

RUPERT & HAZEL WEEGAR

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



Area oldtimer funeral tomorrow

Services for Baxter Rex Patterson will be held tomorrow from Oliver's Funeral Chapel, Rev. W.D. Waite officiating, following his death March 12 at age 89.

Interment will be in Glen Leslie cemetery.

Mr. Patterson, born at Sullivan, Ill. Dec. 23, 1884 was living with his parents in Iowa when his father became impressed by the fertility of the Glen Leslie district during a visit and filed by proxy for himself and five sons.

By Feb. 29, 1916 Rex with his four brothers — Arthur, Victor, Guy and Ernest — left the family home with three boxcars loaded with machinery, horses, cattle and settlers' effects for the Peace River Country, unloading at High Prairie, then end-of-steel, by March 5.

The next day Rex and Guy shod all 17 horses to start over the trail on the last lap of their journey to the Bezanson district and to claim the land their father had filed for them. Rex's location was on the SW 3-72-3-W6.

After they were somewhat settled, the married men sent word for their families to join them. This included Rex's wife Grace and two daughters; Guy's wife Bertha and two daughters and Arthur's wife Leota and five children, along with Mr. Patterson Sr. Rex met his wife and family that April in a rubber-tired buggy

shipped up from Iowa.

That first summer a log barn was constructed with roofing lumber obtained from Edmund Cooke's saw mill at the Wapiti River. Rex and his father, Bill Kennedy and Nels Myers built three rafts on which to float the Cooke lumber and slabs down river to the Big Smoky, to be reloaded on wagons at Moody's Crossing. That fall a small kitchen was added to the Rex Patterson home and Nov. 28, Mrs. Patterson was hostess to the first meeting in the district held by ladies of Grande Prairie's McQueen Presbyterian Church. Additions brought the house to its present comfortable size.

It was there in 1968 family and friends gathered in celebration of the couple's 60th anniversary of their marriage solemnized in Osceola, Iowa in September 1908.

Two years later Mrs. Patterson passed away, Dec. 20, 1970 at the age of 79.

Mr. Patterson, a member of the Grande Prairie and District Oldtimers' Association, is survived by sons Kenneth of Grande Prairie, Milfred of Bezanson; daughters Hazel (Mrs. Rupert Weegar) and Wauneita (Mrs. Bert Ogden) both of Bezanson; 18 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren. A third son Vernon predeceased him in 1958.

Who lost?

By RUPERT WEEGAR

A woman came, a wreath she laid
Then kneeling alone, silently prayed.
A face so sad, no look of joy,
In victory gained, she lost her boy.

A man, placing flowers there
His lips moving in silent prayer.
The war is over, the battle won,
In victory gained, he lost his son.

A maiden fair, some roses red
Placed in honor of someone dead.
Away she turned, the teardrops start,
In victory gained, she lost her sweetheart.

A boy came last, a wreath to lay
In honor of a grave, so far away,
Tearful eyes, his face so sad,
In victory gained, he lost his dad.

The cenotaph, wreaths of flowers gay
Alone it stands this Armistice Day,
The service over, the tears are dried,
In victory gained, thousands died.

Mr. **Weegar**, 77, is a resident of Bezanson.

Funeral Chapel.

LINDSAY "RUPERT" WEEGAR

Lindsay "Rupert" Weegar passed away Dec. 20 in Grande Prairie at the age of 78. He was born in Dundas County, Ont. and came to Balzac with his parents in 1902 and moved to the Peace Country in 1926.

Mr. Weegar was instrumental in organizing the start of the first Church at Bezanson. He served as a judge for a number of years for the Teepee Creek and Bezanson Stampedes.

He is survived by his wife, Hazel; sons Earl (Allie) of Bezanson, Delmer (Betty) of Bezanson, Harvey (Pat) of Bezanson; daughter Lorice (Des) Stark of Bezanson; 12 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and brother Maurice (Belle) of Calgary. He was predeceased by brothers Earl and Percy and sister Pearl.

Funeral service for the late Lindsay "Rupert" Weegar was held Saturday Dec. 23 at 2:30 p.m. in the Bezanson Community Church with Pastor Ron Neufeld officiating. Interment followed in Glen Leslie Cemetery. If desired, donations may be made to the charity of your choice. A lunch was held at the residence of Mrs. Hazel Weegar following interment services. Funeral arrangements by Oliver Funeral Chapel.

Bezanson functions offer good food and good friends

By BEA FELLS

BEZANSON — The Golden Years Club held a card party Oct. 26 with six tables. Winners were: Ladies' first — Cathrine Klassen of Debolt; second — Hazel Weegar; Men's high — George Lavrick, second — Art Lowen. Travelling prize — Flora Mellun of Debolt.

Many friends and relatives of Elmer and Joan Ford, and Keith and Kay Coney gathered at the Bezanson Hall Oct. 26 for a happy event — their 25th Wedding Anniversary. A buffet supper was prepared by family and friends, for about 200 people. Brenda and Ernie Ford, and Kim, Kelly and Scott Coney, children of the happy couples, got the occasion started and had lots of help from everyone.

Following the supper, entertainment included songs, skits and toasts. This was followed by a dance until the wee hours of the morning.

The CWL held a chicken supper Oct. 27 at the hall, serving about 250 people. There was also entertainment for

young and old upstairs after supper — bingo, bazaar table, fish pond, guessing games, etc.

Bezanson GYC sponsored the South Peace Crib Tournament Nov. 2 at the Legion Hut. There was a very nice turnout of 96 people — 24 tables.

The trophy went to Spirit River, with a score of 1,411.

The first pair of trophies went to Merle and Polly Patterson of Bezanson, with a score of 1,428.

The second set of trophies went to Dorothy Mansfield and Myrtle Gordon of Grande Prairie — score 1,426.

Thanks to everyone for coming out and making it a big success for us.

Also, thanks to the ladies who set the buffet dinner out so nicely: Pearl McLaughlin, Lorna Nellis, Allie Weegar, Margrite Lavrick, Anita Sarmaga. You did a wonderful job ladies!

Eleven club members went to Goodwin to their opening card party Nov. 2. It was a lucky day for Buster Patterson as he won the men's high that night, as well as winning the trophy in the crib tournament.

Historic site designation sought

Bezanson closer to rising again

By KATHY MURRIE
Herald-Tribune staff

The old Bezanson townsite, occupied from 1906 to the early 1920s, has taken another step closer to becoming a provincial historic site.

With an entourage of about 50 people, including several former residents, Smoky River MLA Marvin Moore handed over the "intention to designate a registered historic resource" from Alberta Culture to county councillor Phyllis Stewart on June 14.

The drive to have the area, near the confluence of the Wapiti, Smoky and Simonette Rivers, has been going on for the past year and a half. The Bezanson Agricultural Society has led recent efforts to not only declare the site a resource, but to develop it as a campsite.

At one time a growing hamlet of over 200 people, the site was slowly deserted after an anticipated railway line never arrived. The last residents left in the early 1920s and the site is now barren of buildings, either moved to the new Bezanson seven miles north and east on Highway 34, or left to crumble with time.

But foundations and outlines of the stores, homes and livery stables that once graced the flat stretch of land overlooking the rivers, still remain.

Oldtime residents like Ellis Turner of DeBolt have been helping the society's committee determine where the original buildings were. The plan is to have markers with period photos and capsule histories identify the sites in the future campground.

The designation opens up the prospect of access to provincial funding towards the site as a provincial recreational and tourist area, explained Moore. There could be \$50,000 in capital improvement grants available by next year with \$10,000 annual operating grants also available for care and upkeep of the park.

Coun. Stewart, accepting the designation on behalf of the county (which holds title to the land), addressed the gathering.

"This is a recognition of the people who originally settled here — a dedicated, determined and adventurous lot," she said.



Old townsite visitors outline the foundations of what is believed to be founder A.M. Bezanson's first home, which would have been built about 1906.



Special guests take a ride on Walter Waldner's wagon. He is third from the left, helping Gertrude (Bezanson) Mattinson get seated comfortably, along with Bezanson resident Hazel (Patterson) Weegar. Standing on the wagon are agricultural society rep Janet Sarmaga (left) and county councillor Phyllis Stewart (right), with Smoky River MLA Marvin Moore in the background.

Among the visitors to the site were former residents Gertrude Mattinson, now living in Califor-

nia, and Walter Peterson of DeBolt. Agricultural society committee

chairman Janet Sarmaga arranged the tour, which coincided with the new hamlet's Sports Day.

Spirit River wins Bezanson tourney

Contributed by BEA FELLS

BEZANSON — Spirit River Club was the winner of the big trophy when Bezanson Golden Years Club hosted the South Peace Crib Tournament Nov. 15.

Second-place winners were Willie Monroe and Frances Goodland as a team.

The 60 crib players from the six clubs attending had a very friendly and enjoyable afternoon.

Thank you all for coming and making it the success it was. Also, thanks to our kitchen help. They did a real good job. Helpers were: Allie Weegar, Lorna Nellis, Betty Ford, Molly Lavrick and Anita Sarmaga.

The doily raffle was held, with Dorthea Mansfield winning the first and second draws and Hazel Weegar the third draw.

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Staff Photo by Laura Shuya

Golden touch

Bezanson Golden Years Club's Hazel Weegar, 77, who has been a resident since 1916, along with other club members and contractors had the honors of breaking the ground last Friday for the \$85,000, 446 square-metre Golden Years drop-in centre being built in the hamlet. The project, which has been delayed four years because of water and sewage line approvals, is to be completed in two years. Club members, who are raising funds through raffles, bake sales and flea markets, are hoping for government funding.

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Bezanson seniors get a home



Smoky River MLA Marvin Moore (centre, right photo above) cut the Golden Years Centre opening ribbon, assisted by club President Meryle Patterson, while club charter members Mildred Parrish (left) and Hazel Weegar assisted.

By MARY-ANN THURBER

After nearly eight years of hard work and worrying, seniors in the Bezanson area finally have a place to call their own and they celebrated that fact March 4 with the grand opening of the Bezanson Golden Years Centre.

Construction of the centre is not yet quite finished, with more work is needed to complete the basement, but the excited seniors have already moved in.

The \$74,000 building was funded with grants from the New Horizon Program for senior's projects as well as funds or material donations from the County of Grande Prairie, Alberta

Parks, Wildlife and Recreation, Alberta Culture and Procter and Gamble.

Meryle Patterson, president of the Bezanson Senior's Club, said much of the work and craftsmanship that went into constructing the building was provided by volunteer labor.

He said the seniors formed the club in 1981 and as their ranks grew, now numbering about 49, they found their temporary home in the Legion Hut in Bezanson wasn't large enough to house their activities.

They began applying for programs that supply funds for such projects and say that although money for the project was readily available, only the long hours of volunteer time the seniors put

in on organizing construction of the building made the project possible.

Hazel Weegar, a resident of Bezanson since 1916, said it's been exciting for her to take part in the arrangements for the building. She said that although Bezanson is a small community, it is also very spread out and it's important for the seniors to have a place to meet.

During the afternoon of entertainment and socializing, the Brodeson band of Ed, Mable and Ernie played some told-time favorites and Willie Munro from Deloit favored the audience with an accordion tune.

The open house event was attended by Smoky River MLA Marvin Moore and Smoky River PC candidate Walter Paszkowski, and Peace River MP Albert Cooper sent a telegram. Presentations included a donation of \$1,000 from the Grande Prairie Old Timer's Association, a monetary donation from the Deloit Pioneer Centre, a plaque and provincial flag from the Alberta government, a potted Boston fern from the County of Grande Prairie, flower arrangements from the Valleyview and District Sun Valley Pioneers and Francis Goodland, and a cake from Canadian Motor Coach Travel.

Special supper for some special people...



The **Bezanson Golden Years Club** recently prepared a supper in honor of 80-years-and-over residents of the area. Each was presented with a corsage before sitting down at the head table and being introduced as special guests. In photo above (back row, l to r): **Ted Coney, Myrtle Fenton, Marvis Stewart and wife, Max Franks, Mildrew McPhee, Ellis Turner, Cara Welander, Art Rees.** Front row: **Marie Menard, Mary Podolski, Edna Ames, Tilla Berg, Margaret Griko, Hazel Weegar.**

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Oldtimers honored



The Golden Years Club of Bezanson recently honored area residents who are 80 years of age and older. Over 55 friends and club members gathered to salute the seniors. The people being honored included Frank Kochalyk (back left), Max Franks, Wladymir Kochalyk, Art Rees, Art Patterson, Ellis Turner, Ed Bredeson, Annie Gresco and Stan Fenton (front left), Cora Franks, Elsie Ames, Hazel Weegar, Edna Ames, Tilla Berg and Mabel Bredeson.

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Senior celebration



The Bezanson Golden Years Club celebrated Seniors Week with a supper and social evening — with music by Ernie Bredeson, Andy Waldner and Marion Waldner and singing by Mabel Bredeson, John Stark and Phyllis Stewart — for the 80-year and over members. Those taking part included Francis Goodland (front left), Hazel Weegar, Art Rees, Maggie Robideau, Willie Munro, Ed Bredeson, Mabel Bredeson and Annie Oe (back left), Peggy Robideau, Claire Irvine, Mildred McPhee, John Stark, Myrtle Fenton, Art Patterson, Edna Anderson, Elsie Ames, Ellis Turner, Billie Ford and Fred Ford.

Hazel Catharine Weegar, 86, of Bezanson

Hazel Catharine Weegar, resident of Bezanson, Alberta, passed away on Friday, October 4, 1996 at her home at the age of 86 years.

Hazel was born on August 9, 1910 in Oscole, Iowa, USA, the oldest daughter of Rex and Grace Patterson.



Some of the Pattersons came up in 1913 and filed on land in the Glen Leslie district.

In 1914 and 1915 they came up to Unity, Saskatchewan, went back to U.S. to get their families and came to Glen Leslie in the spring of 1916.

Hazel came on the second train up to Grande Prairie.

She lived in Glen Leslie until 1929 when she married Rupert Lindsay Weegar from Calgary. They spent 49 years together.

They farmed in DeBolt and Bezanson while remaining active in the community, school and church.

Hazel is survived by three sons and one daughter: Earl (Allie) of Bezanson; Harvey (Pat) of Clairmont; Delmer (Betty) of Bezanson; Lorice (Desmond) Stark of Grande Prairie; 17 grand-children, 27 great-grandchildren and nine great-great-grandchildren; two brothers: Milfred (Edith) Patterson of Grande Prairie; Ken Patterson of Winfield, B.C.; and sister Wauneita Ogden of Grande Prairie.

Hazel was predeceased by her husband Rupert in 1978, father Rex in 1974, mother Grace in 1969 and brother Vernon in 1958.

Funeral service for Hazel Weegar will be held on Tuesday, October 8, 1996 at 2 p.m. from Bezanson Community Church, with Rev. Mike McWinnie officiating.

Interment to follow in Glen Leslie Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to the Rainbow Society.

**OLIVER'S GRANDE PRAIRIE
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06 In
Memoriam



RUPERT WEEGAR

December 19, 1900 -
December 20, 1978

HAZEL WEEGAR

August 9, 1910 -
October 4, 1996

Married March 20, 1929

Quietly remembered
every day.

Sadly missed along the way.
No longer in your lives to share.
But in our thoughts
and hearts.

You are always there.

Forever remembered
always loved

Lorice

Obituaries



OGDEN, Wauneta Amanda. February 6, 1916 - June 2, 2011. Wauneta Ogden, resident of Grande Prairie, passed away on Thursday, June 2, 2011 at the age of 95 years. Wauneta Ogden was born in Murray, Iowa, United States. She came to Canada in April 1916 with her sister Hazel and parents Rex and Grace Patterson. She married Bert November 20, 1935. They made their home on the farm in Bezarson. Wauneta loved to play the piano, and enjoyed her flowers and vegetable garden. She loved to have family and friends around. In 1982, due to failing health, Bert and Wauneta moved into Pioneer Lodge, Grande Prairie. In the mid 80's Wauneta moved to Heritage Lodge. Wauneta kept herself busy crocheting, embroidering, playing cards with friends and many visits from friends and family. April 2011, Wauneta was taken to the QEII Hospital where she remained until the time of her passing. Wauneta was predeceased by her loving husband of 55 years, Bert; parents Rex and Grace Patterson; two sons; brother, sister Hazel Weegar; brother Vernon Patterson; brother Kenneth Patterson; one grandson; one granddaughter; one great-grandson; brother-in-law Rupert Weegar; nephew Earl Weegar; niece Linda Cage. Leaving to mourn her passing are daughter Shirley (Elmer) Westergaard of Fort St. John, B.C.; son Robert Ogden of Dawson Creek, B.C.; son Raymond (Linda) Ogden of Bezarson; brother Mildred (Edith) Patterson; sister-in-laws Allie Weegar and Laura Patterson; nine grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; four great great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. A funeral service will be held Tuesday, June 7, 2011 at 11am at Oliver's Grande Prairie Funeral Chapel. Interment to follow at the Glen Leslie Cemetery. Memorial Donations may be made to the Rainbow Society of Alberta or a charity of one's choice. Condolences may be sent by visiting www.oliversgrandeprairie.com
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