



# ALFRED & MYRTLE MOON

Mentions in [The Daily Herald-Tribune](#), Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada

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4 Anniversaries

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MOON — Invitation to friends and relatives to help Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Moon celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary, at the Bezanson school 2:00-5:00 p.m. on November 10th. No gifts please.

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# County seeks seniors' help

By BILL SCOTT  
of our staff

South Peace oldtimers are being asked to help the County of Grande Prairie preserve pieces of the pioneer past.

The county, intending to rezone the marking of local

historical sites this summer, is strapped for information, particularly in connection with long-abandoned graveyards in the area.

Frank Stoll, a director of the district oldtimers' association and a county employee, told the oldtimers' annual meeting

Saturday that any help would be appreciated.

Work planned to date for this summer includes marking the former Lake Saskatoon and Bevanston townships as well as additional cemetery markers.

Mr. Stoll said some of the old cemeteries are known, others are not, and in almost all cases there is a lack of information on their history. Provincial archives have not proved entirely satisfactory for this, and the main source has been church officials.

The annual meeting, which re-elected last year's executive in another term, also indicated it plans an intensive membership campaign this year. Secretary Gerald Carveth said involvement with the successful publication of *Pioneers of the Peace* over the last couple of years had shunted membership concerns to the side.

Two years ago there were 35 new members; last year there were 25. The goal this year, vice-president Richard Johnson said, is 100 new members. The association ended 1976 with 284 memberships — a near record — including 125 oldtimers and 159 of their offspring.

Membership in the association is limited to those pioneers who arrived prior to the railway in 1916, mainly over the Edison Trail, and to succeeding generations.

A life membership fee schedule was approved as one method of boosting members. Those under 50 years old can pay a flat \$20 for life membership in the association. It's \$15 for those 50-59, \$10 for those 60-69, \$5 for those 70-79, and \$1 for those 80 or older.

A copy of the successful *Pioneers of the Peace* which has almost completely sold out, will be presented to the new senior citizen home in Valleyview in line with similar presentations to other such facilities in the South Peace.

Charles Wales will again head the association this year. He was unable to attend the annual meeting because of a recent operation in Edmonton. Marley Sherck has been chosen honorary president for the year.

Directors for 1976 include Betty Barr, Maxine Malligan, Jack Gaudin, Oscar Gudlaugson, Dorothy Ireland, Edward Heller, Guy Ireland, Ritchie McRae, Henry Maskman, Alfred Mason, Violet Patterson, Florence Robinson, Don Sherck, and Mr. Stoll.



Honorary president Marley Sherck, vice-president Richard Johnson

# *Old Timers' group sets new membership marks*

The annual meeting of the Grande Prairie and District Old Timers' Association attracted 29 members Saturday, including 20 who came into the area over the Edson and Grouard Trails before the railway came to the Peace Country.

Among the group were three former honorary presidents — Marley Sherk, 1977, Edward Crerar, 1976 and Charles Anderson, 1975. Their combined ages total 274 years.

The retiring president, Charles Wales, gave a review of the principal events of the year, citing the annual banquet, which saw the largest number of Old Timers ever to attend, and the annual picnic, which drew a large

crowd in July. This was highlighted when many visiting Old Timers attended from many parts of Canada, and the United States.

The Executive had committed itself to recruiting 100 new applicants for the Old Timers' Association this year and this was accomplished with one to spare. A new plan was also presented to allow life memberships on an age-graduated scale, and 134, or 47.7 per cent of the total membership of 321, became life members.

Election of officers saw Henry Monkman take over the reins as president, following into the footsteps of his father, Alexander, who served the association as president in 1937.

Ralph Carrell of Beaverlodge was elected honorary president, Gordon Moon was appointed vice-president and Gerald Carveth, secretary-treasurer. Mrs. Dorothy Ireland is the auditor.

The directors are Jack Gaudin, Oscar Gudlaugson, Mrs. Dorothy Ireland, Guy Ireland, Richard Johnson, Graham McFarlane, Arvid Moe, Alfred Moon, Mrs. Violet Patterson, Mrs. Florence Robinson, Donald Sherk and Frank Stoll.

Plans are underway for the annual banquet on March 22 at the Elk's Hall in Grande Prairie, where the Old Timers will be celebrating their Golden Anniversary, the association having been founded in 1928.



## *Old Timers executive*

The Grande Prairie and District Old Timers Association held its annual meeting Saturday at the Senior Citizen's Recreation Centre. Henry Monkman (right) of the city was elected president, with Gerald Carveth as secretary-treasurer. Gordon Moon was elected vice-president. Directors include Jack Gaudin, Oscar Gudlauglson,

Richard Johnson, Graham McFarlane, Mrs. Mary McKeeman, Ritchie McRae, Arvid Moe, Alfred Moon, Mrs. Violet Patterson, Mrs. Jean Rooney, Donald Sherk, and Frank Stoll. Mr. and Mrs. Richard McRae are honorary presidents. Last year the association marked its 50th anniversary. The association, boasting more than 350 members, is open to men and women — and their descendants — who came to the Grande Prairie area before the railroad came in 1916.

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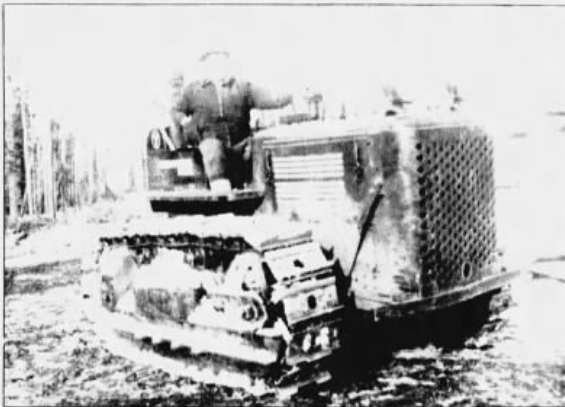
# Pioneer farmer loved the woods – made his living there in tough times



Alfred Moon



Logging train at Wolf Creek – 1942.



Alfred on bulldozer at Wolf Creek logging camp where he was foreman – early 1940s.



Changing flat tire (Alfred on left with pipe) – mid-20s.

EDITOR'S NOTE – Alfred A. Moon, a Peace Country pioneer, passed away Jan. 13, 1989, at the age of 92. Following is his story.

**Kevin Pilling**  
Herald-Tribune staff

Alfred Moon came west as a youngster with his family when Alberta was still a territory, 12,000 hardy pioneers were clustered in a place called Edmonton, and Grande Prairie was little more than a clutch of shacks along Bear Creek.

Born in Ontario four years before the turn of the century, his family settled in what was then the outskirts of Edmonton when he was 9 years old. The family – six boys, three girls and their mother – travelled to this rugged land of promise in a colonist railway car. Alfred's father died in Ontario in 1904, a year before the family came west.

As Alfred grew, he saw the country change – while still in school he was witness to the ceremony that marked Alberta joining the Dominion of Canada as a province.

In 1911, at the age 15, he took his first paying job driving the mail-stage from Edmonton to Athabasca on the old Athabasca Gibbons trail.

After a few years in Edmonton, the great promise of the Peace Country beckoned the family and they set out by horse and sleigh on a two-week winter trek, over unyielding terrain on the Edson Trail.

The family settled and built a home in the Bezanon district.

## TRAVELLED IN WINTER

"They came up in the winter of 1913," Alfred's nephew Gordon Moon of Grande Prairie says. "There were 'caboose' with stoves in them but the guys like Alf would walk. They wouldn't want to ride in the caboose where the women were."

Later in his life Alfred was given the honor of unveiling a plaque at DeBolt, saluting pioneers who had braved the Edson Trail.

Strongly patriotic, Alfred enlisted in the Canadian Army and spent a year overseas, stationed in England in 1919. This was not the last time he would contribute when duty called. During the Second World War he employed German POWs in logging camps around the Edson area.

On Remembrance Day, 1924, Alfred married Myrtle Wales, who was also from a pioneering family out of Ontario. Together they raised two sons and two daughters on their farm. Pioneer strength and patience was abundant between the pair, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1974.

Alfred was predeceased by his wife in 1986.

In October of 1928, Alfred signed a contract with about 60,000 other

Alberta farmers to pool their harvests in order to try and get a better deal for their products. These farmers are known now as "original contract signers" with what grew into becoming the Alberta Wheat Pool.

Although he farmed in the Glen Leslie district for the majority of his life, the adventures of logging often took Alfred away from home in the winter after the farming was done for the season. He loved the woods and was very active in the lumber industry until the 1950s.

"He got into it, I suppose, as a way of making a living when things were tough back in the earlier years," said Gordon.

## MOVED TO GP

After retiring from farming in 1974 when he was 78, Alfred and Myrtle moved to Grande Prairie.

Alfred received both the Golden Jubilee Certificate and the 75-year

medallion commemorating his Alberta citizenship. He also was given an honorary lifetime membership to the Canadian Legion for his 77 years of service in the Grande Prairie area.

One of Alfred's favorite pastimes in Grande Prairie was to meet at the Co-op coffee-shop with a group of friends known as "the senators", who together would try to "solve the world's problems."

"Alf lived about a block and a half from the Co-op store," says Gordon. "Every day at coffee-time he'd meet the rest of the senators and together they would overhaul the day's politics and get everything running right. Then they would all go their separate ways at lunch. I know Alf really used to enjoy that."

"I always considered him as one of my favorite uncles. He was the type of guy who, if he couldn't say something nice about a person, he didn't bother saying anything."