

Founder of Institute

honored at ceremony

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BIBLE INSTITUTE GIVES WAY TO SHOPS — In busy downtown Calgary shoppers may stop to reflect on their province's history as they look upon a plaque unveiled Thursday. This plaque serves to mark the area of the Calgary Prophetic Bible Institute founded by the late Premier William Abrehart. Pictured in front of the encasement attached to a shop located on the CPBI site, are the preacher-politician's family (living in Calgary) and are from left to right: Mrs. Kaye McLain and Mrs. Robert (Dauna) Alexander, granddaughters;

Andy Little, MLA and former students of Crescent Heights School where Mr. Aberhart was principal and, who on behalf of provincial government, unveiled the plaque; Mrs. Charles (Ola) Nutt, daughter; Morgan Alexander, great granddaughter of the premier who died in office in 1943 and Mr. MacNutt, son-in-law. \$2,000 plaque was initiated by the MEPC Canadian Property Limited with the government and historical society making tributions.

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At a brief ceremony attended by the relatives of the man whose memory was being honored, government members past and present, the Historical Society, friends and a sprinkling of interested spectators, the unveiling of a plaque took place Thursday under a sunny sky and a brisk breeze.

The ground — or street — on which they stood marked the entrance to the Calgary Prop-

hetic Bible Institute which was founded by the late Premier William Aberhart and erected in 1927 for the purpose of training students in theology, for worship and Bible study and for his coast to coast radio ministry.

Demolished in 1974 the area is now occupied by a group of stores and it is near the door of one of these shops (approximating the PBI address 516 8th Ave. W.,) that the plaque has been placed.

Unveiled by Andy Little, Progressive Conservative member for Calgary McCall constituency and representing the Hon. Horst Schmid, minister of the provincial government services and and culture, the plaque reads: "On this site William Aberhart, premier of Alberta 1935 to 1943 founded and erected in 1927 the Prophetic Bible Institute. From this site originated the first broadcasts on Social Credit theory."

The plaque which cost more than \$2,000 is incased in a steel frame topped with non-glare non-breakable glass and bears a photograph of the Bible Institute and of Mr. Aberhart during one of his CFCN Voice of the Prairie broadcasts.

The inscription reads: "William Aberhart 1878 - 1943. These newel posts are the last remains of his hisotric structure."

On behalf of the MEPC Canadian Properties Limited, Larry J. Horsman, chairman, introduced Mr. Aberhart's daughter and granddaughters (seen in photograph); president of the company R. A. Greiner who flew in from Toronto Art Dixon, Social Credit-MLA for 28 years and speaker and deputy speaker of the legislature for 14; members of the Historical Society and Ian Smith.

The latter, who was often a guest soloist on the Back to the Bible Radio Hour Broadcasts and who was vice-president of the Social Credit League for many years, gave a resume of the founder's character and personality. He also referred to the number times he had gone through the Institute doors to attend meetings of the SC Consitutory Council of which he was president for 13 years.

Mr. Smith also noted that this Sunday marks the 41st anniversary of the election of the first Social Credit government in the world and one which would be the government of this province of Alberta for an unprecedented 36 years. "Coincidentally" he said "the gospel broadcast work which Mr. Aberhart started and which is now known as Canada's National Back to the Bible Hour, is this month, concluding its celebration of 50 consecutive years of broadcasting Sunday by Sunday" said Mr. Smith going on to explain that it's being carried on today by Mr. Aberhart's protege, Senator E.C. Manning. "And so as the plaque on the side of the Calgary - Prophetic Bible Institute is unveiled we think of the legacy of the man whose name is indelibly associated with it and whose name is indelibly inscribed on the political and spiritual life of Calgary, Alberta and Canada," he concluded.