

# ARTHUR PATTERSON

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

# Smoky River to Grande Prairie...

By BRENDA BROCHU

The latest in a spate of pioneer books about settlers in the Peace Country is probably one of the best.

Smoky River to Grande Prairie, hot off the press last month, is far more than the usual compendium of births, deaths and marriages. The 578-page volume, outlining the history of settlers in 11 former school districts east and northeast of Grande Prairie, is clearly written, easy-to-read and enlivened by hundreds of personal anecdotes. It is also illustrated by over 440 photos and scores of pen drawings by area artists Geraldine Stark and Joyce Blimke.

"I tried my darndest to leave all the humor in," says editor Arthur B. Patterson of the former Glen Leslie district, about 23 km east of Grande Prairie. "There's nothing more liresome than just bare statistics.

"I had to take out a little slander and shorten up a few cuss words but otherwise it's intact."

## THE DOPE TRICK

The book contains about 700 entries by nearly as many contributors, with biographical sketches including the infamous along with the upstanding. A horse trader in the Five Mile district just east of Grande Prairie, for instance, would dope up his horses and flick them with a wire whip to make them appear lively.

"The wire whip and the dope wore off and the new owner was stuck with one of George Young's favorite tricks," the book says.

Another colorful character was "Mexican Jack" Haverkost of the Bezanson area. Haverkost, of German and Spanish descent, had punched cattle on the old Chisolm trail, fought in the Riel Rebellion and left his wife and five children to seek his fortune in the Yukon gold rush.

Like many others he failed to find that fortune and came to the Peace Country in 1921, working as a farm hand and fascinating young people with his tales of adventure. He was reunited with his family two years before his death in 1937 at the age of 85.

Clubs and organizations are also included in the book's purview. The Grande Prairie Swine Club used to hold swine shows in the livery stables of Grande Prairie, drawing hogs from 50 miles around. After a show the hogs had to be driven a quarter mile to the railroad station to be loaded on box-cars.

## IMAGINE!

"Can you imagine herding pigs that distance?" the book asks. "Before they would get them there, the DA (district agriculturist) and fathers had to join in and help herd pigs. They would run all over Grande Prairoe. No street sweeper or health unit in those days."

The book contains many descriptions of the natural environment. Grande Prairie residents will be interested to know that Bear Creek, now used as the city's sewage lagoon, once carried "every species of fish on the North American continent". After the dam was built in Grande Prairie even the beavers moved up the banks to build their dams in the fresh water springs, the book says.

Ruth Atkins (nee Cochrane) of the Kleskun Lake area just east of Clairmont, can recall picking blueberries with homemade combs, wearing moccasins and mitts of soft bear's fur and hearing the bray of coyotes from the Kleskun Hills.

The Hills, a unique geological formation about 32 km east of Grande Prairie containing fossil remains and unusual vegetation, are described in detail.

Mr. Patterson says the book is meant as a tribute to the early pioneers, who included "land speculators, farmers, illicit moonshiners, perverts, gamblers, prostitutes, businessmen, cowboys, trappers, carpenters, doctors and preachers".

"One trait they all were endowed with was the spirit of adventure," he says.

## SON OF HOMESTEADER

He himself came to the Glen Leslie district in 1915 at the age of four, the oldest son of homesteader James Ott Patterson. He has worked as a truck driver, welder, crop insurance adjuster, oil field hand, carpenter, cook, bookkeeper, trapper, saw mill operator, reporter and farmer. He has also served on school boards and been active with the BPO Elks.

Now semi-retired, he still farms a quarter section of land and write poems — by the dozen.

So far he has 200 poems written for a not-yet-published book to be called Feathers and Fur. Some of the poems have been used in University of Alberta writers' workshops, and a hunting story he wrote will appear in the magazine Outdoor Life this summer.

Writing is now his main interest, he says.

Smoky River to Grande Prairie was a project of the Golden Years Club of Bezanson, completed over 2½ years.

Districts covered in the book include the former Five Mile, Twilight, Crystal Creek, Glen Leslie (Somme), Bezanson, Lindsay, Fitzsimmons, Tranquility, East Kleskun, Kleskun Hill and Kleskun Lake districts.

The book is on sale at Starship Books, the Compleat Reader Book Store and Salem Book Shoppe in Grande Prairie.



Arthur B. Patterson with Smoky River to Grande Prairie.

# Peace seniors seek gold

A total of 97 participants, representing 16 Peace Country communities, will compete in the 1984 Alberta Senior Games in Camrose.

Zone 8 (Peace Country) competitors will participate in 22 activities in the third games which run from Sunday to Tuesday.

"We should do very well," Alberta Sport Council zone co-ordinator Kevin Arnsdorf of the city said. "This is the third games at Camrose and the competitors are better aware of what's involved."

Peace River's Bessie Waldref, 93, the oldest participant, will light the symbolic torch to officially open the games.

The following is a list of the Zone 8 entrants.

**Bowling** — Dorothy Pollock, Peter Unger, Madelaine Rolling, Friend Summers

**Bridge** — Bessie Waldref, Aurelia Vangrud, Adam Wienman, Ida Summers.

**Carpet Bowling** — Hilberg Haugjord, Ebba Haugjord, Vera Rigler, Alice Brynes, Lloyd Rosser, Jessie Derksen, Anne Korol, Ruth Rosser.

**Creative Writing** — Arthur Patterson, Adelaide Scharter, Tim Seely, Maralit Dunbar, Lily Sather, Winnie Moore, Martha Strom.

**Cribbage** — Lily Sather, Ann Kuchuk, Pauline Stanich, George Gorgichuk.

**Croquet** — Tim Seeley, Fred Fox.

**Dance (Oldtime)** — Rupert Bligh, Mae Bligh, Murray Oatway, Alice Oatway.

**Darts** — John Relling, Gusse Relling.

**Disking** — Harry Hodgson, Gladys Hodgson, Bernard Sheehan, Mollie Patrick

**Equestrian** — Elmer Sather, Millet Dumont, Paul Johns, Helen Dumont.

**Golf** — Jean Gunby, Sadie Edgar, Ena Merritt, Mable West, Ken Kapler, Jim Edgar, Norm Hudson, Charlie Wales.

**Horseshoes** — Lyle Best, Arnold Sparks, Bill Student, Ambrose Donison, Ralph Albert, Anita Albert, Rose Larson, Jean Tansen, George Dechant, Winnie Laing.

**Handicrafts** — Helen Dumont, Evelyn Fiel, Tillie Isinger, Mrs. Stanich, Ellen Demaine, Monica Dechant, Margaret Dechant, Gladys Hodgson, Marion Wade, Hugh Ritz, Andrea Sarapuk.

**Orienteering** — Jack Burley, Emily Burley.

**Performing Arts** — Kay Humphrey, Doris Walker, Sarah Reynolds, Violet Patterson, Jo Monkman, Ethel Rutledge, Selva Watts, Stella Hrychiw, Mary Kaplan.

**Photography** — Lily Sather, Pearl McLaughlin, Marion Wade.

**Scrabble** — Dorphy Bekkerus, Esther Hoffin.

**Shuffleboard** — Eva Northey, Mary Kubel, Ethel Keller, Anne Wendland.

**Slowpitch** — Charlie Turner, Ken Nelson, Les Miles, Bill Maxwell, Ray Peterson, Hugh Ritz, Eldon Shail, Don Matlock, Simon Haakstad, Don Ness, Bill Johnson, Don Patrick, Elmer McLaughlin, Allan Peterson, Walter MacAlister.

**Snooker** — Bert Balderston, Doug Clegg, Vera Grela.

**Swimming** — Juanita Knight, Bob Littleton, Dorothy Sudnik, Earl Smith, Evelyn Sheehan.

The executive of the seniors organization for the zone includes president Don Patrick of Grande Prairie, directors Mike Pfoh of Fairview, Velva Harding of High Prairie, Tim Seeley of Peace River, Lloyd Rosser of Rycroft and Marion Wade of Wanham, and secretary Lily Sather of Grande Prairie.

The Daily Herald-Tribune

[Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada • Fri, Jul 6, 1984](#) Page 9

# Seniors qualify

Carpet Bowling Zone 8 preliminary Senior Alberta Games action took place at Bezanson's Golden Years Centre, with the husband and wife tandems of the LaPierres and the Lalibertes of Girouxville advancing yesterday.

Grande Prairie's foursome of Mable Hindmarch, Millet Dumont, Ebba Haugjord and Mary Kaplin came in second, which makes them the alternates for the Games in Hinton Aug. 22-25.

In other senior preliminaries, 12 pieces of literature will be destined for Hinton and accompanied by the authors as this year's Zone 8 creative writing candidates.

Grande Prairie's Arthur Patterson, placed in all four categories

while fellow Swan City resident Lily Sather and Beaverlodge's Madelon Truax qualified in three categories.

Patterson finished first in Class A-poetry, with Sather placing second and Doug Morrison of Silver Lake third.

Patterson's other top-place finish was in Class D, non-fiction humor, with Sather in second and Truax in third.

Truax finished first in both the Class B-short fiction and the Class C-non-fiction-series events, with Sather and Patterson rounding out the top three in the latter category while Valleyview's Ramona Johnson finished second and Patterson third in the former.

**OPEN HOUSE**

Friends of  
**ARTHUR PATTERSON**

are cordially invited to  
help celebrate his...

**90th  
BIRTHDAY!**

**Sun., Aug. 5**  
Bezanson Golden  
Years Centre  
Open House 2 to 4 pm  
Your presence is the only  
gift required!

The Daily Herald-Tribune

[Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada • Thu, Aug 2, 2001Page 4](#)