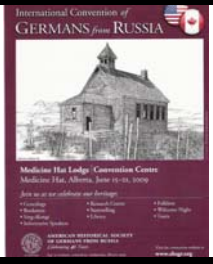


International Convention of Germans from Russia at Medicine Hat, Alberta

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Saturday, June 20, 2009

Convention attendees had a number of wonderful tours to choose from this week. Here's a brief update on the tours not yet covered in the newsletter.

****Historic Clay District**—Medicine Hat's abundant natural resources of natural gas, coal, and clay helped to make it known as the "Pittsburgh of the West." The clay industry boomed in the early 1900's and Ron Mason, Education Coordinator, enthusiastically shared his knowledge of the historic Medalta Potteries site. From jiggerman skills to songs about the industry, Ron made the clay industry come to life.





Left, top: Ron Mason explains what it was like to work in the clay factory.



Bottom: The display racks below show only a fraction of the types of pottery created over the years at this site.

****Cypress Hills Vineyard & Winery--**What could be better than finding an oasis in the heart of the prairies? This tour wowed us with scenery and attention to detail. The light lunch of beef rouladen, red cabbage and dessert was a welcome accompaniment to the wine tasting.

****Elkwater Hutterite Colony –** Tim Geiger was our gracious host and answered many questions as the bus drove to the Elkwater Hutterite Colony. Paul and Susie Hofer welcomed us and a 40 minute film explained much of the Hutterite history. Tours included walks through the church, kitchen, dining areas, laundromat, school, and greenhouse. And, yes, the bus did drive through the dairy barn. Thank goodness the rain held off until we were all boarded on the bus again. Be sure to see Paul and Susie on Saturday morning as they present, “Roots of the Hutterites.”

“A Celebration of Song” featuring the Corpus Christi Male Chorale of Calgary and the German Canadian Harmony Choir of Medicine Hat entertained all with their marvelous harmonies to bring our second day of the convention to a close.