

GORDON & VERNA CROWE

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

Bowman wins

Legion spiel

BEZANSON — Wayne Bowman skipped his foursome to victory in the Bezanson Legion bonspiel on the weekend.

Bowman, with Barbara Boyd at third, Gordon Crowe second, and Verna Crowe lead, took top spot in the first event.

Henry Ford was second in the first event with Andy McNally third and Elliot McNally fourth.

Dorothy LaForge took top honors in the second event defeating Helen Fenton. Melvin Bulford was third and Gordon Heasler fourth.

In the third event, it was Les Nellis first, Del Hoag second, Bill Love third and Charlotte Robideau fourth.

Police, sanders faulted in mishap

An angry Grande Prairie trucker faults RCMP and highways department staff for an accident involving semi-trailer trucks east of Grande Prairie earlier this week.

The trucker, who wants to remain anonymous, said the version of the Tuesday-morning accident published in the Herald-Tribune on Wednesday was inaccurate. The accident information came from RCMP.

He said an Edgar and Cissell truck and a Fracmaster unit were trying to haul another semi-trailer out of the ditch where it had rolled earlier.

He accused RCMP of failing to properly control traffic on the highway while this operation was taking place, and said it resulted in a Hutculiak Trucking semi-trailer jackknifing into the stationary vehicles.

"This guy comes along in the fog and sees flashing lights and figures it's a major catastrophe and hits the brakes and slides."

He said police had not put out flares "or anything".

He also charged highways department crews with failing to see the need for that section of Highway 34, 8 km east of the Four-Mile Corner, to be sanded and/or salted.

"It was very icy and trucks coming through the night before knew that."

He alleged that a highways sanding crew went past the point at 7 a.m. Tuesday but did not salt or sand the road. He said a highways sander also travelled past the scene of the accident and did nothing.

According to Cpl. Bob Mayer, supervisor of the Grande Prairie RCMP highway patrol unit, the police had only arrived on the scene a short time before the accident occurred and didn't have time to put out warning flares.

"How could he (the constable) put something out when he just got to the scene?"

He said the officer was going to provide traffic control at the scene which would have included putting out flares.

Cpl. Mayer placed some of the blame for the accident with the unwillingness of drivers to adjust their driving habits to winter conditions.

"The responsibility has to be on the people using the road to drive according to the conditions."

Gordon Crowe, general foreman for the regional transportation division of Alberta Transportation, said the men probably shouldn't have been working to move the truck in the foggy, dark conditions.

"They should have left the truck until daylight."

As for the condition of the highway, he said he had travelled it the same morning and it appeared to be in good condition, but he added the fog can make the road slick in places.

He said sanding trucks had been out on the highways around Grande Prairie since 4 a.m. sanding the stretches of road which were deemed to be trouble spots.

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GORDON HENRY CROWE



Mr. Gordon Henry Crowe passed away in Edmonton, Alberta on Tuesday, August 2, 1988 at the age of 61.

He was born in Hanna, Alberta on December 7, 1926. Gordon moved to Bezanson in 1954 where he had since resided. He was employed with Alberta Transportation for 39 years, retiring in May of 1987.

Mr. Gordon Crowe is survived by his beloved wife Verna of Bezanson, Alberta; daughters, Joann (Wayne) Kempton of Edmonton, and Janet (Tom) Laverick of Bezanson; 7 grandchildren, Lisa, Amy, Ryan, Devon, Josh, Jeremy and Jennifer; sisters, Eileen (Bill) Whalen of Edmonton, and Phyllis (Tom) Neilsen of Edmonton; nieces and nephews, Barb, Brad, Dave, Mark, Brian, Leslie and Sharon; and a large number of other family relatives and friends.

He was predeceased by his father Aubrey in December of 1931, mother Grace on May 29, 1988 and youngest sister Audrey Leslie in February of 1985.

If friends so desire, memorial tributes may be made to the Alberta Lung Association.

A Memorial Service for the late **Gordon Henry Crowe** will be held on Saturday, August 6, 1988 at 2 p.m. at the Bezanson School Auditorium, Bezanson, Alberta with Rev. Dennis Aicken officiating.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Oliver Funeral Chapel & Crematorium, Grande Prairie, Alberta. Telephone 532-2929.

Rock work elevating for women

Sprucing up Elevation Rock an enjoyable task for sisters

HOLLY RADAU
Herald-Tribune staff

Verna Crowe never realized what she was getting herself into that spring day 30-some years ago when she and her sister Myrr, armed with paint and brushes, fulfilled an old man's wish.

The pair didn't tell anyone, including their husbands, just what they were going to do.

"We parked the truck away (from the spot) so it wasn't too conspicuous. Then heck if we didn't get stuck," the Beanson woman said, laughing at the recollection of the escapade.

By the end of the day the duo had created Elevation Rock, the landmark resting 12 kilometres east of the Four-Mile Corner on the embankment of Highway 34.

The flat-topped boulder is painted white and adorned with wild roses. For Crowe, the important aspect is the recording of the elevation above sea level.

This is because her kindly neighbor, Klekun district pioneer Bob Cochrane, had often commented the big rock on his land would be an ideal spot for just that purpose.

Crowe, who called the man who took her and her siblings exploring the bush and hunting dinosaur bones 'Grandpa Cochrane', vowed she would see the rock become an elevation marker.

"He knew it was one of the highest spots in the area and he just wanted everybody to know it."

A few years before Cochrane died Verna, then in her late 20s, and Myrr finally did "what we'd been threatening to do for years." Crowe believes it was 30 to 35 years ago.

"It was really a touchy subject when I painted it because you weren't supposed to have signs on the highway," said Crowe. Her husband, a government employee who mowed highway ditches for years, was particularly unimpressed - until the compliments of



Staff photo by Holly Radau

Verna Crowe, along with her sister before she died last year, have been keeping Elevation Rock in tip-top shape for about 30 years.

When the highway was widened in the mid-1980s, Cochrane's relatives made sure Elevation Rock was safely transported a few feet higher on the road side.

The reading was changed to reflect this, but little else has been altered over the years. A metric reading was added as well as more roses and greenery.

Tending the rock has sometimes been a pain, Crowe said. However, it was also an annual rite of spring for

the two sisters - until Myrr McLaughlin died last March.

"She was saying just before she died it was time to be getting up there. She knew she couldn't go - she was encouraging me," said Crowe. "And I miss her, not being able to go up there together and work on the rock."

Crowe is not the only one who takes an interest in Elevation Rock, though.

A mysterious oil painter has already been to the rock

this spring and brightened up the roses; previously, iris bulbs have been planted there.

Last summer's drenching and the heavy winter snowfall left Elevation Rock in a sorry state so Crowe, who intends to look after it as long as she's able, will clean and repaint the entire thing this month with some family help.

The elevation of Elevation Rock, incidentally, is 2,429 feet or 740 metres.