, K. & C Graphics Inc. and staff will be planting a tree commemorating Ron's life so as to keep his spirit growing for years to come.

Let children walk with Nature, let them see the beautiful blendings and communions of death and life, their joyous inseparable unity, as taught in woods and meadows, plains and mountains and streams of our blessed star, and they will learn that death is stingless indeed, and as beautiful as life.



**Business Tomorrow:
Search engines keep
business booming**

(NC) - Gone are the days of questioning the impact of the internet on the average consumer. Move over yellow pages. Search engines are here to stay.

According to industry measurement data for example, the proportion of online searches is expected to climb from 2.4 percent in 2002 to 24 percent in 2008. That represents an increase of 900 percent in only six years. Here's a bit more eye-popping data on this subject supplied by several industry analysts, including redCity Search Company, Canada's leading internet search engine group.

Between 2004-2005:

- 19.1 million Canadians report use of the internet
- 91% of internet users say they re-search product information online.
- 98% of internet consumers use a search engine to research and/or purchase a product/service.
- 66% of "local" searches were done on search engines; people use the internet for information close to home.
- 64% of those who make purchases online, prefer to use search engines instead of print yellow pages.
- 69% of entrepreneurs say their website is most instrumental in the success of their business.
- Advertisers spent \$364 million online in 2004, a 54% increase from 2003 and a full 107% increase from 2002.

Add these indicators:

- BlackBerry and Palm users (and other PDA owners) can now do mobile searches in some areas thanks to the latest in wireless technology. You can walk down the street, search on a handheld for an address, a special gift, an event, or local restaurant - and then retrieve the information, location, or directions instantly.
- Visitors and residents in Toronto can use Bell Canada's internet kiosks to conduct local information searches. There are more than 60 kiosks available to the public for this purpose, conveniently located

• Surveys now reveal that more than 70 percent of households use the internet as a source for local and business information near their homes, up from 60 percent two years ago. Use of traditional printed yellow pages declined from 75

percent to 62 percent in terms of reach. Internet search engines are more popular due to speed and up-to-the-minute information, including website and e-mail links.

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The Cost of Marriage

Jack wakes up with a huge hangover after attending his company's Christmas Party. Jack is not normally a drinker, but the drinks didn't taste like alcohol at all. He didn't even remember how he got home from the party. As bad as he was feeling, he wondered if he did something wrong. Jack had to force himself to open his eyes, and the first thing he sees is a couple of aspirins next to a glass of water on the side table. And, next to them, a single red rose!

Jack sits up and sees his clothing in front of him, all clean and pressed. He looks around the room and sees that it is in perfect order, spotlessly clean. So is the rest of the house. He takes the aspirins, cringes when he sees a huge black eye staring back at him in the bathroom mirror.

Then he notices a note hanging on the corner of the mirror written in red with little hearts on it and a kiss mark from his wife in lipstick!: "Honey, breakfast is on the stove, I left early to go get groceries to make you your favorite dinner tonight. I

love you, darling! Love, Jillian

He stumbles to the kitchen and sure enough, there is hot breakfast, steaming hot coffee and the morning newspaper. His son is also at the table, eating.

Jack asks, "Son ... what happened last night?"

"Well, you came home after 3 A.M., drunk and out of your mind. You fell over the coffee table and broke it, and then you got sick in the hallway, and got that black eye when you ran into the door."

Confused he asked his son, "So, why is everything in such perfect order, so clean, I have a rose, and breakfast is on the table waiting for me?"

His son replies, "Oh THAT!... Mom dragged you to the bedroom, and when she tried to take your pants off, you screamed, "Leave me alone, lady, I'm married!"

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(Continued from page 2)

been significantly misrepresented to maintain secrecy in how our money system is run. It started centuries ago. Goldsmiths had the best security system so that merchants and others would store their gold there for safekeeping. Goldsmiths would issue a receipt for the gold they held in storage for these people. After a while, some citizens started signing over their receipts during a transaction, as it was easier than going to get their gold for a transaction.

As this process grew, the receipts were made payable to the bearer, instead of to an individual, so they could be traded more easily. This was an early form of paper money.

Some goldsmiths noticed that the bulk of their gold never moved, as more and more people found it easier to use

the receipts, rather than come get their gold for a transaction. At this point, some goldsmiths decided to print up and lend out receipts that had no gold backing them. The only way their scheme would be exposed was if many people decided to cash in their receipts for gold at the same time. The goldsmiths gained by not only having the loan repaid in real goods, they also charged interest on the bogus paper. This was the start of the fractional reserve system.

The upside to this misrepresentation was that the money supply was expanded dramatically beyond the gold supply. Normally this would cause unsustainable inflation. However, the industrial revolution was just taking off at this time, and large amounts of money were necessary for capital investment for the new factories and other inventions.

Additionally, the average

citizen required much more money. Previous to the industrial age, approximately 10% of the economy was based on money, with the other 90% of the economy being barter and self-produced consumption. With the explosion of specialization in the industrial age, money became much more dominant in the economy..

“The principal driving force behind the establishment of the Bank of England, William Patterson, is quoted as saying “The bank hath benefit of interest on all moneys which it creates out of nothing”.”

In essence, the goldsmiths were literally creating money out of nothing, and charging interest on it. The downside to the fraudulent goldsmith money methodology was steady inflation, the usurpation of wealth, and ultimately democracy, by the goldsmiths and their backers.

Since the time of the goldsmiths there has been many changes and refinements. In 1694, the process was formalized in Britain with the formation of the Bank of England. The principal driving force behind the



establishment of the Bank of England, William Patterson, is quoted as saying “The bank hath benefit of interest on all moneys which it creates out of nothing”. This quote is repeated on such business sites as onwallstreet.com.

Politically, the result of the money secrecy was to sabotage nascent democratic structures, since those who seized control of the money creation process could have unaccountable, concentrated power. Meyer Amschel Rothschild, the founding father of one of the world’s most powerful financial dynasties, has been quoted, perhaps apocryphally, as having said: “Let me issue and control a nation’s money and I care not who writes the laws.” There have been many attempts to use this power for good, with

(Continued on page 12)



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(Continued from page 11)

some great successes and some abject failures. An important point to remember is that the political system the money system replaced was based on the divine right of kings and royalty, which led to many terrible abuses of the people. However, although the money method of political control was generally better than the 'divine rights of royalty' political control it replaced, there can be little doubt that the centuries old practice is now obsolete.

As life becomes more complex, excessively concentrated power becomes more and more suboptimal. It is impossible for a relatively few people to know enough about changing situations in

a complex environment to make intelligent decisions. Additionally, compound interest is exponential in nature, which means it is unstable and ultimately unsustainable. A third point is that lasting solutions are more likely to come about if many people have real input and ownership of the process. Imposed, top down solutions are less effective. Finally, when solutions are based on fundamental injustices, as the current money system is, they are never long lasting. This last point is particularly important in regards to the possible solutions to problems regarding Western and Muslim societies.

There is a great sweep of hidden history around the

money issue that is key to understanding Alberta. It includes the American Revolution, where the real fight was for what Benjamin Franklin referred to as an honest money system. When Benjamin Franklin was asked how he could account for all the prosperity in the new land he is reputed to have replied:

“That is simple. In the Colonies we issue our own money. It is called Colonial Scrip. We issue it in proper proportion to the demands of trade and industry to make the products pass easily from the producers to the consumers.

In this manner, creating for ourselves our own paper money, we control its purchasing power, and we have no interest to pay to no one.”

The Colonies continued to prosper until the production of Colonial Scrip was made illegal by the Currency Act of 1764. This was an act pressed into law by the Bank of England. The Colonies were then forced to pay taxes

in the form of gold and silver to the British Central Bank. There was a rapid end to their prosperity as economic depression set in. As Franklin stated “The colonies would gladly have borne the little tax on tea and other matters had it not been that England took away from the colonies their money, which created unemployment and dissatisfaction.”

A long seesaw battle in the U.S, that included presidents Jefferson, Madison and Jackson for honest money finally led to the great populist battles of the late 1800's in the U.S. Here the forces for financial freedom were squeezed into the American Midwest. When the American Midwest faltered before the onslaught of international finance, some remnants of those upholding the original American Revolution came north to Alberta. Here they got involved politically and were a significant part of the formation of the both the

(Continued on page 14)



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Still time to take in a forestry tour

The Town of Whitecourt and Woodlands County, in partnership with the Alberta Newsprint Company (ANC) and Millar Western, is offering free guided tours of three Whitecourt area mills this summer. The tours give tourists and local residents the opportunity to learn about the area's forest industry from a unique perspective.

One can view Alberta's only newsprint manufacturing facility by visiting ANC's pulp and paper mill, or see trees become useable lumber at the Millar Western Sawmill. Finally, touring the Millar Western Pulp mill provides visitors with an inside look at the manufacture of BCTMP pulp that is used to make various paper products including facial tissue and paper towel. The computerized work environment handling the raw material processing is an eye-opener for even some local residents..

Tours are available Monday through Friday until the end of summer. For more information or to book a tour you can contact Tomas, the summer-student tour guide, by phone at (780)-778-5363 or just drop by the Visitor Information Centre. (Located inside the Whitecourt Forest Interpretive Centre on Highway 43.)



A cougar is one of many displays in the Heritage museum at the Forest Interpretive Centre.

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(Continued from page 12)

United Farmers of Alberta and Social Credit in this province. Both of these political parties had monetary reform as a central plank.

An idea here is that justice will eventually out. As in the case of the early Christians, sometimes it takes a few centuries for oppression to be lifted. George Woodcock expressed this concept well in his book on Gabriel Dumont, who was the military leader under Louis Riel in the 1885 Northwest Rebellion. Woodcock wrote: "Defeat is no excuse for forgetting, and it not merely an intellectual exercise when one revives the history of lost causes. Sometimes, in telling the story of a fight against an old injustice, we help to bring about something nearer to justice in the future."

This brings us to our very own J.W. Leedy, who moved to Whitecourt in 1908. To recap Leedy's activities, he advocated reform of the money system throughout his time as a populist Kansas state senator and then the thirtieth governor of that state under the Kansas People's Party. After emigrating to Canada, Leedy was instrumental in convincing the United Farmers of Alberta (UFA) to commerce independent political activity, whereupon this group formed the government of Alberta from 1921 to 1935.

An article on J. W. Leedy was published in the summer 1974 edition of the *Alberta Historical Review*. The author, Mr. Karel D. Bicha, is Professor Emeritus of His-

tory at Milwaukee's Marquette University. To the unwary reader, this professor's work, entitled *The Continental Commoner*, would appear to be a balanced portrayal of Leedy, complete with the inevitable character flaws.

However, a closer read shows the piece to be rife with questionable material. One possible reason for this is that Leedy challenged the status quo, which many an academic relies on for their position. One has to wonder if Leedy was subjected to a more subtle form of character assassination than that practiced by the Romans on the early Christians.

It is also possible that Bicha was prone to mistakes in this work. One reason could be that the ideas espoused by Leedy were beyond the comprehension of Mr. Bicha, and rather than investigate further, and learn, he thought that he knew more than Leedy about the matter. The bottom line is that the Alberta Archives should be appended with a countering view of this illustrious Whitecourt pioneer.

For example, Bicha writes that Leedy was of "limited intellect" and that "the word most frequently used to describe his talents on both sides of the border was 'mediocre'". At the least, the latter charge can be considered hyperbole, there being no way to reliably collect data on which word was

most frequently used to describe someone, on both sides of the border yet; with said survey being done in the late 19th and early 20th century. This statement alone shows that Bicha is not overly concerned with understanding his subject.

Whitecourt pioneer and bank manager Jerry Graham would have disputed the assertion entirely. He had assessed the defining characteristics of fellow pioneers in his piece entitled *Sagitwa to Whitecourt - A Salute to the Pioneers*. He describes

“One has to wonder if Leedy was subjected to a more subtle form of character assassination than that practiced by the Romans on the early Christians.”

many individuals and in each case highlighted something about a particular Whitecourt pioneer that was out of the ordinary. In assessing Leedy, Graham had written that the ex-governor of Kansas was "a highly intelligent man with an extremely wit". This is the exact opposite of Bicha's claim.

What is more, there is ample evidence that Leedy's intellect was held in high regard by the general population of Whitecourt and within the province. To deflect criticism, pioneer and postmaster Walter White avowed that the name Whitecourt was chosen in 1910 to honour Leedy's association with the White House. White's reasoning for the town name is quite a stretch. However, it is indicative that Leedy was held in high regard in the

town. It is hard imagining the postmaster trying to quell an upset populace by suggesting the name Whitecourt came about because it was named after someone who was considered to be "mediocre".

On page 62 of *Sagatiwah Saga*, by Doreen Olecko, a reader can see a reproduction of a succinct, but very compelling argument, for extending the railroad to Whitecourt that Leedy delivered to Edmonton on behalf of the hamlet. The missive displays the opposite of mediocrity and 'limited intellect'. In *Sagatiwah Saga* there is also a list published of a Christmas extravaganza, and who should be chairing the event but J.W. Leedy.

What is more, Bicha's own work on Leedy contradicts itself enough times that it seems almost schizophrenic in nature. Again, this could be caused by Bicha not understanding the subject matter. Alternatively, it could be a half-hearted smear job, with the inconsistencies due to a troubled conscience on the part of the author.

For example, Bicha writes about how factions in the U.F.A. looked to Leedy for leadership during their successful formation into a political body and how the U.F.A. government of Alberta was calling on Leedy for advice as late as 1934, when the man was 85 years old. Can we imagine the Alberta legislature asking for the person with 'mediocre' talents to testify as a banking expert in 1934: or the Whitecourt

(Continued on page 30)



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Town Press Release on vote

Monday, August 14th marks the day that Whitecourt residents will cast their vote to determine whether or not the multi-use facility will be constructed along Sunset Boulevard.

The decision to proceed with a Public Vote was made after receiving a ruling from the Alberta Court of Queen’s Bench on July 19. The ruling stated that one of the two petitions received in May, which challenged the location of the multi-use facility, was valid and presented Town Council with the option of proceeding to a public vote or to rescind its motion to construct a pool and fieldhouse at the Sunset Boulevard location.

Town residents have the opportunity to vote on the following question: **“Should Council proceed with the construction of a pool and fieldhouse facility at the Sunset Boulevard location? Yes or No.”** Voting will take place on: **Monday, August 14, 2006, 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Whitecourt Community Centre**

An Advance Vote has been organized to provide an opportunity for people on summer vacation to have a better chance to cast their vote. Individuals who will be absent on August 14, or have reason to believe that they will be unable to visit a polling station during regular voting hours, may vote at the Advance Vote. The Advance Vote will be held on: Thursday, August 10, 2006, 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Whitecourt Community Centre

Whitecourt Town Council will also be taking the opportunity to receive public opinion on proposed changes to the Smoking Bylaw. At a Special Meeting held on July 26, Town

Council decided to hold a non-binding vote on the following question: **“Would you support a Town of Whitecourt Smoking Bylaw that bans smoking in those portions of buildings open to the public? Yes or No.”**

The above question is strictly for information purposes, and Whitecourt Town Council appreciates your input on the topic. The Town of Whitecourt will be advertising and posting information throughout the community to inform residents of the August Public Vote, and will be providing pertinent information to residents on both issues. For more information, please visit the Town’s website at www.whitecourt.



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15 miles north of Highway 16, just off Highway 32 is the Yo Ho Museum. Look for the sign on the east side of the highway. There is simply an amazing collection of old vehicles, including over 200 tractors. You can call Bill at (780) 693-2193 for more information



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Understanding identity theft

(NC) - Identity theft is often confused with the theft of a credit card. While any form of theft is serious, identity theft goes beyond the taking of a single personal item or piece of information.

Identity theft occurs when somebody steals personal information (such as your name or your social insurance number) and/or financial information without your knowledge, and uses it to obtain other personal information and ultimately assume your identity to commit fraud.

The thief uses the information to establish a variety of accounts and services in your name but for their use, such as bank accounts, credit cards and loans, car rentals, purchases, and even obtaining personal documents such as passports and drivers' licenses. In other words, this person tries to assume your identity. By doing so, they can run up debts in your name, seriously damage your credit rating, and even involve you in criminal charges.

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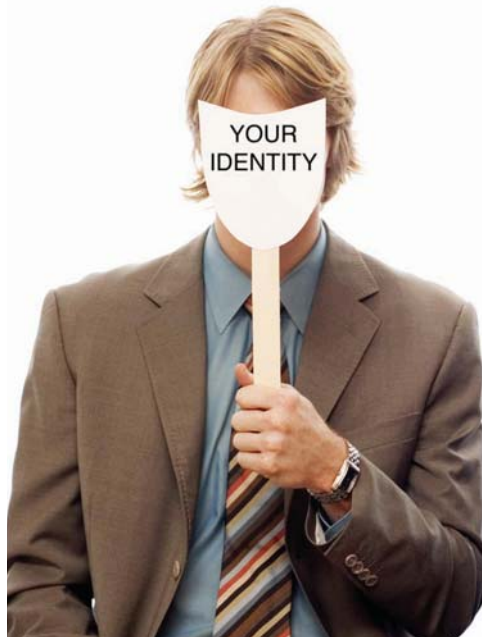
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- A creditor confirms the receipt of a credit application with your name and address on it that you never applied for;
- A creditor informs you that you've been approved or denied for a loan that you



- never applied for;
- You receive account statements in your name that you never applied for;
- You see that you've been missing mail, account statements or bills;
- A collection agency lets you know they are collecting for an overdue account in your name that you

did not open.

If you suspect that you may be a victim of identity theft, take the following steps:

- Contact your financial institution immediately and report the activity;
- Contact the proper authorities, including the police;
- Report it to Phonebusters at 1-877-495-8501, www.phonebusters.com;
- Get in touch with the fraud departments of two national credit bureaus, Equifax at 1-800-465-7166, www.equifax.ca and TransUnion at 1-866-525-0262, www.tuc.ca;
- Keep a record of who you spoke with (creditors, etc), including what was said and when;
- Contact any creditors who have contacted you and speak with their fraud department (this can include banks, phone companies, etc).

For more information on how to prevent identity theft and credit card fraud, please visit www.mastercard.ca.

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(Continued from page 1)

Branches in Saskatchewan, which Province had been his domicile prior to enlistment.

The year was 1919, and older readers will remember the winter of 1919-1920 as one of the coldest and longest on record. Early in 1920, at which time the author was acting in the capacity of Manager at Springwater, Sask., he received a telegram instructing him to proceed to White Court, Alberta, and to establish a branch of the bank there. (Whitecourt was quite often spelt as two words in the early days). Being curious as to where White Court might be, it was only natural he should contact the local Agent of the Canadian National Railway for particulars.

Imagine his surprise when he was informed by the Agent that no timetable in the possession of said Agent listed any "White Court". The Agent expressed regret at being unable to help, leaving the author with a telegram instructing him to proceed to a place, the location of which no one appeared to know!

Springwater was at that

time, and very probably still is, a sleepy Prairie hamlet with an elevator or two, train service three times a week by mixed train, and as was common at that time, our meals were supplied by a gentleman of Oriental extraction, whose Bill of Fare consisted almost entirely of beefsteak and pork chop, of which one or the other was almost always, "All gone"!

His apple pie however, usually left everyone in a happy frame of mind. While partaking of the latter, the author happened to mention that he had been transferred to White Court, Alberta, but had no idea where the place was, and unfortunately the C.N.R. Agent had been unable to help. A Scandinavian, whom the author knew as "Ben", supplied the information, and assured the author he had been there. "Go to Sangudo, and drive in from there, maybe fifty miles or more".

Now the mercury had been hovering around twenty

to forty degrees below Zero (Fahrenheit) almost all winter and showed not the slightest indication of improvement, and one could readily think of more appealing assignments than that of driving fifty miles behind a team of horses. This mode of travel was understood when one mentioned "driving" in those days. However, having recently left the Air Force, where an order is an order, haste was made to comply with the order just received.

Through Saskatoon to Edmonton, where after a brief stop, the author boarded the all-day mixed train for Sangudo in a somewhat despondent mood, something the C.N.R. did little to dispel.

Nearing Onoway (half a day's journey by the way) the train entered wooded country thickly treed with poplars, and the author's spirits soared immediately. Have you ever gazed across the vast expanse of prairie at the

setting of the sun, and wished that just one tree, or even a good sized bush would break the awful monotony? Really, this was thrilling and the further we travelled, the density of the vegetation increased and game birds showed occasionally. This was better.

Picking up a supply of cash at Sangudo, and also investing in some heavy clothing we got wrapped up in the cutter, and set sail for Green-court, a matter of twenty-six miles or so distant. The road, or one should say "trail" led through Rochfort, (the place was not called Rochfort Bridge at that time), a place named after Cooper Rochfort, a real colourful English character, or probably his brother. It came as no great surprise when the author later learned that Mrs. Rochfort was an artist of considerable ability with her canvases hanging in Edmonton and elsewhere. Talent is found in the most unusual places and as will later be told even Whitecourt, isolated as it was, was not found lacking.

West of Rochfort some distance we caught sight of the railroad under construc-

(Continued on page 20)

"Talent is found in the most unusual places and as will later be told even Whitecourt, isolated as it was, was not found lacking."

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(Continued from page 19)

tion, possibly near where the Town of Mayerthorpe now stands, although there simply was no Mayerthorpe at that time, and no settlement of any kind. When the railroad did attract a settlement of sorts there, this settlement was known as Little Paddle.

Later, some time in the afternoon we reached Greencourt and checked in at Jeff Wardlow's Stopping Place. The difference between a Stopping Place and a Hotel has never been adequately explained to me, except that in the pioneering days it was customary to refer to all such places as Stopping Places.

But getting back to Jeff

Wardlow, let it be said that everyone who passed through Greencourt knew Jeff, a kindly man with a ready smile and a wealth of understanding. He was always willing, and invariably able, to supply information about any part of the country west of Sangudo. In Mrs. Wardlow, who looked after the comfort of the guests and attended to the meals, Jeff had an excellent partner.

Having made arrangements with Jeff for transportation for the next leg of the journey, and having been assigned a driver known as "Shorty" Smith, the departure was being made the following morning, when a gentleman approached and

asked if perchance he could ride with us. In this way the author met Pat Hardy, one of the most colourful characters ever to grace the Whitecourt scene.

Pat constantly advised Shorty on the correct procedure to adopt when negotiating what Hardy called "sidling spots" on the road, (places where the drifting of snow has piled the roadway full, consequently making it slope dangerously to one side). Everything went famously however, even through the Selleck Swamp, and we were approaching Lonira (our noon day Stopping Place) when Shorty momentarily forgot Hardy's advice. We slid down a sidling spot and upset. After reloading, Hardy again laid down the law insofar as it related to good driving, and we made Lonira and Curly Moore's for lunch.

"In this way the author met Pat Hardy, one of the most colourful characters ever to grace the Whitecourt scene."

the barn and fed, we proceeded into Moore's. Now stealing was practically unknown in those days and we just left our bags, etc. on the sleigh.

However, having one bag with possibly eight thousand dollars in cash therein, the author decided it would be tempting fate too much just to leave it where it might conceivably go astray, so took it with him. Accordingly he entered Moore's carrying a grip. Now Curly had seen many a colourful character in his time and he certainly gave the author the eye. It was evident to anyone capable of reading his mind that he was saying to himself, "There's another strange one; scared he might lose his underwear." His curiosity was somewhat heightened when on going into what served as the dining area the grip was again picked up and placed between the author's feet when eating.

The team having been placed in



Curly in 1922

When finished (Cont on page 21)



Workgang for railroad grade into Whitecourt in 1920. Dan Powers, who drove the first train in when the railroad reached our town is at far left.

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(Continued from page 20)

eating (a most satisfactory meal served by Mrs. Moore) the grip was again picked up. By this time Curly was just about fit to be tied. To ease his tension somewhat and sidling up to him he was asked, "Say, how goofy do you think one can get and remain at large?" He was taken aback and stammered something like, "No, No", as any boy might if caught with his hand in the cookie jar.

He was then informed why the grip was considered quite important, and why precautions were being taken to prevent its disappearance. In later years when the author and Curly were both residents of Whitecourt, we had many a good chuckle about this episode.

The road over the hills, (almost in exactly the same location as Highway 43 now is, with some of the hills now being bypassed), proved too much for Shortie's driv-



ing on two more occasions. We dug ourselves out of the snow, with Hardy vehemently declaring that should this happen once more, just once mind you, he was going to do the driving and from there on Shortie could walk. Considering Hardy was a non-paying passenger, this was something of a usurpation of authority, but the thoughts expressed coincided exactly with those passing through the mind of the author, and most fitting.

remain here. Having been asked on many occasions if regret at making such a move had ever assailed me, let it be said that had the choice to again be made the procedure would be exactly the same.

Ed - Next month Jerry Graham describes his arrival in Whitecourt and his first impression of the place. A few of the local characters are described. The full title of Mr. Graham's work is Sagitawa to Whitecourt - A Salute to the Pioneers.

Shortie must have taken them to heart as nothing further in the line of trouble was encountered, and we arrived in Whitecourt on a cold Saturday afternoon around four o'clock. An effort will be made to give an account of what was found here, and what prompted the author, a few years later, to leave the employ of the Bank and

"What am I supposed to do with this?" grumbled the motorist as the police clerk handed him a receipt for his traffic violation.

"Keep it," the clerk advises. "When you get four of them, you get a bicycle."



Whitecourt - Main Street Old Town - 1920. The town was laid out differently, once the railway arrived, with some buildings being moved and others torn down. Harrop's Hotel here has an advertisement for the Imperial Bank on it.

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Alberta's future prosperity rests on our ability to generate a well-educated workforce that is responsive to change. Among the key priorities of our province's education system is to ensure all of our students are successful - both in school and in life.

While Alberta's high school completion rates are steadily increasing, the active involvement of parents, businesses, local communities and youth is needed to reach the province's long-term goal of ensuring 90% of students complete high school within five years of starting Grade 10.

Your Future Starts Here, a province-wide consultation, includes discussions with youth through a series of roundtable sessions and will culminate in a provincial Symposium.

Feedback will be used to help government develop a provincial strategy with community-led solutions to increase high school completion rates. Symposium participants will also be encouraged to continue the discussion at a community level to further explore the roles we all play in keeping our students in school.

Youth roundtables

In May and June 2006, youth across Alberta shared their views on high school completion through a series of 19 roundtables in 10 communities to help government better understand the reasons why some youth leave school early, and to find new solutions. A complete list of roundtable sessions is available here.

Students at these sessions were asked for their input on what is working well now to help youth finish high school, what is not working, and what can help them and their peers stay in school.

Provincial Symposium on High School Completion

The provincial High School Completion Symposium at the Shaw Conference Centre on September 24-25, 2006 will bring together people from across Alberta with an interest in this issue, including youth, parents, educators, and business and community leaders. Participants invited to the Symposium will discuss what has been learned to date, and share ideas about how to move forward. The Symposium will also include a videoconferencing component.

About Alberta's high school completion rates

Alberta's completion rates have been steadily increasing to 77.4% of students completing high school within five years of starting Grade 10. There has been significant work at the school jurisdiction level to increase completion rates, such as outreach programming for junior and senior high students

(Continued on page 23)



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(Continued from page 22)

and the Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AISII).

Alberta's high school completion rates

Programs and services available to help youth stay in school: There are a wide variety of programs and services available to keep youth in school. Visit Service Alberta to find out which best meet your or your child's learning needs. There are also many examples of school jurisdictions, families and communities working together to support youth in their area.



True Crime Stories

Police in Oakland, California spent two hours attempting to subdue a gunman who had barricaded himself inside his home. After firing ten teargas canisters, officers discovered that the man was standing beside them, shouting out to give himself up.

An Illinois man, pretending to have a gun, kidnapped a motorist and forced him to drive to two different automated teller machines. The kidnapper then proceeded to withdraw money from his own bank account.

Fire investigators on Maui have determined the cause of a blaze that destroyed a \$127,000 home last month a short in the homeowner's newly installed fire prevention alarm system. "This is even worse than last year," said the distraught homeowner, "when someone broke in and stole my new security system..."

Rodeo Redux

The Advisor will be carrying more 'month-in-review' articles in the future. Each issue is archived online, and can provide an ongoing history of Whitecourt events.





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International bodies express concern over Israel-Hezbollah conflict

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International humanitarian organisations and human rights watchdogs have expressed concerns over the ris-

ing civilian casualties and the humanitarian crisis caused by the ongoing conflict in Lebanon and northern Israel. They have also warned the warring groups that their conduct may not comply with international laws governing the safety of civilians in combat areas.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour expressed grave concern over

the growing civilian casualties in the conflict in Lebanon, Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory and called for accountability for any breaches of international law in a statement released on Wednesday.

The statement said that indiscriminate shelling of cities and the targeting of supposed military sites which would foreseeably result

in civilians deaths is unacceptable and unjustifiable. It called for respecting the principle of proportionality in reacting to enemy action.

The statement reminded parties to the conflict that the obligation to protect civilians during hostilities is expressed in international criminal law, and warned that the scale and predictability of the killings

(Continued on page 25)



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#19 Dennis MacEachern

Dennis MacEachern won rookie of the year in 2000 and track championship in 2002 in the Late Model class. He has been racing in the Sportsman sprint class since 2003 and is looking for sponsors to help upgrade his car and keep it competitive. Drayton Valley, Edmonton and Calgary are some of the places races take place. If you think your oilfield company can benefit from such exposure, give Dennis a call at (780) 723-4529 for more information.

A traffic cop pulled over a speeding motorist and asked, "Do you have any ID?"
The motorist replied, "About what?"

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(Continued from page 24)
 in the region may attach personal criminal responsibility of those involved, especially those in positions of command and control.

The High Commissioner also warned of the deteriorating humanitarian situation, especially in southern Lebanon, where large numbers of people are reported to be increasingly deprived of access to basic services and are forcibly displaced. She called for unrestricted and secure passage for all humanitarian assistance.

Red Cross' assessment

In a press briefing in Geneva, The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) director of operations Pierre Krähenbühl gave the ICRC's assessment of the humanitarian situation engendered by the conflict.

He said that the large number of civilian casualties and damage to infrastructure "raises serious questions" over the warring parties' compliance to the principle

of proportionality in combat operations.

In the briefing, he stated the reported death toll as about 230 killed and 600 wounded in Lebanon and 13 civilians killed and over 150 wounded in Israel.

He said that medical assistance and evacuation for those in need is severely limited by the ongoing hostilities and that the safety of the medical mission is "deeply problematic". He pointed out that large numbers of people are fleeing the conflict zones.

He called on Israel's air and sea blockade of Lebanon to allow food and other essential supplies to reach the affected civilian population.

He stated that the ICRC has reminded the parties to the conflict, publicly and in private, of their obligation to distinguish between civilians and military targets, their obligation to respect the principle of proportionality, and to protect the medical aid services, to spare civilians and ensure secure access to

(Continued on page 28)

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Whitecourt's wild side is everywhere in town and in nearby country



All of the photographs on this page were taken within the nearby Whitecourt area, showing the wide diversity of wildlife that inhabits our immediate surroundings. Neil Petrinchuk captured the images of the 400 pound black bear, a mother duck and her brood, Canada geese, a one year old mule deer and a 6 x 6 Elk in velvet, all within a short driving distance of town centre. As most residents will know, the proliferation of deer has made their sightings within town limits more common than some domesticated animals.



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On Being Frank

Man walks into the street and manages to get a taxi just going by. He gets into the taxi, and the cabbie says, “Perfect timing. You’re just like Frank.”

Passenger: “Who?”

Cabbie: “Frank Feldman. There’s a guy who did everything right. Like my coming along when you needed a cab. It would have happened like that to Frank every single time.”

Passenger: “There are always a few clouds over everybody.”

Cabbie: “Not Frank. He was a terrific athlete. He could have won the Grand-Slam at tennis. He could golf with the pros. He sang like an opera baritone and danced like a Broadway star and you should have heard him play the piano.”

Passenger: “Sounds like he was something really special”

Cabbie: “There’s more”.....”He had a memory like a computer. Could remember everybody’s birthday. He knew all about wine, which foods to order and which fork to eat them with. He could fix anything. Not like me. I change a fuse, and the whole street blacks out.”

Passenger. “Wow, some guy then”

Cabbie: “He always knew the quickest way to go in traffic and avoid traffic jams, not like me, I always seem to get stuck in them.”

Passenger. “Mmm, there’s not many like him around.”

Cabbie: “And he knew how to treat a woman and make her feel good and never answer her back even if she was in the wrong; and his clothing was always immaculate, shoes highly polished too.”

Passenger: “An amazing fellow. How did you meet him?”

Cabbie: “Well, I never actually met Frank.”

Passenger: “Then how do you know so much about him?”

Cabbie: “I married his widow.”



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Events
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Whitecourt Jet Boat Races

August 12 & 13

Registration, Show n’ Shine and Tech Inspection will be at the boat launch on Friday night from 6-9 p.m. Boats will be testing, drivers and crews will be on hand and it’s a great opportunity to visit with them, see the boats, beer gardens will be open as well.

Races start at 10:00 am Saturday and Sunday mornings, with legs from Whitecourt to Windfall Bridge and Blue Ridge Bridge respectively. Both afternoons at 2:00 p.m. circuit races at the boat launch will take place. This is a good opportunity for the public to see the boats race on the circuit and pass back and forth in front of the grandstands. We are expecting 25 boats or so. 2 teams from New Zealand and teams from BC and NWT. \$10,000.00 in prizes.

Admission is \$5.00 per person, beer gardens are open at 1:00 sat and sun, concession will be available both days as well. All spectators, no matter where, are reminded to stay back from the river banks.

Summer Volleyball Camp

Monday to Friday, August 21 - 25

Time: Grades 7 to 9: 9:00 AM - Noon

Grades 10 to 12: 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Location: Hilltop High School

Cost: \$100.00

Contact: Community Services at 778-6610

Event Description: All volleyball enthusiasts are encouraged to participate in this top quality volleyball camp. If you are new to the game of volleyball or want to develop your existing skills, this may be just what you need!

U of A Golden Bears Hockey Camp

Monday to Friday, August 21 - 25, 2006

Time: Times vary depending on program.

Click here for more information

Location: Whitecourt Twin Arenas

Cost: \$110.00 to \$200.00 depending on program

Contact Name/Number: Community Services 778-6610

Event Description: Summer hockey school for all ages and skill levels.

Volunteers Needed

Write Soon Literacy Society is a non-profit organization that offers FREE tutoring for adults that need assistance with Reading, Writing, Math and/or English as a Second Language. Please call (780) 778-5510 or email wsls@telus.net for more info. Volunteer tutors & students needed!

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(Continued from page 25)

medical help for all.

The representations have been made in Israel with the Ministry of foreign affairs and Army command, and in Lebanon with the Prime minister and also to Hezbollah, with whom the ICRC has contact.

Human Rights Watch

The watchdog group Human Rights Watch warned Hezbollah on attacking civilian targets in Israel and called on Israel to allow relief convoys safe entry into and passage inside Lebanon,

A press release by the group said that Hezbollah rocket attacks on Sunday and Monday were “at best indiscriminate attacks in civilian areas, at worst the deliberate targeting of civilians” and called them serious violations of international humanitarian law and “probable war crimes”. The rockets launched against Haifa over the past two days contained hundreds of metal ball bearings that are of limited use against military targets but cause great harm to civilians and civilian property, it said.

A release also said that border towns in Lebanon are already facing serious shortages of food and medicine, and are in urgent need of supplies. It called for safe passage for aid convoys in the wake on an Israeli missile attack on an aid convoy, reported by the Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). According to the UAE RC, the convoy was clearly marked as a relief operation, contained medical supplies and medicines, as well as several ambulances and that at least one person was killed in the attack.

Amnesty International

Amnesty International (AI) today called on the UN Security Council to meet urgently in order to adopt measures to protect civilians caught up in the deepening Israel-Lebanon conflict. It alleged that G8 member states, during the recently concluded summit, had failed to “put the protection of civilians above politics” in their discussions of the conflict. AI condemned continuing attacks on civilians by both Israel and Hezbollah.

Responses from Israel and Hezbollah

An Israeli official told the BBC “We feel that proportionality should be judged in terms of the threat we face. This is not just an issue of the kidnappings. Hezbollah has a huge arsenal and has fired 1,000 missiles at us. We are acting in self-defence”. He also said that Hezbollah often hides in civilian areas and that Israel had dropped flyers and gave other warnings to civilians to leave before an attack.

Hezbollah says its capture of Israeli soldiers was to use them in a “bargain” with Israel and that Hezbollah rocket attacks on Israel are a retaliation to Israeli strikes against Lebanon and its civilians. Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, Hezbollah leader, said “When the Zionists behave like there are no rules and no red lines and no limits to the confrontation, it is our right to behave in the same way.”



Palestinians and Israel join the Red Cross

(GNA) - The 29th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent has amended the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to incorporate the additional emblem of the red crystal, which now has the same status as the red cross and red crescent. In addition the participants to the International Conference requested that the ICRC and the International Federation recognize and admit the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PCRS) into the Movement.

As a consequence of this successful outcome the ICRC has now recognized the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and the Israeli National Society, Magen David Adom (MDA), and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies will admit both National Societies. This outcome extends the universality of the Movement. - *Good News Agency*



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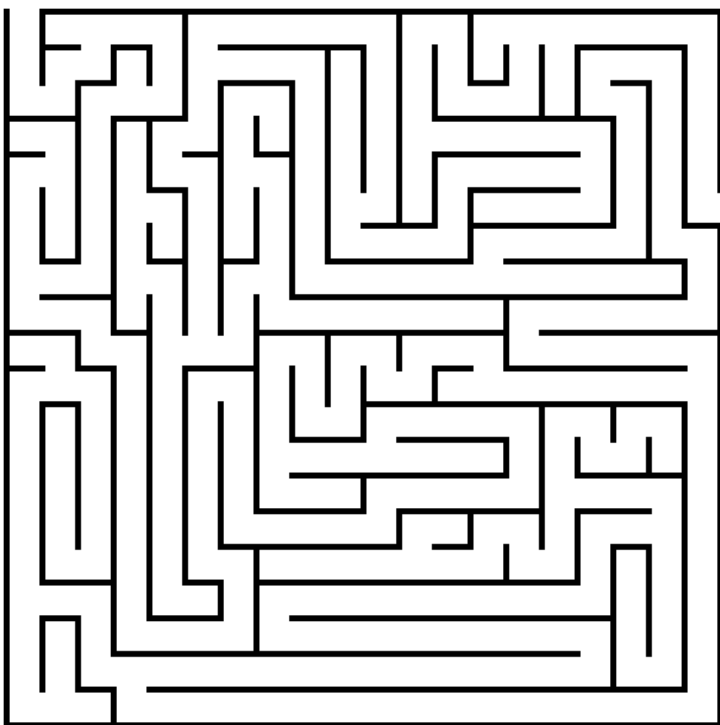
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e	b	e	n	c	h	r	t	o	i
p	l	a	y	g	r	o	u	n	d
z	s	e	e	s	a	w	v	d	e
r	o	u	n	d	a	b	o	u	t
c	h	i	l	d	r	e	n	n	l
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(Continued from page 14)

townspeople saying "let's get the 'mediocre' guy to chair the biggest event of the year and go lobby for the railroad we need? Remember, Bicha had had made the insupportable claim that 'mediocre' was the word most often used to describe Leedy's talents, outside of his speaking abilities, both in the U.S. and Canada.

From the American side there is *A Standard History of Kansas and Kansans*, written and compiled by William E. Connelley. In the early part of the twentieth century Connelley wrote: "Kansas had recovered from the 'hard times' and grew and flourished under the Leedy regime. Industries received a new impetus, and agriculture gained immensely. The farm products of Kansas for the year 1897-98 amounted to \$288,259,056, which showed a gain of \$4,350,631 over the preceding biennial period. At the close of his term as Governor Mr. Leedy became interested in mining operations around Galena. He went to Alaska in 1901, but finally located at White Court, Alberta, Canada. There he still resides."

It is worth noting that Bicha writes Leedy arrived in Whitecourt in 1910. Leedy's homestead filing for Whitecourt is dated 1908. A pioneer personal account and

the Whitecourt name change debate also suggest that the 1908 date given by amateur historian Doreen Olecko in Sagitawah Saga is the correct date for Leedy's arrival. In fairness, additional research could prove Bicha to be correct on this point; although it would take a lot of doing to explain away the other evidence, particularly the homestead filing.

In his haste to belittle Leedy, Bicha employs such a scatter gun approach that it is possible to indisputably hoist him on his own petard regarding the accuracy of his statements. On page 17 of the *Alberta Historical Review* in question, Bicha writes "Leedy was never able to admit the deficiencies" of a banking bill he signed into law. This leaves the impression that Leedy is not only of "limited intellect" but vain enough to entertain the idea his work was perfect.

However, Leedy himself wrote the precise opposite of this, in his 40 page piece entitled *What's the Matter with Canada?* On page 31 of this material, Leedy mentions the Kansas banking legislation and says "These banks are not perfect, and might be made better than they are, but they were good enough to turn the tide of immigration so the State again began to increase in population." Photocopies have been made of

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the relevant material, to show that Bicha has indeed written the exact opposite of the truth in regards to this particular facet of Leedy's personality. What is more, Leedy's views are preceded by pages wherein he lauds banking reform other than his own. The professor missed this even though, in his own words, the 40 page treatise "was the only serious published effort of Leedy's career".

Bicha goes on to write that Leedy was "neither a banking expert nor even a knowledgeable authority" on the subject that he devoted his life to reforming; that Leedy often took credit for contributing to bank reform in Kansas, even though he had little to do with it; that when Leedy advanced civil rights by insisting on black officers in a battalion drawn from the black community, it was only for crass political considerations; that his motives for creating volunteer regiments with elected officers was done for the same reason; and that after leaving office Leedy "participated in some dubious mining schemes with capital obtained from a mysterious source". There are many ad-

ditional slights, even though the article is comprised of only nine pages.

Part Two of this study will examine the rest of Bicha's charges and relate them to what is going on today in our media. This author is limited by both time and resources in doing a complete expose of Bicha's article. However, this would be an ideal topic for a University history student, whereby the public record of the Alberta Historical Archives regarding Leedy could be corrected by a report in a scholarly format.

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"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing"



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2. Process peppers and garlic in food processor to form a puree. Add basil and pulse to blend. While machine is running, add olive oil in a stream. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Pour into squeeze bottle and refrigerate for 1-2 weeks.
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