

The Past

“Good morning, I’m John Tompson and it is now 9:00 in the studio, and it’s time to start our new TV show,” He began reluctantly.

“The official name of the show is *The Past*, but a recent poll rated history as being unwanted, unneeded and unnecessary. Therefore, I prefer to call it *History Shmistory*. After all, who needs history?” John states with a chuckle. “Speaking of which, I would like to announce our guest, Mr. History.” John waited impatiently as an ancient man stumbled onto the set, dropping his cane and retrieving it with a groan.

“I have heard you have something to say,” Mr. Tompson demanded in a most disrespectful way.

“Why yes I do, as I’m sure our viewers remember, today is the first day of 2116. Without further ado, I’d like to announce that I have finally invented a machine that can secure DNA from a person and can construct a 3D hologram that will act, think and talk just like the real person!” Mr. History declared looking right at the cameras in a crackling voice that seemed to break at the seams.

“Mr. History here, has permitted top notch reporter Reagen Crow to interview the Maude Riley. Apparently, she is considered a historical champion in Alberta for her dedication involving families. Specifically, she supposedly worked for woman’s rights, created a family court allowing youth to be tried separately from adults, and demanded that orphaned and abandoned children be looked after by the government. She even wanted libraries in every town. Ha ha.” John stated, interrupting Mr. History. “We’re burning day light here, so let’s tune into our interview with correspondent Reagen Crow with hologram Maude Riley.” Mr. History rolls his eyes in annoyance. John, tired from a late night, kicks his legs up on the elaborate coffee table and yawns.

“Good morning Canada! It’s me Reagen, reporting live. I’m here in Mr. History’s office, surrounded with gismos and gadgets galore. In fact, I have here a small trinket that is fastened to a stationary projector. When I push this button, like this, *click*, oh hello Maude!”

“Good morning” Maude replies in a rather sophisticated voice.

“My first question is why did you come to Calgary?”

“I came to be a school teacher in 1903,” she replied as Reagen fiddling with the trinkets that covered the enormous work desk in front of them.

“Interesting,” muttered Reagen “from what I’ve heard, you devoted yourself to a lifetime of service. Why?”

“In the midst of expecting my child an illness overcame me. It was unlikely that either of us would survive. In the depths of despair I made a covenant with God that if we lived I would devote myself to the welfare of children.

“Hmmm. All right, next question. Would you please explain to our audience some of your goals?”

“Sure. One of my goals was to establish free hospitalization for maternity cases. Also, I advocated that a permanent family allowance should be made so that children wouldn’t live or die in poverty. Both of which I successfully completed in my lifetime along with many other achievements.

“Well that is just wonderful! Before we return to the studio, do you have anything to add Mrs. Riley?”

“I would like to share my motto. Children should be well born, well treated, well housed, well fed, and well taught.”

“Your work and dedication to children and families has left a legacy that should be remembered. I personally believe that our viewers, including me, should strive to become more active in the affairs of our community, province and country.”

“Wow! What an interview. A real blast! Thank you Reagen for your interview with Maude and thank you Mr. History for joining us. This 3D hologram will enable us to search deeper into history, enabling us to learn about our past. Tune in next week as Reagen interviews Walking Buffalo.”

http://albertachampions.org/champions-maude_riley.htm#.VxfVBa mpMs
(March 15, 2016)

http://ww2.glenbow.org/search/archivesMainResults.aspx?TN=MAINCAT&AC=QBE_QUERY&RF=WebResults&DL=0&RL=0&MR=5&QF0=Main%20entry%2B%7C%2Btitle&QI0=Maude%20and%20Harold%20Riley%20fonds
(March 15, 2016)

http://wayback.archive-it.org/2217/20101208173319/http://www.abheritage.ca/volunteer/people_bio.php?people_id=89 (March 15, 2016)