



The Distance Traversed:

Looking back...

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- Esther Rennels hears of the Bahá'í Faith in Chicago, and lives in Edmonton from 1911 – 1917, then loses contact...
 - 1912: Mabel Pine (photo at right) arrives in Edmonton and graduates from Nursing School in 1914.
 - In 1925, she hears of the Bahá'í Faith in BC and immediately accepts it.
 - She stays in Alberta, begins Bahá'í meetings and spends the rest of her life promoting the new Faith.
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Famous early visitors

- 1912: Ali Kuli Khan, Persian Bahá'í diplomat in Washington DC, visits Lethbridge, attending an agricultural conference.
- Here he is with his wife, entertaining Abdul-Baha in Washington in 1911.



1934: First talk on
the Bahá'í Faith
given in Calgary

- May Maxwell arrives by train at the Palliser Hotel (9 Ave & 1 St. SW) Calgary. She speaks to a women's Peace Club.
- The hotel's architect is her husband, William Sutherland Maxwell of Montreal.

1939

- Doris Skinner ‘pioneers’ to Calgary from Vancouver. She begins Bahá’í meetings in her home.
- She meets Dorothy Sheets, who becomes the first Calgarian to enroll as a Bahá’í (in 1941)





1947: Noel Wuttenee, a Cree artist living in Calgary, becomes the first Indigenous person to enroll as a Bahá'í in Canada.

1956: Arthur & Lily
Ann Irwin move to
Calgary and begin
visiting Piikani First
Nation (then known as
Peigan Reserve)





1961: An early group at
Piikani investigating
the Bahá'í Teachings

•
Samson & Rosie Knowlton are
searching for a Faith that they can
wholeheartedly believe in.





Hand of the
Cause of God,
John Robarts
visits in 1959.
He is seated
front row
holding a little
girl.

This is Samson's
story....



First Spiritual Assembly
of the Bahá'ís of Piikani,
formed in 1961





Rosie's guestbook:
entries from 1960 to
1965



Distinguished visitors to Piikani whose names also appear in Rosie's guestbook:

- Hasan Balyuzi
- Agnes Harrison
- Doug Crawford
- Angus Cowan
- Reg Wilson
- Dorothy Francis
- Harvey Iron Eagle
- Henry Keg
- Douglas Martin
- Peggy Ross & many more



Dale Lillico
arrives in 1959,
marries a local
rancher and
spends the rest of
her life, dear
friends of the
Piikani people



May 21, 1960
Ruhiyyih
Khanums first
visit to Piikani





A young Hooper
Dunbar visits
July 24, 1962

wonderful Baba's visited today. A witness
roast was had & following this a
talk was given by our guest. Before
the talk our dear friend was given
the Indian name of "Chief Holy Bird"
by councillor Charlie Crow Eagle.

In deep appreciation, Allah's 'Alhamdulillah!
Hooper Dunbar

APARTADO 19, BLUEFIELDS, NICARAGUA, C. A.
Pete Potts Bracket Alberta

Noel Wuttenee visits January 23,
1961

First Indian Bahá'í fire side I
have been to and I am happy to
see the Indians take to the sky
once again with the strength and
power of eagle wings. How far
we will fly with the winds of
Baha'u'llah's teachings, once
again we can cry out with the
Eagles voice and be heard and
live with a purpose.

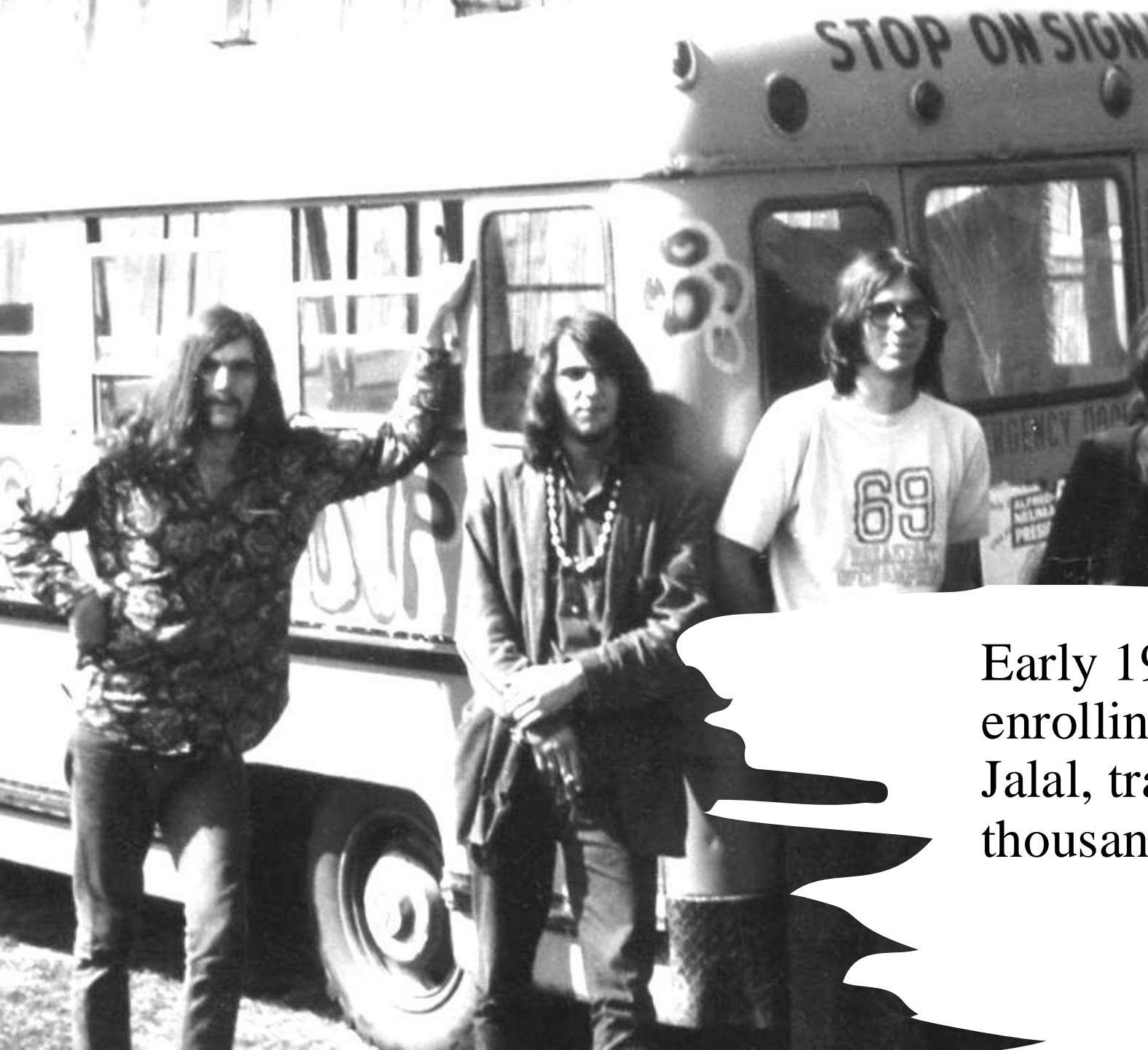
Peggy Fors
Lily Ann Davis
Louise White Cow.
Suzan C. rony Boy
Ben White Cow.
Samson Knowlton
Noel J. Wuttenee 161 "first Ind. Bahai Fireside
I've been in, and I am happy to see the Indians
take to the sky once again with the strength
of and power of Eagle wings, How far we
will fly with the winds of Bahá'ulláh's
teachings, once again we can cry out with
the Eagles voice and be heard, and live
with a purpose!"
Lawrence B. W. Tenth.

Highbush, my
family's
home in the
Oldman River
Valley





The Youth
Movement begins:
Young people from the
western USA, Canadian
prairies, and NWT come
together at the U of C.



Early 1970s: A wave of youth are enrolling as Bahá'ís. The rock band, Jalal, travels the country attracting thousands.



1970: Helen Marshall's home at 921 – 18 Ave SW becomes the Bahá'í Centre in Calgary

- Fireside information meetings are held almost nightly

1980s: many new Spiritual Assemblies are formed in southern Alberta.

- Persian refugees assist by settling in various towns.
- Calgary Assembly has nine bi-elections in one year as its members also move out to the towns
- **High River, Drumheller, Carstairs, Pincher Creek, Olds, Medicine Hat, Banff, Airdrie, Okotoks**



1996: The Universal House of Justice announces a 25-year series of Plans:

The Bahá'ís learn to be more systematic, using educational materials developed for all age groups. These are intended to endow it with a greater capacity to learn, grow, and serve humanity.

There are now well over 1000 Baha'is in southern Alberta and a vastly increased number of activities.

Children

Junior Youth

Adult Study Circles

2021: A new series of Plans is announced by the Universal House of Justice.

We began the current 25-year period of Plans

- aimed at releasing the society-building power of the Faith.
- transforming the very life of society.
- to work with all who wish to see a better world.

