

Kate & Jim's Travels with Charles

Episode #16 – Rowley, the Ghost Town/Movie Location/Pizza Party

As we planned our route from Edmonton, we discovered there was a “Ghost Town” along the way, called Rowley.

Not only was it a ghost town, but it hosted a monthly pizza party that hundreds of people attended!

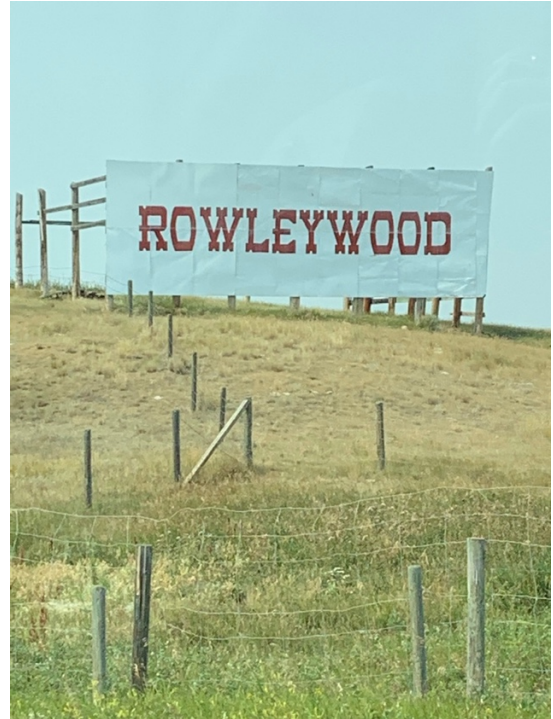
Our Edmonton hosts had never heard of it – which made it that much more intriguing.

So, of course, we had to head to Rowley.

Driving south, we quickly realized we had left mountain country.

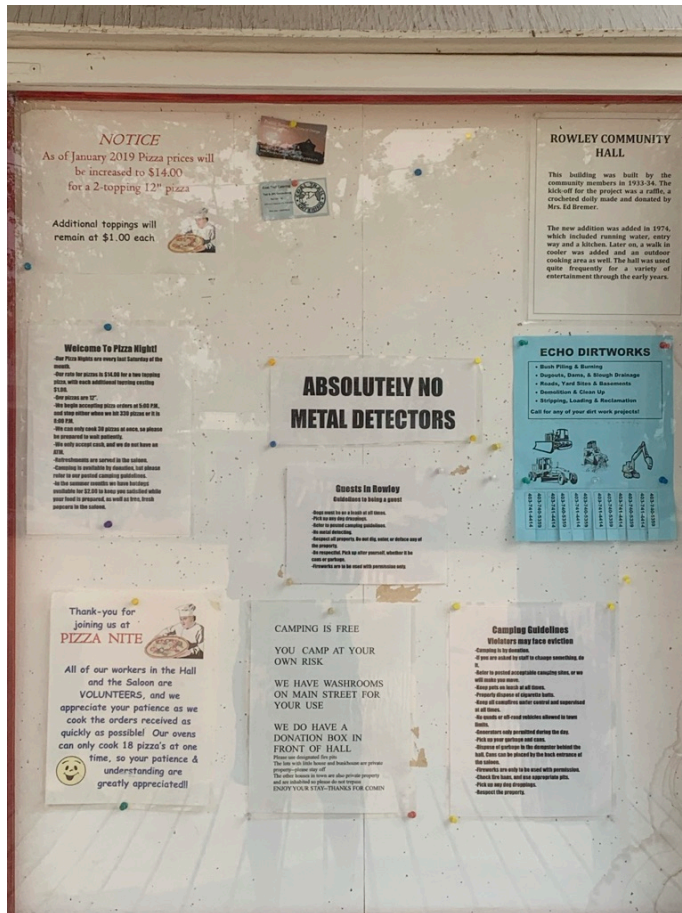


As we searched for Rowley, we were surprised to discover that it had quite an ego, for a “ghost town”.



We drove into town and parked on the main street, which seemed to be the only street. And we seemed to be the only “tourists.”





We were greeted by a bulletin board that announced a lot of rules, for a ghost town.

As we wandered around, we had to admit it clearly lived up to its ghost town reputation. There was little evidence that anyone lived there.





Neither the grain elevators nor the train station looked like they'd seen customers in years. (Note the bush growing over the tracks.)



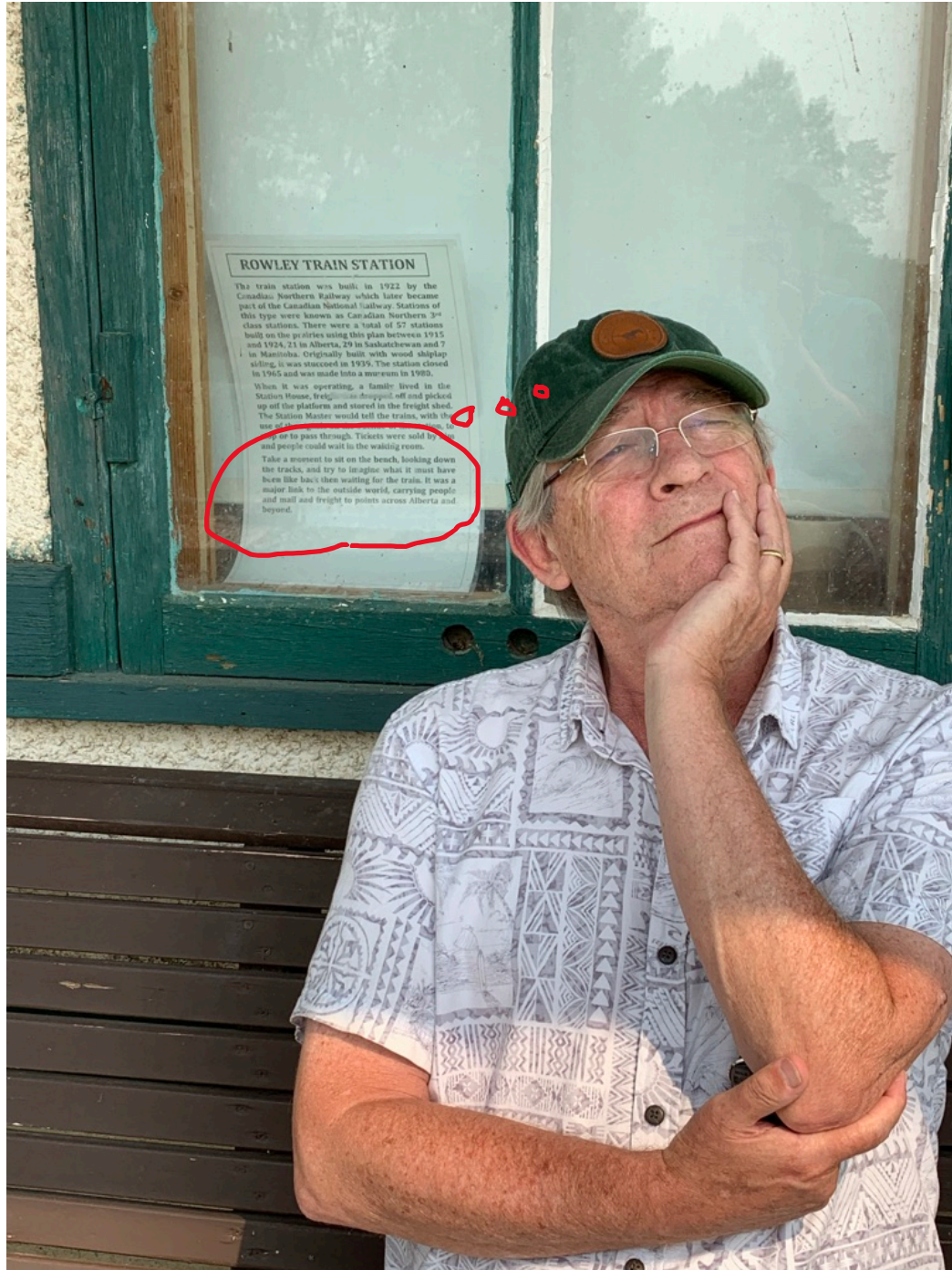
Although it had once been a thriving town, clearly it had fallen on hard times.



In fact, in an acknowledgement that its glory was behind it, the place had been turned into a kind of museum, with tired, and sometimes barely visible displays ...



And there were descriptions inviting you to imagine the town and as it used to be...



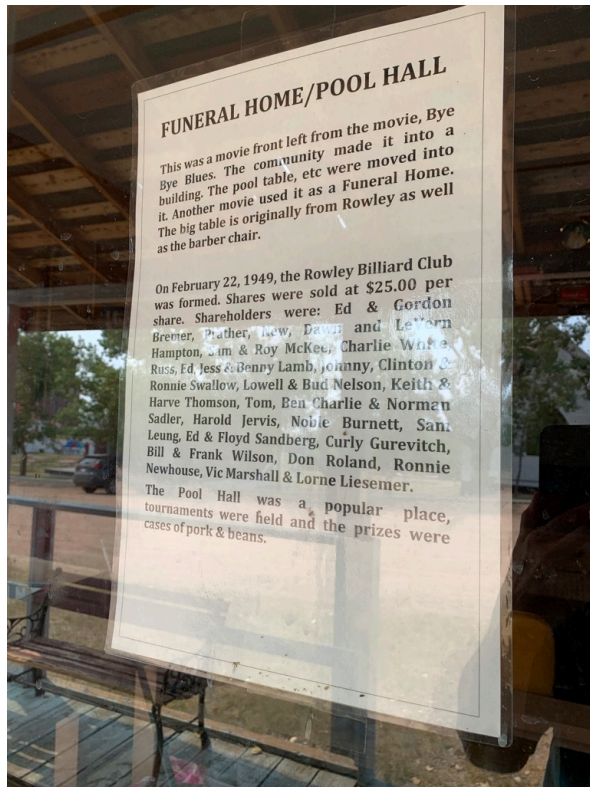
There were some unusual anomalies, like Sam's Saloon attached to Judge Sedun's office...



And the funeral/embalming home offering a Pepsi...



But then we discovered that the original locations had been altered for the film shoots, which we guessed was the reason for the “Rowleywood” sign.



We weren't sure why they also had a moose statue, but it was appreciated.



Although Rowley's downtown no longer supports the minimal population, the monthly pizza party, which had been cancelled for the past year and half due to COVID, was not to be defeated.

In fact, the first one was happening that upcoming weekend, and when we talked to the two or three people we met in town, they said they expected to be making and serving 400 pizzas that weekend right here...



Not bad for a ghost town.