

Founders Days

For 55 years Chris Langbell took photos of families, weddings and events in Camrose. He will be one of two people to be honoured this year during Camrose Founders Days, August 15th to 17th.

Every year some of the City's earliest residents are honoured at Founders Square on 51st Street.

Chris was born in Coal Harbor (Coleharbor) North Dakota in 1883 and moved with his parents to the Camrose area in 1902. He opened his first photography studio in the Heather Brae Hotel just west of the Camrose main street on 50th Avenue.

In 1910 Chris built a two-storey building (where LaScala Jewellers is now located) with his studio on the upper floor. He continued to take photographs until 1961 when he sold the business to Alger Lyseng.

Chris died in 1963 and is buried in Camrose's Valleyview Cemetery.

Also being honoured during Founders Days is Camille David who was born in Montreal in 1859. He made his way west as a painter with

the CPR. He left the railway in Winnipeg and for a while was a painter in area churches. He started a ranch in Manitoba and in 1885 signed up with the 65th Montreal Regiment during the Riel Rebellion. In return for his services, he was given a 500-acre land grant in the Rosalind area southeast of Camrose. The ranch grew to more than 6,000 acres with 2,000 head of cattle and



seen on walls and ceiling in the historic Catholic Church in Duhamel.

In the early 1900s Camille became involved in business ventures in Camrose. He was a partner

employed 20 cowboys. He continued to paint, and some of his artwork can be

(Continued on page 4)

Inside this issue:

<i>Camrose Main Street Project</i>	2
<i>City Center Website Update</i>	3
<i>City Center Website Update</i>	3
<i>Downtown Vandalism</i>	3
<i>Keeping Sidewalk Clean</i>	3
<i>New Information on Bailey Theatre History</i>	4
<i>Downtown Tidbits</i>	4
<i>City Doin's</i>	4

Where \$'s Went

Downtown Dollars are not just for prize money any more. We have people buying Downtown Dollars from the City Center office as thank you presents for friends and staff.

Besides the \$2,200 worth of Downtown Dollars spent at Christmas by the eight winners of this year's Stamp Around, \$1,000 worth were purchased by Victim Services, who presented them to their volunteers as gifts at Christmas time.

What an innovative way to acknowledge their volunteers as well as promote business activity for Downtown merchants. Kudos to Victim Services!

If you want to buy Downtown Dollars for staff or friends, see Carole-May or Robert at the City Center office.

20th Anniversary Shopping Bags

City Center Camrose is celebrating the organization's 20th Anniversary **and** helping shoppers go green this fall.

We're having 500 canvas shopping bags with the City Center logo made for distribution in September to Downtown businesses.

City Center was started in 1988 by a group of Downtown business owners who wanted to take steps to

both promote and beautify the Downtown.

The canvas bags celebrate the anniversary, promote Downtown Camrose and at the same time help our Downtown customers do their part to take environmentally friendly action.

The City Center board will decide at the August board meeting how the bags will be distributed to the public and if there will be a cost involved. If you are interested in getting any of the bags, please contact the City Center office, 780-672-5191.



Camrose Main Street Project

By Robert Earley

There is very little evidence left that there was once a thriving coal mining industry in Camrose.

If you look closely at the ground on the south side of the Stony Creek valley near the ski hill you can find black chips of coal. But that is about all that remains. The horizontal shafts into the valley walls are long gone. One reminder is the restriction on development in that area because of vertical ventilation shafts that once provided fresh air into the underground mines. These were in the area of the city's tree farm, east of the new fire hall, 201 Mount Pleasant.

It appears that the first mine within the current city limits may have been one owned by Shulstad and Wilson of Strathcona (South

"The horizontal shafts were up to three-kilometres long and 24-metres (80 feet) below the surface."

Edmonton). In the December 10, 1908 Camrose Canadian a front page story outlines how a price for the land, then a mile south of the

town, had been reached. In February the first ad for the Shulstad-Wilson Mine selling "Camrose coal" appeared in the paper.

The December 10th story states that other companies will be formed during the coming months "...and ere the leaves fall in 1909 all will be in readiness for mining the Camrose District on a large scale."

And there was a great deal of coal in the Cam-

CAMROSE COAL Co. Ltd.

ORDERS FOR LUMP AND NUT COAL
CAN BE LEFT AT THE OFFICES OF
THE SCANDINAVIAN LAND CO.
and
George Stevenson

PROMPT DELIVERY GUARANTEED

rose District. Eventually there would be several mines within a 25-kilometre radius of Camrose. The hope at the time was that plans to extend the the railway east from Camrose to Saskatoon, this would open up a whole new market for Camrose coal.

COAL! COAL!

Patronize home industry.
Use Camrose coal. Orders
left at the Windsor Hotel,
phone 2 will receive prompt
attention, or at the mine one
mile south of town

Shulstad & Wilson

Probably the best known local coal company was Stony Creek Collieries owned by Dennis Twomey and Frank Farley.

In 1910 they opened a mine near the ski hill with coal seams from four to six feet thick. The horizontal shafts were up to three-kilometres long and 24-metres (80 feet) below the surface.

Most of the coal mined was used for home heating. Local farmers hauled the coal home by wagon, while local deliveries were made by several trucking companies.

After the city owned power plant opened on Mirror Lake, coal was used to produce steam that generated electricity for Camrose.

In June 1910 a group of Camrose business owners, including Frank Farley and Dennis Twomey, formed a syndicate to develop and operate a mine near Round Hill, 21-kilometres northeast of Camrose.

A test hole drilled to a depth of 100 feet found five seams of coal. The area was estimated to contain coal valued at \$200,000, about \$4-million today.

A rail spur was built to the mine which eventually produced 200 tons of coal a day with most of the coal shipped to Saskatoon.

Soon after opening the syndicate was bought out by a Saskatoon-based company.

City Center Website Update

People are finding their way to the City Center website at www.DowntownCamrose.com. In a special two-page newsletter we asked business owners to check that information about their business was correct. If you haven't been to the website to check your contact information, please do so, and then let us know about any changes and corrections that are required. We are also accepting information on additional categories for listing businesses. We have started advertising the website in a variety of ways. There have been ads in both The Camrose Booster and The Camrose Canadian specifically promoting the website to the public. Also the address is now a part of all advertising undertaken by City Center.

As the advertising has rolled out we are averaging about 20 visits a day to the website or more than 550 visits a month. While most of the visits have been from people going straight to the address, there are many that are coming from other websites. The most popular referral site is that operated by Tourism Camrose. **Five Dollar Special** We've had several business owners contact the office with extra information they want on their directory listing. You can have up to three lines of information detailing the main products or services that you have for a cost of just five-dollars a year. Either send to camroses@telusplanet.net or call 672-5191 with details.

Downtown Vandalism

In July the planters Downtown took a beating not just from the weather but also from vandals. City Center owned planters were victimized as were planters owned by several businesses. Also damaged was the City Center owned historic information kiosks in front of the Bailey Theatre. Damage to the kiosk frame and information panel was just under \$500. The kiosk was one of three that had just been restored and returned to the street when the damage occurred. The vandalism included a broken window in a vacant building on 50th Street. All the damage was reported to Camrose City Police. Police Chief Darrell Kambeitz says they are also frustrated by the vandalism. He says officers are patrolling and when time permits parking Downtown. Crime Stoppers is considering offering a reward for information regarding vandalism in the Downtown. If you see anyone acting suspiciously in the Downtown, please call Camrose Police at 672-4444.

Keeping Sidewalks Clean

The stormy weather this spring and summer has made been particularly hard on the boulevard trees in the Downtown. Leaves and branches have been knocked off during wind, hail and heavy rain storms. The city has been doing its part to sweep the streets, but business owners also have a role to play. You can help by keeping the sidewalks, and on 50th Street the cobblestone, neat and tidy in front of your business. Make a check of the front of your business part of the routine for you and your staff when you arrive at work in the morning. Let your customers and clients know that you take pride in the appearance of your part of Downtown by keeping the area in front of your business clean. At the City Center office we have also attacked the weeds behind our building.

New Information on Bailey Theatre History

For many years, the date the Bailey Theatre was opened was believed to be 1908, the year mentioned in the Camrose history book, A Light into the Past. However research done for the Bailey Theatre Society shows that the theatre actually opened in early 1911. The first public indication that Rosalind area rancher Camille David was going to build a theatre was in the September 3, 1910 issue of The Camrose Canadian. The front page story titled "Main St. Will Have Moving Pictures" quoted David as stating he had been approached by people from Chicago and Calgary to build a suitable building for the showing of moving pictures. The brick building would be 50-feet wide and run the entire length of the property. The first event at the new David Theatre was February 23rd the following year. The Kenney-Harvey entertainers filled the seats. The follow-up story in the Camrose Canadian said that "...if the management always provides such a good show, packed houses will be the rule". On the subsequent Tuesday night there was a dance at the theatre, where "...men greatly outnumbered the ladies in a gathering of two hundred." The music was provided by Langbell's Orchestra. Ironically both band leader Chris Langbell and Camille David are being honoured during Camrose Founders Days, August 15 to 17. Even though the Bailey Theatre is not 100 years old this year, at 97 years of age it remains the oldest theater in Alberta.



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www.DowntownCamrose.com

Heart of the Rose City



City Doin's

June 6—Aug 29—Artwalk continues at a number of locations.
Aug 9—10 Alberta Broadcasters Slopitch Tournament
Aug 15—17 Camrose Founders Days
Check the City Center website www.DowntownCamrose.com for up-to-date events listings.

Downtown Tidbits

In the past couple of months several businesses have changed ownership. **Shayne Bonnough** is the new owner of **Camrose Pawn**, 5027-50 Street.
Glenda Hughes has purchased Frankies Flowers, 4871-51 Street.
The new owner of Just For You is **Irene Fraser**, and the name has changed to **Remmy's Just For You**.
New to Downtown is **Triple J Roofing** at 5014B-48 Street owned by **Denise Bilowus**.
Sheila Viegas has opened **Beginning to End Bath and Kitchen** at 4857-50 Street.
Jennifer Selk is the owner of **The Knot Spot** providing therapeutic and relaxation massage at 4923-51 Street.

CCC Board Members

President: Elaine Nixon
(The Shirt Off My Back Tailoring)

Vice-President: Roger Forth (4th Street Agencies)

Treasurer: Paul Pedersen
(Pedersen Florists)

Directors:

Barb Hall (Ezee Brew)

Alana Hogstead (Martha's Music)

Don Jones (Fine Framing & Such)

Andrew Struthers
(Member-at-large)

Crystal Westergard (Battle River Physical Therapy)

Wayne Thronson. (City Council representative)

Robert Earley, Manager
Carole-May Coty, Office Assistant

Deena Meinczinger is operating **Body Linz Limited**, spa services at 5007-49 Street.
Arnie MacKowosky has moved **Rose City Barber and Hair Styling** to 4931 48 Street.
Krystell Dahlen has opened **Peace of Mind Home Support and Respite Services** at 4909A 48 Street

(Continued from page 1)

in the first Windsor Hotel (where the Hotel Alice now stands), owned a wine, spirits and cigar store, the Shasta Café, and built the David Theatre, now the Bailey Theatre.
The ceremony at Founders Square honouring Chris Langbell and Camille David is on Friday, August 15th at 1:00PM.
Other events take place at the Camrose Centennial Museum and the Camrose Railway Museum. There is a Founders Days Golf Tournament on Sunday, August 17th. For a detailed schedule of events go to www.CamroseFoundersDays.com.

Downtown Promotion

Each year at Big Valley Jamboree, City Center Camrose sponsors one of the shuttle busses for the Big Valley Jamboree.

The busses are used to get people from parking areas in the city to the grounds, and by people camped at the CRE into the city.

The sponsorship ensures that two of the drop off and pickup points are Downtown, by Extra Foods and Liquidation World.

Watch for our new sign on the side of one of the busses as it makes its way through the city. City Center Camrose has joined with five other Camrose groups to run a full page ad in the Edmonton Examiner for two weeks this summer.

The Examiner has the largest circulation of any community newspaper in Canada. The paper has put together a special feature on Camrose for the two weeks.