



Irricana Masonic Lodge

Irricana Masonic Lodge members met in the Oddfellows Hall in Irricana from 1924 until the building was destroyed by fire on March 17 1928. The Lodge then met in Keoma Hall until October 1928. During the summer of 1928 construction began on the hall in Irricana on lots set aside for the building by the town. The cornerstone of the new Irricana Mason Hall was laid by the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alberta M.W. Brother Alex Mitchell on August 1st 1928.

On October 16th 1928 the first regular meeting of the Mason's was held in their new lodge when it was dedicated in ancient custom for Masonic purposes. The lodge has outwardly changed very little over the past 80 some years except for the addition of the white posts and ornamental iron gate at its entrance. (These were a gift from Percy Hallam, one of the founding members, in 1938)

*By Glenda Borson with credit to the KIK History Book
2011*



Irricana Cemetery

The Irricana Cemetery existed before Irricana became a village in 1911. The “Carbon Trail” between Drumheller, where the coal fields were being established, and Calgary became busier and as folks travelled through, a place for burial became increasingly necessary, so a small patch of bare prairie became the final resting place for travelers and pioneers alike.

In the early 1900’s an epidemic of diphtheria took the lives of many local children, some of whose markers can be seen today; however the exact locations of many burials are not known. Irricana incorporated the cemetery into its boundaries by purchasing the property in 1982. The Irricana KIK Seniors erected a monument documenting as many missing names as could be found.

*By Glenda Borson with credit to the KIK History Book
2011*



Irricana Supplies Building

The Irricana Trading Company established on this site circa 1909, was one of the many companies whose premises were destroyed by fire in 1928. The proprietor, Hugh Miller rebuilt the Irricana Supplies Building in 1929 and for several decades was an active hub for the community.

Over the years the building has been home to a dance hall, movie theatre, several grocery stores, municipal offices, and rental space. In the 1970's, a garage style addition on the back of the building housed Irricana's first fire truck and equipment. Presently this building owned by the town, is known as the Irricana Centennial Centre, and is currently used for town meetings.

*By Glenda Borson with credit to the Town archives.
2011*



229 - 2nd Street

Early records indicate that long time Irricana resident and department of highways employee Bob Hesselgrave purchased this little house where his grandfather, James Stout, used to live. It was Mr. Hesselgrave's home for several decades. The little house is presently used as a commercial property in Irricana's business district.

*By Glenda Borson with credit to the KIK History Book
2011*



McCulloch House 220 - 4th Street

If old walls could talk! This house, still standing and well preserved in its close to original state was built for an early Reeve of Irricana, George McCulloch around 1912 by carpenter Johnny Thomas who moved to the area from Vancouver.

This carpenter's handiwork was shared within the region as he was also responsible for building the historic "Long" house that is now part of the Pioneer Acres Plowmen's and Threshermen's Museum north of town as well as the original Wray family homestead home west of Irricana. This house is presently owned by Glenda and Eugene Borson.

*By Glenda Borson
2011*



Old Smoky

Irricana is home to the famous horse sculpture, Old Smoky, thanks to old-time cowboy and Irricana resident Mel Brown.

For many years Mel was a calf roper in the Calgary Stampede. His love of the outdoors was apparent and in his declining years, made walking and picking up stray trash in Founders Park part of his daily routine. In earlier times, he was often seen riding his real horse, Old Smoky along the railroad tracks between Irricana and the area where Pioneer Acres Museum is now located.

In 1991 Mel commissioned artist, Kevan Leycraft to create a replica of his horse which was then fabricated from steel and powder coated in copper coloured baked enamel paint. Mel donated the sculpture to the village where it presently resides in front of the old Hotel, a place Mel enjoyed having a cold drink, and visiting with friends. Old Smoky has become part of Irricana's historic charm and has been depicted on the Mel Brown Trail signs and the 2011 Centennial logo.

*By Glenda Borson with credit to Town of Irricana archives.
2011*

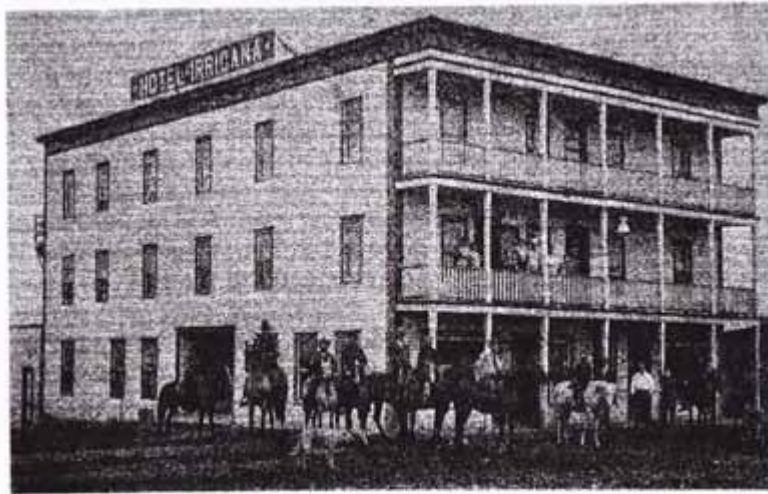


Texaco Service Station

Originally a Texaco service station built around 1929 by Harold Honens, the property was purchased by Pat Patterson (Irricana's mayor for over two decades) and Murray Murdoch who rebuilt it in 1942. It remained a filling station and Massey dealership until the early 1970's.

At that time the building and land was purchased by Gladys Taylor who, with her family, established the area's first and only weekly newspaper that, although now under different management is still distributed weekly to households in Rocky View. The building housed a printing press for a quarter of a century and is the birthplace of Alberta Wheel and Deal, a prominent farm newspaper. In 2010 after the paper relocated to Airdrie, the building became home to Grasshopper Gallery, an artist co-op.

*By Glenda Borson
2011*



The Irricana Hotel

Once the hub of Irricana life and one of the only stopping houses between Calgary and Drumheller, the Irricana Hotel was built around 1910.

The once three story building was renovated after a major fire swept through Irricana's business district around 1928. As prohibition was taking its toll on hotels in general, the top floor was dismantled and materials were recycled to assist in rebuilding the town after the big fire of 1929.

Initially, the Irricana Hotel was home to rooms, a tavern, restaurant and the first telephone exchange in Irricana. Today the hotel's claim to fame is the wonderful old murals painted on the tavern walls around 1925 by Guy Welsh.

*By Glenda Borson with credit to the KIK History Book
2011*



Dew Drop Inn

Approximately as old as Irricana itself, this sturdy old building has been home to the Royal Bank, cafes, bakeries, a doctor's office and butcher shop. The original coffee shop named The Dew Drop Inn, was born out of family necessity by the Bill Dennis Sr. family after Bill was injured in an accident and unable to continue his mechanical career. Various members of the Dennis family ran the cafe until the 1970's when it was sold to other proprietors and still operates as a take out restaurant known as Cafe Plus.

*By Glenda Borson with credit to the KIK History Book
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B/A Service Station

The original date of the building is unknown but the former B.A. Service Station owed by John and Matt Steel, has withstood the winds of time. From 1947 until the 1970's the garage was owned by Eric Overmann who also did mechanical repairs and was a school bus contractor.

In the 1990's Gas Plus purchased the building, rebuilt it from the ground up where it continues to operate as a gas station along with convenience items and a deli under the name of Norm's Stop and Go. It is known locally for its great variety of candy and generous ice cream cones.

*By Glenda Borson with credit to the KIK History Book
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Hays Garage

“Hays Garage” was built by Bruce Hay in 1926. It housed the garage and the Irricana post office where Mr. Hay was Post Master. Eventually the post office moved but the garage remained in the family under the care of Bruce’s son, Neil who took over the business around 1960 where the Hay family sold vehicles (General Motors Dealership, repaired vehicles and sold gas.

The building has continued to serve the community with a variety of used and presently is home to an electrical contractor (Cal-Mac Electric) and a rental space (Simply Styling Hair Salon.)

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