

MEDICINE HAT COWBOY POETRY FOUNDATION

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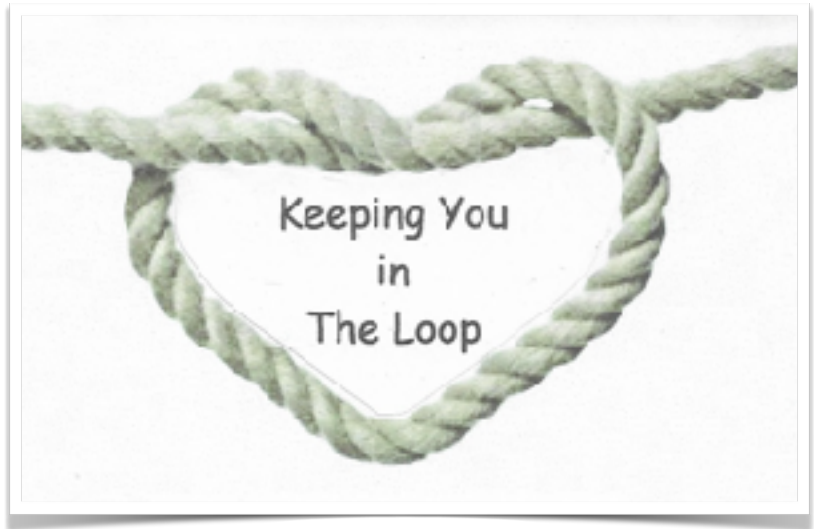
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Howdy!

Thanks for dropping by. As spring eased into summer, how thankful we are for all the rain we've had, especially when you're in regions that are normally drought-ridden.

We appreciate the time we've had with God's creatures and the love we shared, both persons and pets. We respect the cycles of life that apply equally to us humans and dogs. As well, we're

thankful for the wonderful folks we've been blest to spend time with, and we appreciate the ones we continue to meet.

Let your summer be one of letting music, poetry, and nature soothe and heal. May your summer be a time for quiet solitude. Welcome the opportunity for new endeavours or use it as a chance to travel to places afar.

Jen

Visit to Bar U Historical Ranch

On Canada Day, the rain held off and it was perfect celebration weather to enjoy:



Campfire Coffee by the Chuckwagon

Rope Making and Dummy Roping



Horseshoeing Demo



Western Music and Poetry



Rodeo Queen Competitions:

There are two competitors in the contest this year: Peyton Booker and Grace Sippola.

It's great that part of the competition is open to the public.

(MHCP attended the competitions and the crowning, sharing the experience and the excitement. It is our custom to have the Queen and Princess take part in our annual Western Entertainment Round-Up on October 16-18.)

Thursday, July 9 Stampede Queen
Horsemanship Competition
Stampede Grandstand, free

Friday, July 10, Stampede Queen
Speech Competition

Saturday, July 11,
Stampede Queen Fashion Show
12:30, doors open at Higdon Hall,
Donation entry



Friday, July 24th, announcing the Queen competition winner
-winner announced during rodeo intermission
-rodeo starts at 8:00 pm

Cowboy Camp

This is a first, a set-up in Pioneer Village to demonstrate the kind of camp where cowpunchers ate and slept and entertained each other around the campfire during the trail drives from 1864 to the early 1900's (when the cattle trailed into southern Alberta were the start of the ranching industry).

Visitors are welcome anytime between noon and 9:00 on July 22nd to 25th. There is live entertainment around the 'campfire' every day (Wednesday to Saturday). Check the poster for the times. Hear fiddle and guitar music, meet story tellers, singers and poets from Saskatchewan (Maple Creek and Swift Current) and Alberta (Ft. Saskatchewan, Bindloss, Esther and of course, Medicine Hat).

It's free once you're in the gate. You'll find us by the windmill.



Ranch Histories

At the Cowboy Camp you'll see the start of an ongoing project to celebrate the history of ranches around Medicine Hat. Thanks to Lorna Williams for her help with the first two displays. One is Cavan Ranch's history beginning in 1883. Jim Koch has also made the frame for the History of the Medicine Hat's Exhibition and Stampede.



Upcoming Events:

Trail's End Gathering on September 4 & 5 at High River

Contact Lewis at 403-652-7818

Cowboy Gathering on September 11-13

Contact Darl: 403-722-3232

Medicine Hat's Western Music and Cowboy Poetry Round-Up

on Oct 16-18

-October 16th and 17th with Cowboy Church on Sunday

-afternoon performers, at least a dozen of them

-evening headliner is Ben Crane

-contact Jen: 403-529-6384

Empty Saddles

Bud VanCleave

Another well-known cowboy in the rodeo world has left his last tracks in the dust. His 95 years were lived to the fullest. He was humble about the numerous awards he received for rodeo feats and his induction into the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame. At his Celebration of Life in Taber, one of his many pranks were mentioned -giving his granddaughter a live gopher for her birthday. www.mhcowboylife.com



Bud was the honored guest at Taber's Cowboy Round-up this past March and I had the privilege of introducing him. My interview of him and Cheryl's video of that was shown at the Taber Cowboy and Music event. As well it is on the Medicine Hat Cowboy Poetry website.

The End of an Era

Recently I got a random phone call from the Hieberts, and that was the start of a wonderful telephone friendship. They're from around Fort Saskatchewan. Husband Bill phoned to say his wife writes good poetry. It turns out Jackie especially has been grieving the loss of their dog, Rowdy. He's a Karelian dog. Have you heard of that breed? Nor have I. Her passion for these dogs is unmistakable.

They've been breeding Karelian Bear dogs for the last 12 years, selling them across Canada. She can go on and on about their love, loyalty and protection. They still own two Karelians named Kuriosity and Chantilly, but that doesn't heal the hurt of losing Rowdy. But writing it down in a poem helps, which is exactly what Jackie did.

Losing their breeding male is the end of an era for them. But it may be the beginning of a new chapter of writing and sharing her poetic creations. She is a talented story teller, rhyme writer and expressive reciter. After telling a humorous story about their distant cousin Bryne Thiessen, it didn't take much prompting to have her put it into rhyme. It's like witnessing the miracle of a birth. I'm looking forward to when we finally meet around the Cowboy Camp as she recites 'from the heart' around the campfire. See <https://www.mhcowboyliife.com/video-stories-series/paws-and-poems/> for info on Karelians.

The Karelian

Have you ever seen a dog that took your breath away,
As they worked and hunted and ran and played?

Finland was his birthplace, Karelia was their home,
This treasured breed of dog many hunter sought to own.

Heads down, bums up, white tips wiggling in the air,
I laughed at them often as they hunted mice with flair.

We had to have a puppy so we started out with one,
Bill called her "Kuriosity", she was such a lot of fun.

A brave little soul from the start,
Jumping out of windows, she almost broke our hearts.

A true example of the breed, a magnificent dog,
Her four litters of puppies really spread the word.

Then along came "Rowdy" born in the USA,
So off went Bill and Jackie to choose a mate to stay.

He too was a handful as all Karelians are,
It takes a lot of chasing, they tend to wander far.

I gave him too much freedom and often let him have his way,
But the memories of those times, I will cherish ev'ry day.

We had our secret, Rowdy and I, just the two of us,
Sitting on my lap in the field built more than only trust.

Number three came around as we got to love this girl,
"Chantilly" is her name and she's our special little pearl.

Now training these Karelians is not an easy feat,
Determined, willful dogs, some days I just felt beat.

Failure, what a time!
To bond with this fine dog, you had to have Karelian mind.

Often I thought, "This is not a border Collie. Where did I go wrong?"
But I never did give up, just sang a different song.

So now my heart is breaking and God knows the reason why,
And my hands are shaking as I look up to the sky.

Where has my best friend gone?
How will I carry on?

I wait patiently for God to speak,
But for now, I'll just sit and weep.

God is master of my soul and he does not make mistakes,
Although the pain is breaking me, this is the way I'll take.

So Rowdy Man, each day, without you I will start,
You are no longer by my side my friend, but you'll never leave my heart.

-written by Jackie Hiebert in honour of the Karelian, "Rowdy Man Mars".



Canine Wisdom:

- dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole
- there's no such thing as 'just a dog'
- my windows aren't dirty, that's my dog's nose art
- it's not dog hair, it's fur-fetti
- dogs laugh with their tail
- I named my dog "Five Miles" so I can say I walk five miles every day
- when I need a hand, you give me your paw

Canine Traits:

- unconditional love
- forgiving
- loyal
- protectors
- spontaneous (not really disobedient)
- give sloppy kisses

Parting Thought:

My sunshine doesn't come from the skies,
It comes from the love in my dog's eyes.

Happy Trails,

Jen