



Howdy!



There is nothing more certain than change. It can be a choice we make or not. Something new and unfamiliar can be exciting, scary, or sad. It is a big adjustment for everyone when a life ends. It can also be nostalgic as when the poet writes about the range as he has experienced it.

In the case of MHCP, we need to do the website and newsletter differently, which requires a measure of learning and/or finding new resource people to move forward. "Keeping You in The Loop" looks different, but what is certain is that it's important to keep in touch.

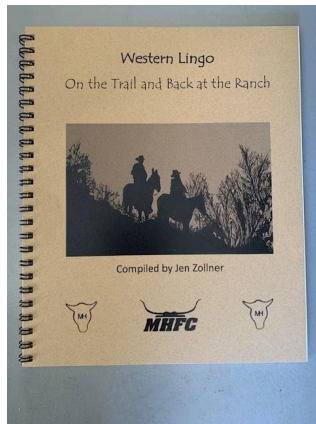
Our event has also seen some changes, a new venue at Victory Church and a three-day event with Cowboy Church.

Meanwhile it's budget time, when we're crunching numbers, applying for grants, and looking for sponsors.

May we always be open to change and be willing to grow and learn while making the necessary adaptations.

Jen

Western Lingo: On the Trail and Back at the Ranch



Hot off the Press! An 80-page booklet using a modified dictionary format to describe the life and lingo used during the trail rides: their duties, the dangers, and daily living. The descriptive words they used can be very literal and often amusing.

Foods had names like ‘airtights’ meaning canned goods, ‘brown gargle’ being weak coffee, and ‘cow juice’ referring to milk. The trail drives are part of our history. They started in Texas in the 1860’s and continued north until they were the start of the cattle industry in Southern Alberta, in the early 1900’s. John Ware was very much a part of that.

See that MHCF logo? Our thanks to the Medicine Hat Feeding Company for being our print sponsor. The cover art is by Faye Fedrau, one of our dedicated members. You can get your very own copy for only \$10. Just email your request to us: MHCPpresident@gmail.com.

Three Empty Saddles

The passage of **Edgar and Florence Boschee**. They were married for 76 years; they passed away within 24 hours of each other. During COVID, MHCP interviewed Edgar telling the story about a heifer falling into the well. Florence is right beside him on the video. Photos of them and their bio are in the book MHCP has published, “Stories From Seniors”. Their daughter’s harrowing calving story is also in the book. At age 99, Edgar still enjoyed telling these stories and many others.

On our website: MHCowboyLife.com, Video Stories Series/Stories From Seniors.

For 75 years **Florus Bauman** was able to love his adopted country. It was a Saturday night when he arrived at the Toronto airport from Holland, and the first thing he heard was “Hockey Night in Canada” being broadcast.

That began his love of hockey and an appreciation for the opportunities Canada gave him. His interview (and biography and song) are on our website:

MHCowboyLife.com, Video Stories Series/Stories From Seniors.



Louise Maier:

We are so sad to have lost a dear friend and supporter of Medicine Hat Cowboy Poetry. She was the chief decorator and an ambitious volunteer at all our events. She was a respected artist in the community and spent many hours with potters at the Cultural Centre after she gave up the kiln and clay-making equipment in her house. Her condo was a showroom of her artwork and floral arrangements. It seemed she was always finding ways to make something beautiful out of what seemed like nothing. She graced the bottom of her bathroom sink with painted flowers instead of replacing it.

The last project she worked on for MHCP was the longhorn steer that she called "Our Chester Steer". It will continue to be used every year for our "Burning of the Brand" opening ceremony. At her Celebration of Life, each one in attendance was encouraged to take home a piece (or 2) of her pottery as a remembrance of her. A special treasure is a set of mugs with

Emily Schmaltz: *(Hometown Tribute to her having lived 102 years + 9 months.) On our website there is a photo of her when she was 100 and the interviews Bev Biggeman did with her. Her Celebration of Life is May 15 at Saamis (7:00 pm).*

They Put Caroline on the Map

Caroline has long been a good place to camp and fish, but few people heard of the little hamlet, population approximately 500. It's true world famous figure skater Kurt Browning grew up there.



But Caroline was not a must-go-to destination for Cowboy Music and Poetry; that is, until Darl and Joanne Charlton, along with their committee, started the famous Music and Poetry Gathering. After attending several gatherings at Kamloops and Stony Plain, they decided, “We gotta start our own!” In retirement that’s how they’ve been giving back to their community.

This year they are hosting their 4th Annual Gathering with 18 hours of western entertainment featuring 22 different performers. Some have done their music, poetry, and story telling at the Medicine Hat Cowboy Poetry events: BJ Smith was a headliner at our first event in 2019, Doris Daley and Doc Mehl at our outdoor event during COVID, our own Phyllis Rathwell in 2024 was the headliner, Charlie Ewing was featured last year, and Ben Crane is booked for our 2026 event on October 16th and 17th. Imagine all these talented entertainers and some 17 more on stage in one weekend at Caroline on September 11th and 12th. Don’t forget, there’s also Cowboy Church on the 13th.

There are times when they also have a surprise performer. Last year it was Kurt Browning himself, sharing the poems that his dad and grandfather wrote. They were ranchers and outfitters in the area. Isn't it fitting that their gathering is at the Kurt Browning Complex.

Wouldn't it be neat for a group of us to go to this together. After researching the possibility, the only reasonably priced way would be an Avis Rent-A-Car 15 passenger van. But being the nearest Avis Depot is in Calgary, it again becomes expensive.

Cowboy Roundup at Taber

On Saturday March 28th, Taber had a day of wholesome, family-friendly entertainment. That's exactly what Cowboy Poetry and Western Music is: folks sharing their stories and also putting them into song and rhyme.

They'll have you looking at everyday things in new ways, they'll catch you off guard, have you laughing, or you'll be seeing pictures they've painted with words. Three of our MHCP members performed there: Harv Speers, Jen Zollner, and Cheryl Dust (and she served as MC). Also on stage were 9 other poets or musicians and an impressive number of Youth Performers.

- Western Music - Cowboy Poetry - Rural Lifestyle -
Medicine Hat Cowboy Poetry Foundation

- Our 7th Annual -
WESTERN MUSIC & COWBOY POETRY ROUND-UP

OCTOBER 16-18, 2026

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16
Afternoon Performances
Evening Open Mic
@ Moose Lodge

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17
Afternoon Performances
Headliner: Ben Crane
@ Victory Church

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18
Cowboy Church Service

MUSIC, POETRY & MORE!
Save The Date!

Special Guest:
Singer/Songwriter
Humorist &
Cartoonist
Ben Crane!

Contact Us:
403-529-6384
MHCPresident@gmail.com

MHCowboyLife.com
Visit us on **Facebook**.

Preserving and celebrating cowboy life in the Medicine Hat area

Medicine Hat's Western Music and Cowboy Poetry Round-Up, Oct, 16th, 17th, 18th, 2026

- Friday the 16th, the Afternoon show, Open Mike in the evening, at the Moose. Why not be part of the Open Mike?
- Saturday, the 17th, take in the all-day show at Victory Church.
- Afternoon performers, at least a dozen of them.
- Evening Headliner Ben Crane
- Sunday the 18th, Cowboy Church Service

A Number of Western ‘Slangs’

- **3 by 9 smile:** It's like you're so happy that your smile takes up 3" by 9" of your face
- **7 by 9:** something of inferior quality (refers to a small window 7" by 9")
- **2 cents:** suggesting one's opinion is only worth 2 cents and generally implies it was unasked for



- **At 6's and 7's:** used to describe a condition of confusion or situation of disarray. (The bunkhouse is at 6's and 7's with boots and saddles and socks strewn around.)
- **3 ways from Sunday:** means in every possible way (I glued and screwed and nailed that table leg back on. It's 3 ways from Sunday.)
- **2 whoops and a holler:** short enough for the sound of shouting to travel (in the days before telephones when people yelled to their neighbours.)
- **9999:** known as the four nines of the Walking Stick brand, John Ware registered it in 1885 when he started his own herd of cattle. He changed it to a three Walking Stick Brand (again on the left hip) in 1898 when the original brand proved too large. (You'll remember John Ware was a legendary cowboy and rancher in Southern Alberta.)



Courtesy Glenbow Museum, Calgary, Alberta

Poem of the Month:

James W. Whilt is the author of many classic poems. He has a way of putting into words his deep affection for the cowboy way of life, the mountains, and the "Great Outdoors". He spent most of his life as a timber cruiser, packer, trapper, and guide in the Rockies. He eventually became a Montana rancher and recited his poetry for tourists. This poem is in his book "Rhymes of the Rockies" published 1922. Check out the book and other poems of his on the Internet.

The Passing of the Range by James W. Whilt

Today as I gaze o'er the prairie / that stretches away into space,
I look back only a few short years at the change that has taken place.

When I was one of the cowboys, all our time was spent on the range;
Now I don't see even one rider, 'tis then I feel lonesome and strange.

No trail-herds with plaintive lowing, no shouting, or singing to steers,
No sound of horses made galloping, it almost moves me to tears.

For then we rode stirrup to stirrup / while the jingle of spurts played a tune;
Oh! Could I go back to the round-up / for a day at the cow camp in June.

When the grass was so green on the prairie / with the cattle all sleek and so fat,
Each rider all dressed for hard riding, either high heels, chaps and wide hat.

Each with his string of horses, some broken and others half wild,
The wilder the better he liked them, happy and carefree as a child.

Wild as the steers that they wrangled, hardy as the broncos they rode, Ready to
take others' trouble / or carry another one's load.

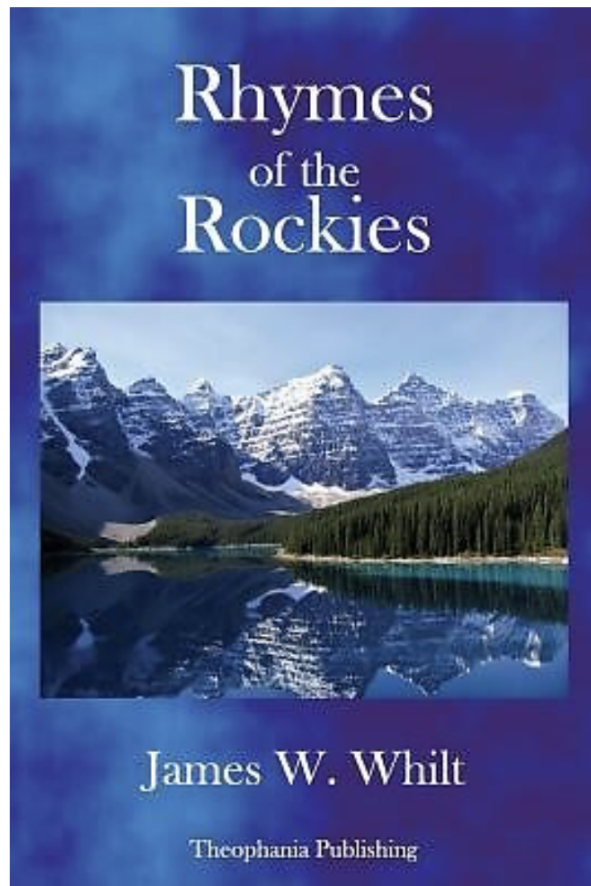
Those were the real days I tell you - night herding by light of the stars;
Three weeks drive to the stockyards / where we loaded the steers in the cars.

Then when the loading was finished . And the cattle were on their way,
The Boss called the bunch together / and gave us our season's pay.

We were just like a bunch of children / and many an old-timer like me
Recalls being served in his saddle / when on a periodical spree.

Now cattle are held in pastures, they no longer roam wild and free,
And the cowboys are gone forever / leaving only a memory.

And as each one crosses the border / that is over the Great Divide,
I hope the bunk-house is ample / and none will be left outside.



**So Long, as we begin a new kind of edition,
For more than a year it has been a tradition—
To share what I've learned and report what is new,
But through the change, I'll still keep in touch with you.**

Jen