

Medicine Hat Cowboy Life



December 2022 Official Newsletter for Medicine Hat Cowboy Poetry Foundation

From My Perch on the Corral: President's Message



**Merry Christmas from
Medicine Hat Cowboy
Poetry Foundation**

This year we said goodbye to a Queen, Elizabeth II. How many countries she ruled over, including ours! She has been there most of my life and maybe all of yours. In fact, she's been everywhere from her picture on every classroom, to our coinage, to our TV screens. In our mind we see her in a classic suit with every hair in place; everything's perfect, even the hat to match. After all, she's the queen. (I wonder if I'll remember to sing "God Save the King" That's what it was in my lower elementary grades.)

But as a mother we feel for her as her family has had its ups and downs too. What kind of life would she have chosen had "queen-ship" not been imposed on her? A glimpse into her sheltered childhood helps us see why dogs continued to be her companions. Her intense love of horses and riding and her preference for rural settings makes one think that being a queen probably 'cramped her style'. I think she preferred a kerchief to the crown. Her connection to Canada and the RCMP was obvious in her funeral possession which was as rehearsed and planned as she seemed to be during her long life. Just when I was in awe of it all, I learned that her
....continued

In this Issue: Everything Queen: Elizabeth, Horsewoman and Rodeo!

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dogs were not perfect! (It confirms that fact that none of us is perfect!)

Exploring "queen-hood" naturally led me to wondering about our own brand of royalty, the Rodeo Queen. When did the tradition begin? How has it changed over the years? They are ambassadors for the rural way of life just like our Poetry and Western Music was at the Medicine Hat High School on October 1st. The Meliora Service dog demonstration helped us realize what a vital role service dogs play in the folks that need them. The music and harmony of New Mixed Company, our Treasurer, Carol Eisenbarth's band, was a great way to start the evening show. Our local youth performer was Holly Padfield, we enjoyed hearing the Klaibers and had our laughs when Morley Thorpe did his poetry/stand-up comedy. Our Vice-President, Emcee and 'Queen of the Ranch', Shelley Goldbeck, always entertains and weaves everything together seamlessly. Many thanks to the volunteers who made it happen and a special thanks to the rest of our dependable workhorse board members, Cheryl Dust, Donna Moore and Jacquie Noerenberg. Teamwork makes for success!

Next year's event is October 7th, 2023 (the first Saturday in October). Again there'll be an evening event with headliners. What's new is our welcome to poets and western musicians to participate Saturday afternoon. Be part of our show as a singer or poet, even if you're a beginner or junior. You can also participate as the audience.

Here's to a very Merry Christmas, and may the New Year treat you right!



Jen Zollner, President,
Medicine Hat Cowboy Poetry Foundation



Country Stories

A collection of stories and poetry by and for seniors who have lived and worked in rural areas around Medicine Hat



Three Heads are Better Than One
by Geno LaCoste



Medicine Hat Cowboy Poetry Foundation



We have copies of our Stories from Seniors and Country Stories books available for only \$15 each. To purchase contact Jen at MHCPPresident@gmail.com. Watch the accompanying videos on our web site. Search stories.

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Stories from Seniors

A collection of stories and poetry by and for seniors who've lived and worked in rural areas around Medicine Hat



Cover Art: Preacher and Parson
by Geno LaCoste



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'Twas the Night Before Christmas and Out on the Ranch

Author unknown

'Twas the night before Christmas and out on the ranch,
The pond was froze over and so was the branch,
The snow was piled up belly-deep to a mule,
The kids were all home on vacation from school.

And happier young folks you never did see,
Just all sprawled around a-watchin' TV,
Then suddenly, some time around 8 o'clock,
There came a surprise that gave them a real shock,

The power went off, the TV went dead!
When Grandpa came in from out in the shed,
With an armload of wood, the house was all dark.
"Just what I expected," they heard him remark.

"Them power line wires must be down from the snow.
Seems sorter like times on the ranch long ago."
"I'll hunt up some candles," said Mom. "With their light
"And the fireplace, I reckon we'll make out all right."

The teenagers all seemed enveloped in gloom,
Then Grandpa came back from a trip to his room,
Uncased his old fiddle and started to play
That old Christmas song about bells on a sleigh.

Mom started to sing and first thing they knew
Both Pop and his kids were all singing it, too.
They sang Christmas carols, they sang "Holy Night"
Their eyes all a-shine in the ruddy firelight.

They played some charades Mom recalled from her youth,
And Pop read a passage from God's Book of Truth.
They stayed up till midnight -and, would you believe,
The youngsters agreed 'twas a fine Christmas Eve.

Grandpa rose early, some time before dawn,
And when the kids wakened, the power was on.
"The power company sure got the line repaired quick."
Said Grandpa -and no one suspected his trick.

Last night, for the sake of some old-fashioned fun,
He had pulled the main switch, the old Son-of-a-Gun!



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Queen Elizabeth's Horses and Dogs

Saskatchewan Horses and Queen Elizabeth

Seeing our Royal Canadian Mounted Police lead Queen Elizabeth's coffin procession in September this year was visible proof of her connection to Canada. How honoured the force was to represent the Canadian people, leading a total of 199 military equines on that day! All four horses were gifts from the RCMP in Saskatchewan,



Members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) during the State Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II.

Photo by Dan Kitwood, Getty Images



Queen Elizabeth astride Burmese

the ones still alive from the total of eight she received since 1969. (They were being ridden by Senior Royals during the annual military parade that marks the Queen's birthday.)

The first such gift in 1969 was a thoroughbred Hanoverian cross named Burmese, given when the RCMP performed for her in England. It was her favourite horse, her beloved black mare. It's the only horse she rode for 18 years at the annual Trooping the Colour parade that celebrates the Sovereign's birthday, always riding side-saddle. After Burmese retired
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in 1986, instead of riding, the queen attended the ceremony in an open horse-drawn carriage. The horse's retirement years were spent in Windsor Castle, close to the queen. In fact he's buried there. There's a statue of her riding Burmese at the Saskatchewan Legislature, unveiled by the Queen herself in 2005.



Queen and Monty Roberts Were Close Friends

Monty Roberts was an invited guest at the Queen's funeral, along with 500 other dignitaries and heads of state. He's an 86-year-old California rancher, known for his compassionate and gentle way of 'breaking' horses. They were friends because of the Queen's concern for animal welfare. Monty made half a dozen trips to England each year to advise the queen about horses. She sent him around the world to spread his methods.

Click on the link below to see him demonstrate how he tames this (and any) never-been-ridden four-year-old to bridle, saddle and rider (and does it in 30 minutes!) He directs our attention to the language of horses (which he calls Equus). A review of his book, "The Man Who Listens to Horses" is on page 6 of our March 2022 newsletter. You can borrow it from the Medicine Hat Library NF636.1ROB. Link here: He doesn't 'break' a horse to tame it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=glZWiw5liZA>



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Emma, the Queen's Horse, Pays His Respect

Queen Elizabeth regularly rode her Fell pony, Emma, on the grounds around Window Castle. Apparently Emma “stood dignified” as she watched the procession that followed the hearse. Draped across his empty saddle was one of the queen's scarves. It is said Emma raised her leg as though in salute to her fellow riders. (Her corgis Muick and Sandy were also outside of Windsor Castle to pay their respect to Her Majesty, their owner.)



Vigilant pony by Andrew Matthews, Getty images

Queen Elizabeth, a Countrywoman

The Queen was happiest when she was out in the country enjoying her animals' company. She was at ease with livestock, horses and working dogs. Her Royal visits to Canada often included unscheduled stops at rural areas, even visited a Hutterite colony! She was happiest at Balmoral Castle in Scotland that was more rural. Had she not been who she was, she would likely have been a lady living in the country with lots of horses and dogs. When she became queen she had to sacrifice a lot of her emotions and hopes for the future.



The Queen and Princess Anne riding near Windsor Castle
Photo by Andrew Parsons (PA)



Queen Elizabeth, The Original Horse Girl

From early childhood, Elizabeth was surrounded by horses and relatives who owned, rode and talked about horses. At the tender age of two she went with her parents for hunting season. Even then her fascination was such that she'd run off to the stables at the slightest excuse at any time of day. She had her first riding lessons at age three and on her 4th birthday got a Shetland pony, Peggy, from her grandfather, King George V. She became a horseback rider like many young aristocratic girls. Unlike most girls her age, she also liked looking after horses, in fact her passion almost became an obsession.

Even as Queen, she remained a true horsewoman who rode whenever State business allowed. Over her lifetime she owned hundreds of horses. She bred Thoroughbred horses that won more than 1600 races. (Imagine Queen Elizabeth getting spirited, it's said she was known to jump up and down with excitement when her horse was first to cross the line.) To ensure these native breeds are preserved and enhanced, she bred Shetland, Highland and Fell ponies. She was a passionate



Princess Elizabeth



Young Queen on the racecourse before the opening of Royal Ascot. She took part in an unofficial race and finished fourth.

horse breeder, racehorse owner and conversationalist with an incredible knowledge of breeding and bloodlines. The equine world appreciates the support she gave to racing, showing, eventing and driving, and they celebrate her contribution to the sport.

In her later years, the Queen still loved to ride, but now it was ponies "because they're closer to the ground" she once said. In her first public appearance after the Covid lockdown she was riding another of her Balmoral Fern ponies. She was 94.



Queen Elizabeth, A Dog Lover

It all started with the Queen playing in Hyde Park with her sister, Margaret, and a little corgi. No one knew much about corgis then, but the princesses were smitten and started lobbying for their own. When she was seven she claimed the corgi her father came home with, and she wasn't without one for decades afterward. Susan, the corgi she received on her 18th birthday, is the dog from whom all the corgis bred by the queen are descended. She owned more than 30 over the course of her life, the majority of which were Pembroke Welsh Corgis. She walked them every day; they were close by wherever she went.

In 2012 she decided to stop bringing new dogs under her care for fear of leaving them behind. But after her husband, Prince Phillip was in hospital (then died) in 2021, she had a change of heart. Her son and grandchildren gave her two corgis puppies, Muick and Sandy to lift her spirits during this difficult time. She leaves behind four dogs, one being a "dorgi", a dachshund corgi hybrid that the Queen is credited in originating.

The Queen and Her Dogs

Susan was the beginning of her 68-year love affair with dogs, specifically corgis. It was the first dog Princess Elizabeth owned, an 18th birthday present from her father. Susan went everywhere she went, including their honeymoon and their bed chamber when she married Prince Philip. He preferred Labradors, but it's been a losing battle against royal corgis. Prince Philip would swear: 'Bloody dogs! Why do you have so many?' The Queen's response



"Dorgi" Puppy

was, "Because they are so collectable, my dear".

Even after Susan went to 'the great dog basket in the sky', her appalling behaviour and that of her descendants lived on. She left an inch-long gash in the royal clock winder's leg, and the guardsman ended up in the hospital after his wound went septic. Susan's grandson tore the seat from a Guard Officer's trousers and in 1991 the Queen needed three stitches in her hand when she tried to stop a corgi fight at Windsor Castle. The corgis had the run of the castle, cocking their legs and doing what corgis do whenever they want: on antique furniture, priceless carpets, etc. That explains why the royal staff were armed with blotting paper (for mopping up little accidents) and squirt bottles (to get yapping dogs off juicy ankles). This comes as a surprise because of the Queen's reputation for being rather firm and fierce in other matters.



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Her dogs certainly had a royal life. The day started a footman taking them on a brisk early morning walk. When the Queen would wake, they'd run to the Queen's room and accompany her to breakfast. That's where they'd yap and jump for slices of toast and marmalade: fed to them from the table. After lunch it was often the Queen in her headscarf, walking the dogs followed by dinner, dished up by the Queen (if she's free) in highly polished metal bowls. Each afternoon they get special gravy and hot scones baked daily served with butter and crumpled onto the floor.

little booties specially designed to protect their paws from the gravel. Their Christmas stockings were filled with crackers and cakes; the toys were strictly non-squeaking ones. When the Queen had a dress fitting in the Palace, she even carried a special magnet to pick up the pins so the corgis wouldn't prick their paws. She was the one who did the de-fleaing and who dispensed the cough mixtures and homeopathic remedies. She was heavily involved in the breeding process.

She had a close bond with her dogs. When her most famous dog, Monty, passed away in 2012, the Queen went into mourning and the royal standard was lowered to half mast. He was laid to rest in the special corgi cemetery at Balmoral beneath a specially commissioned headstone.



Queen's Corgi's

All food was cooked from scratch and served fresh. Each day a new corgi menu was typed and posted to the kitchen wall. A former royal chef noted that one day it would be boiled chuck steak served with finely chopped cabbage and white rice. The next day poached chicken or liver.

The Queen would think of every detail that could make their lives even more luxurious. Their individual doggy palaces lined the corridor outside Her Majesty's sitting room. They were smart wooden houses, raised off the floor to avoid drafts and filled with soft bedding that was laundered daily. She had



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2023 Souvenir Coaster. Get yours free
with a 2023 foundation membership!



The Loss of a Dog

The 'work' that a dog does is never more obvious than when a Master is grieving the partner who is no longer. Loss is inevitable, being canines have a shorter life span than humans. In fact, large service dogs are required to retire at age ten. The loss is compounded for those suffering from disabilities. To PTSD sufferers the dog is a medical tool to help them cope. Others may need their dog to aid them physically. For those needing a Diabetic Awareness Dog, their very survival depends on the dog..

The Master has an irreplaceable relationship with his or her service dog (and other dogs as well). They provide a "secure base" as psychologists term it: dogs love unconditionally, sense our emotions intuitively and provide constant companionship. They're also motivators, a reason to get up in the morning and going on daily walks puts dog owners in touch with nature (we all need outdoor time).

There is a scientific explanation why a dog decreases anxiety. Oxytocin, the love hormone, is increased by bonding with dogs. Simply gazing into each other's eyes (and kissing) increases the positive hormone in dogs and their owners. Prolonged interaction between humans and dogs also lowers harmful cortisol levels in both species.

As a society, we show less support for the loss. It's less common to have the usual funeral ritual like there is for a human, and all too often our culture treats the death of a pet like the loss of a piece of property, just buy a replacement. Public awareness can help us be more appropriately empathetic.

Click on the link for Annette McGivney's article, "How to Grieve for a Very Good Dog".
www.outsideonline.com/culture/essays-culture/pet-loss-dog-grief/

Library Corner

The Medicine Hat Public Library serves as a community hub, providing convenient access to books, media, information and programs that help to educate, enrich, entertain, and inform. Anyone can use the library and its resources. As a library member, your library card allows you to take home books, e-books, magazines, DVDs, CDs, and audio books.

Coyote Cowboy Poetry,
by Baxter Black 811.54 BLA

Baxter says he's an ex-veterinarian and a sorry team roper. The rest of us know him as the champion of the cowboy bards. He shares over 100 of his poems and writings, three of which are: "The Vet Wife's Refrigerator", "The Silent Partner" and "Evolution of the Ranch Wife".

New Cowboy Poetry
edited by Hal Cannon 811 NEW

A sampling of the best cowboy poetry being written today, including poems written by the likes of Waddie Mitchell and Wallace McRai. "Woman of the Land" by Gwen Petersen honors sacrifices ranch women have made.

Riding the Northern Range
edited by Ed Stone 811.54 RID

A collection of memorable poems. It includes a poem by Ian Tyson three poems by Doris Bircham who came from the Maple Creek area.

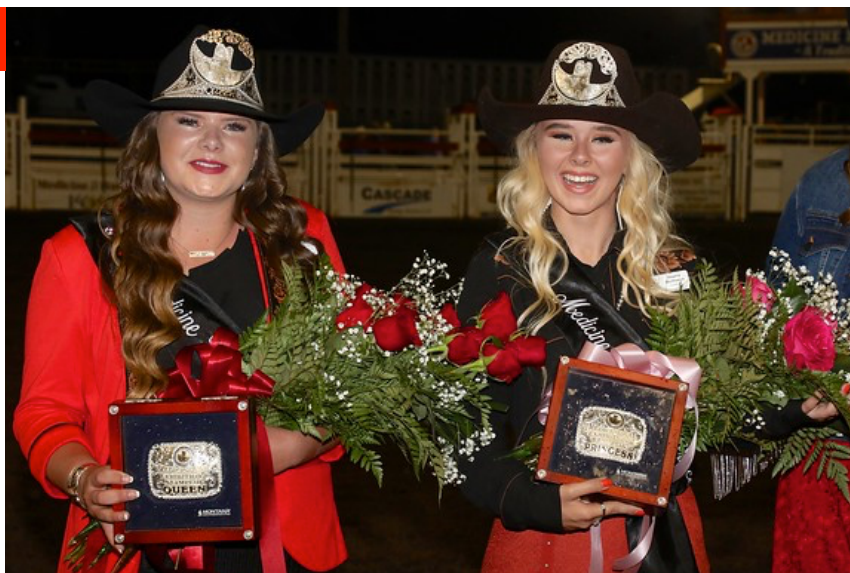




Being Medicine Hat's Queen:

The first lady to be queen in Medicine Hat, in 1917, Vera Fleming, was chosen by Medicine Hat citizens, much the same as queen competitions in Alberta and the US. They were based on popularity and ticket sales rather than competence or horsemanship. It was in 1965 and 1966 that riding ability was finally a part of the contest in Calgary's Queen competitions.

In 1956 the Medicine Hat Stampede Board of Directors elected a Queen committee that formed the program that is in place today, with rules in line with those of Miss Rodeo



The 2022 the Medicine Hat Rodeo Queen and Princess are is Shaylyn Hunt and Keara Borthwick. Shaylyn Hunt is a relative of Carol Eisenbarth, our MHCP Treasurer.

Canada. (In 1956 the first Rodeo Canada Queen was crowned. Does anyone know if the infamous Laurie Sharland was on that first Rodeo Queen committee?) Competent judges put competitors through the paces in week-long planned events the week before the stampede to decide which competitor is the best using criteria: horsemanship skills, pleasant personality, poise and strong public speaking abilities.

The queen, with the princess almost always at her side, acts as an ambassador for the long-standing tradition in southern Alberta's heritage, the western way of life. They professionally represent Medicine Hat at rodeos, parades, public events and TV/radio interviews as well as attending school and charity events. They do thousands of hours of volunteer hours in the community, not just during the summer but all year long. They travel to numerous rodeos all over Alberta (and Saskatchewan?) to ride in their parades. They also represent Medicine Hat at a national level at the Canadian Finals rodeo in Edmonton. With the experience they can go on the Miss Queen Canada competition; to date eight of Medicine Hat's own have won that competition.

Do winners here qualify for the Miss America contest? There are Medicine Hat queens that have not only visited communities across Canada, they have been to United States and Australia. These stampede horsewomen meet, greet and ride carrying the Medicine Hat name and the Canadian flag in countless arenas in front of thousands of people.

There are a couple of interesting things to note. For one year being royalty is a full time job, but they don't get paid for their time. There are also regulations: you must not and never have been married or pregnant. Nor can you get engaged or get married during your time in the crown or sash. It's interesting that 1949 Calgary Rodeo Queen, a 34-year-old married woman, recommended to allow only single women from the ages of 18 to 24 to compete.





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Medicine Hat has a Queen

1917 - Vera Fleming was the first queen, a Carnival Queen

1952 – Esther Mayer was the Stampede Parade Queen

Since the 1950's, a rodeo queen and rodeo princesses have been crowned. See their names from 1956 to the present by going here: <https://mhcowboylife.com/newsletter-medicine-hat-cowboy-life/>

Royalty names connected to MHCP:

Queen, Peggy Dubeau in 1960

Princess, Karen Eisenbarth in 1977

Princess, Sherry Krause in 1978

Queen, Dode Minor in 1991, 1992, 1993

Princess, Tanya Houff, in 1995

Princess, Morgan Klaiber in 2014

Queen, Jane Hern, Brooks Centennial

Rodeo Queen 1967



Rodeo Canada

Rodeo queens have been around since as early as 1910 at the Pendleton Round-up in Oregon. It was 1955 when Herman Linder started the annual Rodeo Canada and when the first Miss Rodeo Canada was crowned.

Medicine Hat has had eight ladies win that contest. Much credit to Laurie Sharland who was the Rodeo Queen Coordinator and Chair of the Queen committee for 35 years and continued to be involved until her death. She was also chair of Miss Rodeo Canada for 14 years.

1982 & 1984 – Susan Hargrave, MH Queen, Miss Rodeo Canada

1984 & 1986 – Shellie Soder, MH Queen, Miss Rodeo Canada

1991 & 1992 & 1993 – Dodie Minor of Buffalo was crowned at the Medicine Hat

Stampede, the National Rodeo Finals in Edmonton and as Miss Rodeo Canada.

1992 & 1994 – Wendi Lund, MH Queen, Miss Rodeo Canada

1999 & 2001 – Andrea Slofstra was MH Queen, Miss Rodeo Canada

2015 & 2017 – Ali Mullin, MH Queen, Miss Rodeo Canada

The first mother/daughter duo to both have held the Miss Rodeo Canada title are Shelley (Soder) Chomistik in 1986 and Brittney Chomistek in 2018.

In the early years (1955-1974) Miss Rodeo Canada didn't wear a crown. There have been six Miss Rodeo crowns to date.

It wasn't until 1997 that Miss Rodeo Canada wore chaps. Heather Beierbach was commissioned to make them.

Jerri Duce was the first Miss Rodeo Canada 1995, the first Canadian to qualify for the NFR in 1975, then again qualified in 1976 and 1977. She won the CFR barrel racing championship nine times.

Note: the History of the Rodeo Queen was compiled from the internet "Queen of the Stampede: 1946-1966" Click this link for the full article:

<https://go.gale.com/ps/i.do?p=AONE&u=googlescholar&id=GALE%7CA299061082&v=2.1&it=r&sid=AONE&asid=fc3735e8>



Before Girls Were Allowed

In 1950, Phyllis Dahl won the boys steer riding event in High River. She pulled her hat down, tucked her hair in and went by the name 'Phyl'. She was awarded the buckle, but only after some serious discussion. On next year's program it stated that absolutely no girls would be allowed to compete in the boys steer riding category. Phyllis was not only Miss Rodeo Canada, 1959; she was also runner-up at Miss Rodeo America.

History of Calgary's Rodeo Queen Contest

Before 1966 some considered the contest 'little better than a beauty contest'. But over the years it has developed into the contest it is now.

It wasn't even a contest in 1946 when the first Calgary Stampede Queen was chosen, no voting, no judging. Patsy Rodgers was selected because the stampede director knew her (and her dad). As well she was young, attractive, had a pleasing, outgoing personality, she had a pioneer ranching family background and above all, she was a confident rider. They needed a queen to promote the Calgary Stampede to an international audience. Gene Autry had invited them to send their queen to New York and Boston.

From 1947 until 1966 the contest was run by the ACT (Associated Canadian Travellers) as a fund-raising project, much like those run by Americans rodeos at the time, Contestants would be sponsored by community organizations which would sell tickets, each ticket amounting to one vote for their contestant. The gal with the most votes would be the Queen, the runner-up would be the Lady-in-Waiting.

The proceeds would be divided equally between the sponsoring group and the ACT, a service club. The queen in 1947 won with 238,025 votes, the runner-up 208,100. For the first six years tickets cost 25 cents each which gave the purchaser 25 votes to 'spend' on his or her favorite candidate. In the first years there were about 14 candidates, increased over time, plummeted to 14 in 1952 and seven in 1953, then in 1958 there were 33. (Fewer candidates when ACT sold tickets for 50 cents for 50 votes.)

Over time, various challenges were overcome. When ticket sales went down, 'worthwhile' and cash prizes were an incentive to buy tickets; in 1949 it was a Meteor sedan. Trips and scholarships were also given to the winning candidates; from 1953 to the early 1960's it was a two-week trip to Hollywood and Las Vegas.

Another problem with vote system was that all too often Queens and Ladies-in-Waiting had very little riding experience or couldn't ride at all. That demanded change when in 1958 the Queen fell from her horse during her very first rodeo grand entry. Horse riding ability became a prerequisite. By 1959 before the girls with the most votes could win, judges would examine them for the following qualities: equestrian ability, personality, deportment and appearance, public speaking, ability to appear in public 'to advantage' in costumes suitable to Stampede events.

But community organizations weren't anxious to sell tickets when girls with fewer votes could win. By 1963 all candidates needed to pass the riding test before ticket sales could begin. But even with various incentives, ticket sales dropped dramatically so in 1964 the Stampede Board requested ticket sales be dropped. It was no longer a money maker for ACT even if they could sell tickets to the riding portion of the contest in 1965 and 1966. It was a smooth transition as the

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Calgary Stampede Board formed a Queen Committee and ACT celebrated 20 years of having sponsored the contest. The only noticeable change was that the Ladies-in-Waiting were now called Princesses.

Today the selection is done by qualified judges based on the talent of the individual. There is a written exam and a personal interview. Candidates are judged on: poise, personality, public speaking, modeling, rodeo knowledge, and horsemanship skills.

Being a Rodeo Queen

For one year you ride in parades and grand entries, you do TV and radio interviews and attend public, school and charity events. You are the female 'face' of the sport of rodeo, the spokesperson for your association, your region and the western way of life.

First Nations Princess History

In 1954, for the first time, a First Nations girl was sponsored as a candidate in the contest. Her mother made a white beaded buckskin dress to celebrate her daughter's nomination. There was a great deal of discussion and compromise about her wearing it though. It was finally decided she'd wear the traditional native dress for the parade and crowning ceremony and wear cowgirl outfits for other appearances. She had a dual role, Stampede Queen and as daughter of a chief, she was indeed an Indian Princess. Few other First Nations girls entered the contest, probably because they didn't feel comfortable with a contest dominated by middle-class white girls. It was the start of the idea that tribes select local girls as Indian Princess candidates for provincial and national competitions. In addition to the usual beauty contest attributes, these contestants were chosen for their traditional native values and would compete by exhibiting traditional accomplishments like dancing. In 1988,



the first Indian Village Princess contest was sponsored by the Calgary Stampede.

Queen Elizabeth at the Calgary Stampede

Calgary had a queen before Elizabeth became queen in 1952. Calgary had a rodeo queen for 75 years, every year since 1946 except for 2020 (due to the pandemic). Queen Elizabeth wore her crown for 70 years.

Queen Elizabeth visited Calgary five times plus once in 1951 as princess. In 1973 she officially opened the Calgary Stampede. She was in Canada visiting Alberta and Saskatchewan in honour of the RCMP centennial.





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ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS
by Baxter Black
Coyote Cowboy Poetry

All my clothes are in the laundry
All my socks are fulla holes
I've got t.p. in my hatband
And cardboard in my soles.

I've stuffed the want ad section
Underneath my long-john shirt
And my jacket's held together
By dehornin' blood and dirt.

The leather on my bridle's
Been fixed so many times
My horse looks like that fence post
Where we hang the baler twine

When I bought that horse he was
As good as most around
But when I sold 'im last month
He brought thirteen cents a pound.

I've been unable lately
To invest in purebred cows
Since my ex-wives and their lawyers
Are dependents of mine, now.

See, my first wife took my saddle
The second skinned my hide
The third one got my deer head
And the last one took my pride.

I've had a run of bad luck
But I think it's gonna peak
'Cause my dog that used to bite me
Got run over just last week.

So all I want for Christmas
Is whatever you can leave
But I'd settle for a new wife
Who will stay through New Year's Eve.



Speaking of Queens: See MHCP VP Shelley Goldbeck perform her parody, Queen of the Ranch, with MHCP Treasurer, Carol Eisenbarth at the 2022 Medicine Hat Cowboy Poetry Show. <https://youtu.be/iZgc2k1ScLA>

Empty Saddle



We are sad to report Harry Forbes died in Maple Creek on Thursday, September 29th at the age of 104. He has been a special part of our MHCP interview family. We regularly feature his stories on our website: [MHCowboyLife.com](https://mhcowboylife.com) "Harry Forbes Remembers". You'll find his obituary and the video in which we interviewed him telling three of his stories. How precious to

have captured his superb story-telling ability!
<https://mhcowboylife.com/cowboy-stories/harry-forbes-remembers/>