

The past made palatable

by Kevin Gillese
MacGregor, James G. *Edmonton: A History* Second Edition Hurtig Publishers 380 pp. \$10.00

I was sitting with a group of classmates at a professor's dinner party the other night, and with the arrival of the coffee, the conversation turned to our heritage and the importance of making "myths" - about our people and our past. Everyone present was able to offer stories of relatives and/or acquaintances from the "Wild West" era which, in effect, were myths. That is, they were romanticized versions of a by-gone time when the folks were all hardy and the life just plain hard. And the

stories were beautiful to listen to ... besides the obvious fact that they were a connecting fibre between all of us present.

Edmonton author James MacGregor is a man aware of that fibre and aware, also, of the importance of maintaining a semblance of objectivity in history. Amazingly enough, in *Edmonton: A History*, he is able to balance the two and produce a work satisfying in both respects.

The myth-figures should be old hat to long-time Edmonton residents but of great interest to people who have had little exposure to Edmonton and Edmontonians of the past.

What about "Wop" May and

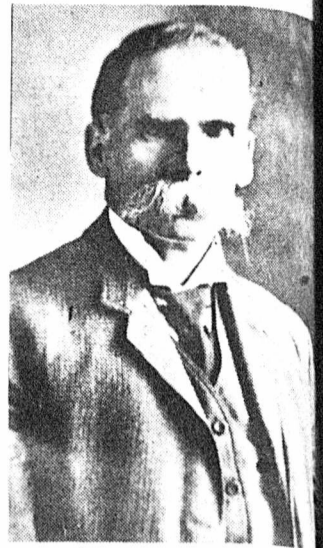
Roy Brown - the two Edmonton lads who shot down Germany's infamous Red Knight, Baron Richtofen? Following World War One May went on to even more dashing escapades in opening up the north by plane, such as the time he flew diphtheria anti-toxin to Little Red River - a 500-mile ride in an open-cockpit bushplane in -33 degree weather!

Or Emily Murphy, Nellie McClung *et al* who went to the Supreme Court of Canada and on to the Privy Council in England to obtain the decision that women were indeed persons (and as such could be called to the Senate). This overturned a previous ruling

stating women were *not* persons ... and the repercussions of Murphy's fight were felt throughout the British Empire.

And how many students know that Lister Hall is really named after a janitor? That's right, his name was Reg Lister and MacGregor claims that "during four decades (he was) more widely known than some university presidents."

And we've all shopped underground at McCauley Plaza - but how many of us know that it is named after Matt McCauley, first mayor of this city and a man of such obstinacy that he once led a posse of vigilantes; using force to stop the re-location of a federal land office from Edmon-



Frank Oliver, founder of the Edmonton Bulletin.

ton to the hated rival Strathcona?

Then there's the story of Eskimo hockey team in the Stanley Cup (could it happen again?) and of course the legendary and invincible Commercial Grad girls' basketball team that won all the exhibition games at the Olympics in Paris (1924), Amsterdam (1928), Los Angeles (1932) and Berlin (1936). As the story goes, the only reason the Grads quit playing, in similar fashion to Alexander the Great, was that there were no more worlds to conquer.

The second edition of *Edmonton: A History* really only adds a statistical chapter to the first edition published in 1967. But having been out of print for some years now, the demand will still be present for it. It should be.

The only disturbing aspect of the book is a purely technical one - and that is MacGregor's constant switching of tone. He uses formal and colloquial expressions not only in the same chapter and same paragraph, but even in the same sentence. For example, at one point he says: "Though various indigenous cultural activities had hung on through the long depression and had been throttled back during the war years, nevertheless, due to the untiring efforts of individuals who could not be repressed, the cultural pot kept simmering. This is disconcerting for a reader intent on the content of the book. One wishes that such technical problems were eliminated in the final revision."

And what about the labelling of our city hall as "attractive"? Oh well, the book's still a bargain at \$10.00.

Angry students turned down on aid

FREDERICTON (CUP) - Students from the Universite de Moncton, "shocked and angry" after their proposals were refused by New Brunswick Premier Richard Hatfield have returned to continue their student aid demonstration.

Six hundred U de M students timed the renewed demonstration to coincide with a planned cabinet meeting of the provincial government on January 27.

According to U de M student executive Gerard Blanchard the students will "stay until everything is settled." "The buses are going to Fredericton and are coming back empty," he said.

The students have the support of several New Brunswick universities and high schools but apparently no efforts are being made to have Fredericton students come down to support the demonstrators.

"MADDER, FUNNIER, MORE INSPIRED THAN ANYTHING BEING DONE IN MOVIES TODAY."
-Jay Cocks, TIME MAGAZINE

YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN

and **PAUL WILLIAMS** in **PHANTOM of the PARADISE**

Adult not suitable for children

rialto 1 FRANKENSTEIN: 3:00, 6:15 & 9:40
PHANTOM: 1:30, 4:45 & 8:10
Last complete show 8:10
10134 101 ST • 422-6877

THE FRANK ORGANIZATION PRESENTS
A PETER ROGERS PRODUCTION

Carry On Behind

STARRING THE CARRY ON TEAM
with ELKE SOMMER

THE END IS IN SIGHT!

Times: 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30 & 9:30
Adult not suitable for children.

odeon 1
10081 JASPER AVE • 422-8223

Perhaps the greatest sin of all is making love a sin.

GLENDA JACKSON

"THE DEVIL IS A WOMAN"

odeon 2 Times: 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00 & 9:00
Adult not suitable for children
10081 JASPER AVE • 422-8223

American Graffiti

Where were you in '62?

CRUISING

Evenings: 7:00 & 9:00
Adult Entertainment

varscona
10907 82 AVE • 433-3222

roxy theatre film festival

Every Sunday at 2:00 PM

Feb. 1 "NIGHT AT THE OPERA"
Feb. 8 "BIG STORE"
Feb. 15 "A DAY AT THE CIRCUS"
Feb. 22 "ANIMAL CRACKERS"
Feb. 29 "MARX BROTHERS GO WEST"

the 4 MARX BROS.

ROCK AT MIDNIGHT!

Friday At Midnite The Rolling Stones
January 30th

Doors open at 11:30 PM
Restricted Adult

GIMME SHELTER

Added Short this Friday: "HAUNTED LIGHTHOUSE" featuring Lighthouse.

Feb. 6 "JANIS"
Feb. 13 "FILLMORE"
Feb. 27 "YELLOW SUBMARINE"
March 5 "MONTEREY POP"
and more to come!

rialto 1
10134 101 ST • 422-6877