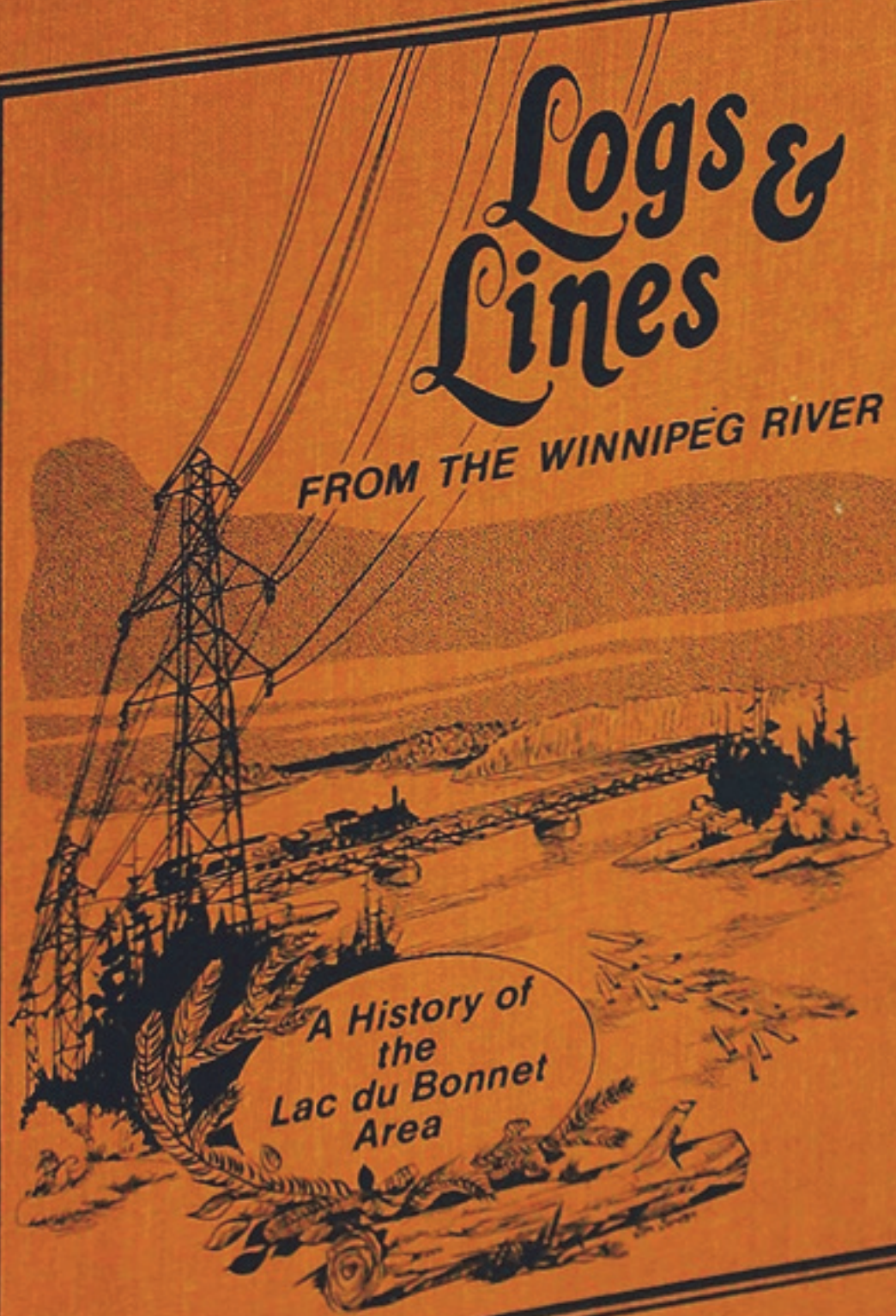


*Logs & Lines*  
FROM THE WINNIPEG RIVER

# Logs & Lines

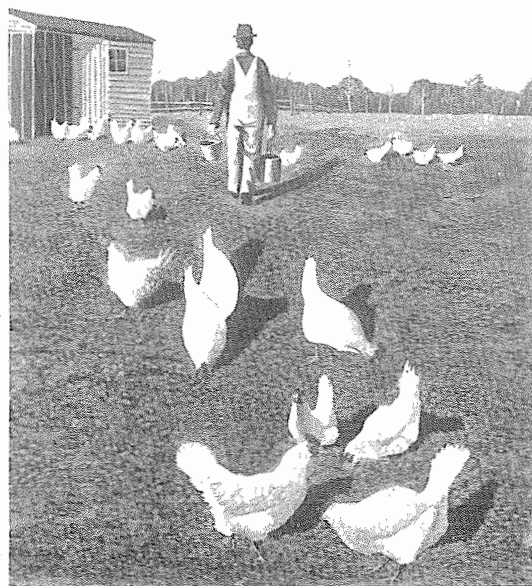
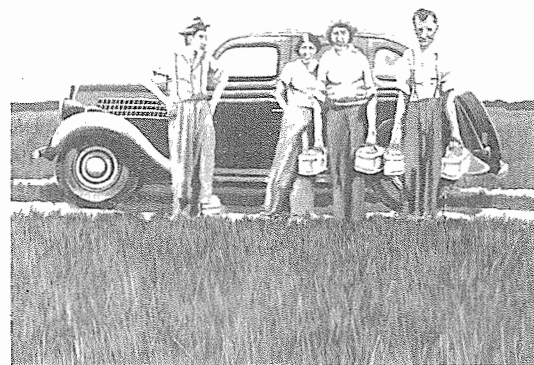
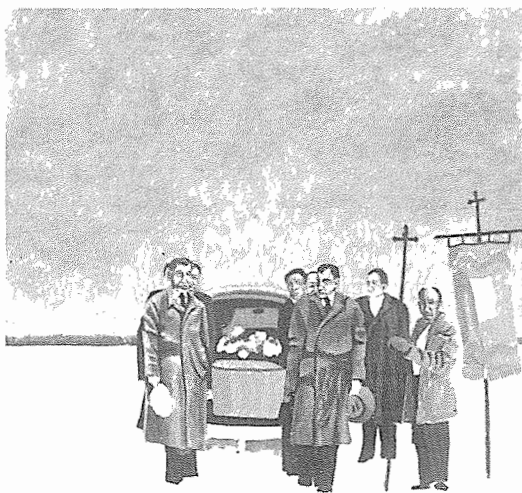
FROM THE WINNIPEG RIVER

A History of  
the  
Lac du Bonnet  
Area

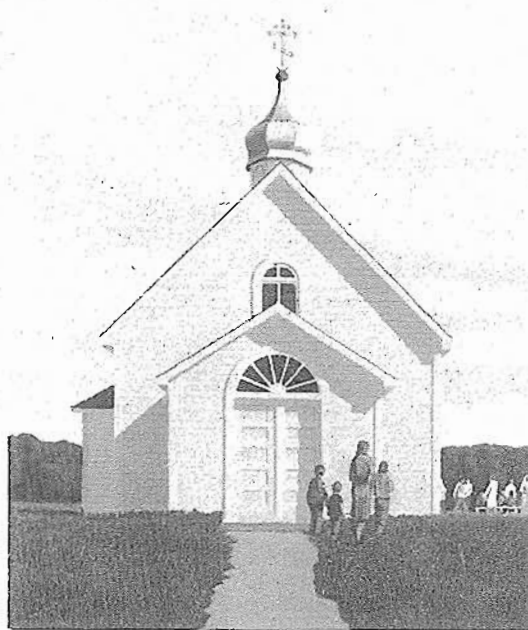
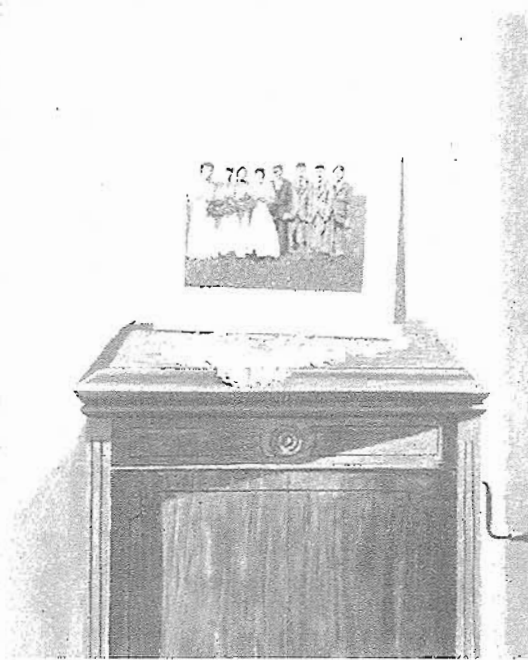
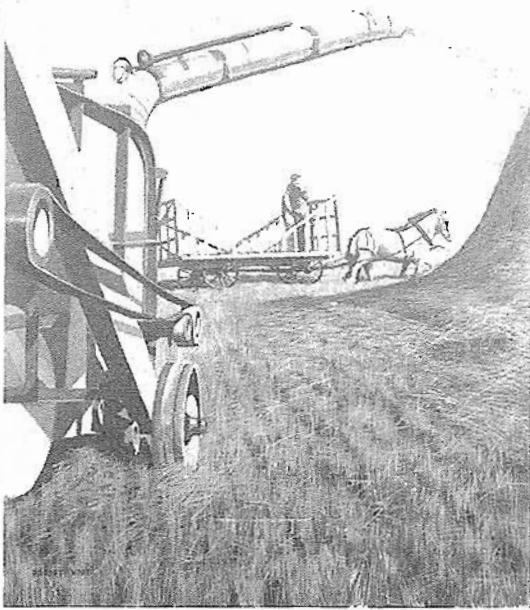


History of  
the  
Lac du Bonnet  
Area











When one stops to think of this area of ours there is one outstanding feature. To me that is the Winnipeg River. I never pass by it but that I hesitate to look at it in awe. The very beginning of this country stems from its banks as it was the mainline of travel to this wilderness. La Verendrye explored it as early as 1733-38. The trade and commerce that it brings and has brought continues on and on. One cannot imagine what our lives would be like without its influence.

The logging industry was a very important one to the opening of this country. Even today the pulp and paper industry continues in this region. A log is also a daily record kept and the stories in this book may be classified as such.

As for the line, the list is endless, to name a few, there are traplines, fishlines, survey lines, airlines, hydro lines, railroad lines, telephone lines and written lines, all connecting our lives and the Winnipeg River.

Thus the name "Logs and Lines from the Winnipeg River."

Elizabeth Caroline Lange



# Logs & Lines

FROM THE WINNIPEG RIVER



*A History of  
the  
Lac du Bonnet  
Area*

Jim Jordan



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## Foreword

History is a record of the past that assists us in progressing in the present and planning for the future. Without history we would have no knowledge, no universities, we would be back in the era of the caveman. Some of our earliest records are on the clay tablets of Babylon, on the Dead Sea Scrolls, in the history of the Hebrews, and in the histories that were passed down from generation to generation in the monasteries of Europe. History tells us of the development of Canada from the days of Cabot and Jacques Cartier and Champlain, but what does it tell us of our Eskimos, our Indians? It has been suggested that the Eskimos came over from Mongolia. There has been no suggestion of where the Indians came from, this is a dirth in knowledge because there were no historians to record the evolution of these wonderful people and pass their history on down to us. To bring matters into a closer perspective let us consider the field of aviation. It wasn't too many years ago since the Wright brothers played around with the Kitty Hawk. Today we travel in the Boeing super jet 747, the biggest commercial airplane operating today. Had there been no records kept of the evolution of the airplane from the days of the Kitty Hawk, we would have no airplanes, there would be no air travel. Such is the value of history.

This book was born in April of 1977 when some members of the Lac du Bonnet Pioneer Club got together and started thinking about publishing a history of Lac du Bonnet. It will not be earth shaking, there's going to be nothing of historical value on an international scale but what there will be is a history of the people who came into the Lac du Bonnet area and built it up.

Lac du Bonnet is the cosmopolitan center of Manitoba. It was settled by people from the British Isles, from Quebec, from Ontario, from Sweden, from Norway, from Denmark, from Latvia, from

the Ukraine and from Poland. A few of them left comfort and security to come to a harsher clime, but most of them came to Canada to get away from oppression, looking forward to the day when they would own their own land and be masters of their own destinies. To a certain extent it was a melding pot. They homesteaded side by side. Children went to the little red schoolhouse. To this day we have children of French Canadian parents who are quite fluent in Ukrainian, and Polish children who are quite fluent in French, and so on.

But it was not all roses, there were hardships galore, as the family histories in this book tell us. But these people taught us a great lesson, a lesson of how to get along together. You could visit Lac du Bonnet today, nobody says where did you come from, what is your background or anything else like that. We are all Canadians, living together in the brotherhood and sisterhood of humanity.

This project has been endorsed by the Senior Citizens Pioneer Club of Lac du Bonnet. The inspiration for the book came from Mrs. Alta Atkinson, the recording secretary of our history book committee. To her, to Mrs. Aileen Oder, our editor, to all the members of our committee who worked so hard for three years to finalize this project we extend our most sincere thanks.

We wish to make a special mention with a sincere thank-you to Mrs. Elizabeth (Betty) Lange whose title "Logs and Lines from the Winnipeg River" suits our project so well.

It has been our desire to preserve our history as accurately as we were able for posterity. We realize there may be errors or omissions, if so, we apologize. Whatever degree of success we may have achieved is due mainly to all the wonderful people who sent their contributions, their treasured photographs, keepsakes and memories. To them we wish to express our most grateful thanks.

John W. Wade, Chairman

## *An Acknowledgement*

We acknowledge with grateful thanks the grant received from the New Horizons, Health and Welfare, Ottawa, for expenses incurred in compiling the material for this book.

We wish to express our appreciation for the advice and assistance given the History Book Committee by the Winnipeg Branch of New Horizons.



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# *Taming a Wilderness*

by W. D. Halliday, 1934

Information from some of the older Indians lead us to believe that Lac du Bonnet proper was named by La Verendrye, a French-Canadian Explorer of 1732, because to him the lake resembled a bonnet.

In the spring of 1898 a small mining boom took place on the Winnipeg River and Bird River in the vicinity of Lac du Bonnet, which resulted in a large number of claims being staked. Considerable work was done on some of the claims such as sunk-in pits and stripping. Traces of gold and copper were found, especially on the "Lady Marion" staked by John Larne, but not in sufficient quantity to mine. In that year the Lac du Bonnet Mining Manufacturing and Developing Co. was formed by some Winnipeg men, among whom were Hon. W. W. Vivian, D. A. Kizer, A. M. MacPherson, Geo. Mills, Dr. J. K. Grey and others, to make brick from clay, from the banks of the Winnipeg River on the site of the old brickyard. During the spring and summer of 1899, the bush was cleared away, a few acres cleared for the plant, a sample of clay was sent to United States of America for testing. A very favourable report, together with a fine sample of Fire Brick, was received by the company.

They at once made a request for a C.P.R. branch line to be built from Molson to Lac du Bonnet. Work was started at once. Some of the contractors were J. D. McArthur, Mr. A. Smith, Mac Buchanan. The road was completed that fall to Milner Ridge, where J. D. McArthur started wood and lumber operations, and erected a small sawmill. Meanwhile the brick company ordered machinery from the U.S.A., and cleared out a road on the old Manitoba-Ontario Boundary line to Shelly on the C.P.R. on which to have it hauled by team during the winter. Meanwhile, the summer freight came in by boat from Whitemouth. During fall and early winter wood and logs were cut and taken out. A small sawmill was erected; also the frame for the brick plant. Among the men present at the time was W. Wardrop, manager for the company, J. Bouchie (cook), Alex Lemaire, Alex Isbister, and Thos. Houston.

The bush work was done by the native people from Fort Alexander, there being about forty families among whom was Dave Gagnon, Isadore Lecoy and their families.

In February 1900 a store was started by W. Wardrop with W. D. Halliday in charge, in a log house where the forestry building now stands. The brickyard, a boarding house and store were erected, and a large building for a hotel. However, a licence could not be procured on account of a caveat on the land. This building was taken over by J. D. McArthur for a Boarding House and Store and was demolished a few years ago to make room for more modern buildings. Among the arrivals at that time were Mrs. Wardrop, Mrs. Lemaire, Mr. J. B. Letain and family, Louis Bruneau and family, Chas. Fors. Mrs. Lemaire had the honor of giving birth to the first white baby in the district. Quite a fuss was made of the event. His name was Rene.

The machinery for the brickyard having arrived, it was set up by a gang from the East. Mr. Carmichael, a brick expert, was in charge of operations. After a season's operation, they found that the clay was not suitable for fire brick. The Railway was completed that fall; a station was built and named Lac du Bonnet, as was the Post Office. A town site was laid out north of the brickyard. However, it was not built on to a great extent and later was moved to its present site. Mr. Carmichael was replaced by Mr. Talman as operator of the brickyard, nor did he succeed to make a good brick.

Wood and lumber again took up the major amount of employment; a larger force of men were in the bush that winter.

J. D. McArthur took over part of the company timber limits. He sent a gang of men up the river to cut logs and ties, with R. N. Campbell in charge.

In 1901 J. D. McArthur got control of the Brickyard Co., and all their limits. He erected a large sawmill, the remains of which is still standing. Among men employed in the mill were A. Weiss, sawyer; Hans Johnson, Engineer; H. Park. Millwright; F. Allard, Planer. A large amount of timber was cut into ties and lumber and shipped



out by Railway. Among the arrivals at this time were: Frank Allard and wife, E. Juno and wife, W. Sinclair, A. Buckmaster, W. McLeod, Mr. and Mrs. C. Fors, Alex Spence and family, F. St. Pierre and family, Peter Bernard and wife, Alex Bernard and family, John Small, T. A. Wellman and M. Cavanagh.

In 1901 the Pinawa power plant was under construction. A large number of men was employed. The first steam boat, the "Little Bobs" was brought in by this company to haul freight across the river. All freight was taken in on wagons and sleighs which necessitated about 15 miles of corduroy road. Among the employees of the company were E. Kingston, W. Gilles, J. Erickson, F. Waters, Dr. Malcolm, A. Hunt, H. McDonald, H. Phillips, and L. Lindsay.

This was the first plant of its kind to be built in the province. Shortly after the Pinawa plant was completed, work was started on City Hydro at Pointe du Bois. The Railway was built to take in their machinery. Their transmission line furnished work for a lot of the settlers of the district. Building continued in the village, also on homesteads.

In the year 1903, a lot of settlers arrived among whom was Mr. King, Mr. Botchett, Mr. Smith, Mr. Nystedt, Mr. N. Johnson, and their families, with quite a number of children. The question of a school was of importance. Early in 1904 a school district was formed with A. Spence, L. Bruneau, P. Bernard as trustees. Mr. R. Goulet was the inspector. A log school house was built on ground donated by the J. D. McArthur Co. and Miss S. McDougald was the first teacher. The school was bilingual, and French was taught as well as English. W. D. Halliday was Secretary-Treasurer of School District 1235.

Work on the Pinawa Channel, by this time was well under way for the building of the Winnipeg General Electric power plant which was carried out to completion. At times, as many as 1500 men were employed.

After 1905 settlers started to come in; a large number of French and Ukrainian settled in the Landerville and Brightstone districts, with Swedes and Norwegians taking the East side of the river as far East as Newcombe and the Latvian people extended from Lettonia to Bird River. The big need of the community was roads. Government grants were few and far between. A Municipality was proposed at a general meeting of the residents and a delegation was appointed composed of W. D. Halliday, J. Allard, J. Ellstrom, Hans Johnson, who with the local member D. A. Ross, met the Provincial Government with the proposition and were granted a hearing. The proposition was strongly opposed by the Winnipeg Electric Co. and the city as they were afraid of the taxes that might

be imposed. However, the application was approved by order in council as the proposed territory included the settlement of St. George, which was a large French settlement who were not in favor of the municipality. Matters dragged along for years. The only roads that were built were by Government Grants. As this condition of affairs could not last long, the matter was taken up again with the Government and by changing the boundary to exclude St. George, which was passed again. The municipality was formed in May 1917. An election was called as soon as consistent and the following officers were elected: Reeve J. Allard, Councillor Ward 1 Wm. Trouton, O. Lavoie Ward 2, John Ongman Ward 3, Otto Stein Ward 4, Assessor J. Ellstrom, Medical Health Officer Dr. Malcolm, Secretary-Treasurer W. D. Halliday.

Office room was rented in Allard Block. The first on the agenda was to have a road to connect with the outside. A road was surveyed to the Whitemouth Boundary, but this was found to be too costly, and was abandoned. The present road to Seddons Corner taken on referendum; this road was brought under the Good Roads Act and the municipality share financed by a bond issue. The river road was later built and is in good shape. It connects with Whitemouth and Seven Sisters.

A road East to the City Bridge was built, with the consent of City Hydro. The bridge was planked and converted into a traffic bridge which gave connections with the East side of the River. A road was undertaken to Landerville, Brightstone and Red Deer. This road took years to make fit for cars; the first of which made its appearance in 1917 were owned by R. N. Campbell and F. Waters.

taken from W. D. Halliday's diary  
submitted by Stella Hammerstedt

## ORAL HISTORY HUMAN HISTORY DIVISION MANITOBA MUSEUM OF MAN AND NATURE

### Short Personal History:

An early history of the Lac du Bonnet area taken from Mr. Patterson's own records as well as from those of Mr. A. McIntosh and Mrs. W. D. Wardrop of Lac du Bonnet.

The story is read by Mr. Patterson, a retired Forester living in Lac du Bonnet.

### Lac du Bonnet History

Historically, Lac du Bonnet dates back from the De La Verendrye period. During his western explorations, rumor persisted amongst the new Canadian pioneers of the district in the early part

of the century that the origin of the name Lac du Bonnet is as follows: La Verendrye, with his group of explorers, pitched their camp on the banks of the Winnipeg River. He surveyed the topography where Lac du Bonnet now stands, with its many attractions and its natural beauty. Here he decided to name this "Lac" and said that the shape reminded him of the shape of his bonnet. He tossed his hat against a tree and said, "Ici je prononce le Lac, Lac du Bonnet" or I herewith name this body of water Lac du Bonnet.

On account of the power potential of the Winnipeg River (not a lake) Lac du Bonnet was destined to play a very important part as a nucleus of the electrical energy for the city of Winnipeg and all of Manitoba. Lac du Bonnet had therefore not only an auspicious history but also a present and a future potential incommensurate with its present size and population.

The La Verendrye Monument was unveiled (not certain of date) at Fort Alexander at the mouth of the Winnipeg River. The honorable Mr. Justice Sirois, then president of the Canadian Historical Monument and Shrine Society especially from Ottawa to officiate the unveiling. In touching language he emphasized the duty we of the present generation owe to the La Verendryes, father and sons who went exploring the uncharted lake, fields and the forests of western Canada. A speaker from St. Boniface Historical Society also traced the various routes naming in detail places and hardships.

The more Canada is becoming mature as a nation and its future role in the Concert of Nations, the more it is becoming conscious of its duty to our glorious pioneers of the past.

Another pioneer explorer and builder of the golden west, this time a Scotsman by the name of John Duncan McArthur left his deep footprints not only in Lac du Bonnet but also in the whole of western Canada. Like his predecessor La Verendrye over a hundred years before, he was attracted like a magnet by its lakes, rivers and forests, by their industrial potential of their Natural Resources. Like his predecessor this remarkable man, John Duncan McArthur deserves an honorable and memorable place in the annals of the history of Manitoba and Canada.

With his boundless energy, he threw himself into the development of the resources that fitted his energy. He was too active to think of laurels, and his many achievements should not be forgotten.

John Duncan McArthur was born in Lancaster Glengarry County, Ontario on June 25th, 1854. He came west in 1879 at the age of 25, lured by the slogan "go west young man". Surveying the potential of the forests and in developed natural resources he immediately set himself to work. He

built a sawmill near Birtle, Manitoba on the Bird-tail River which he operated and soon was attracted to railroading. He contracted with the Canadian Northern Railway to build branch lines in Manitoba and enlarged his operations by building the main line of The Canadian Northern, now the C.N.R. from Winnipeg to Edmonton.

The first settlement in Lac du Bonnet was called Eureka. The Lac du Bonnet development Company was formed in 1896, the company owned the land where Lac du Bonnet now stands. The company's purpose was for (1) prospecting for possible mineral rights and (2) Timber limits. The company had land up to Seven Sisters and north to Bird River where they held mining claims.

Partners in this company were W. J. Kirby of Oldfield Kirby and Gardner, Walter Vivran, Walter Wardrop Sr., Henry Wardrop, uncle of Walter Wardrop Sr. and Dr. Good.

Walter Wardrop Sr. came to Whitemouth in 1883 from Port Elgin, Ontario. He was foreman for the Ross Lumber Company for many years. David Ross started the Ross Lumber and Planing Mill in the year 1880. His wife was the first woman doctor in Manitoba. She made trips by foot, on horseback and team and sleighs to many outlying areas, never refused a trip — a great pioneer and person. Her granddaughter now lives in Lac du Bonnet, Mrs. D. W. Wardrop.

Walter Wardrop Sr. was general manager of the Lac du Bonnet Company. He built a brick yard in Lac du Bonnet. The machinery for the brick yard was hauled from Shelly by horses and sleighs in the winter. He also built two boarding houses and a store where the Ramsay MacIntosh house and buildings are located. Lumber came from Whitemouth by team to build the structures in 1899.

In 1901 the J. D. McArthur Company purchased the entire holdings of the Lac du Bonnet Timber Mining and Manufacturing Company consisting of a townsite of some 2,000 acres of land and the brick manufacturing plant. It may be of interest to know that J. D. McArthur built the first commercial high rise building in Winnipeg, the J. D. McArthur Building on Portage Avenue near Main Street and used the bricks from the Lac du Bonnet plant. He also built other buildings in Winnipeg. The J. D. McArthur Block has now been renamed the Childs Building.

In the year 1901 the C.P.R. line was built to Lac du Bonnet. The J. D. McArthur Co. shipped a train load of fuelwood each train run day to their lumber and fuel yard on Higgin Avenue on the corner of Princess. The wood was used as fuelwood for warehouses, apartment buildings and houses. By 1901 a sawmill was operating in the Lac du

Bonnet area and lumber was also shipped to Winnipeg.

The sawmill operated until 1918 and the brick plant until 1920. The people of the village, as well as those in the district, depended principally on the J. D. McArthur industries for their livelihood. Even during the Depression years the company maintained operations at regular pay to provide employment.

After the brick yard was closed down, there was left sufficient bricks which for years to come were offered free for the taking to people for chimneys, etc. in the Lac du Bonnet area.

The natives, French from Quebec and Metis with French and Scottish names, comprised the majority of the Lac du Bonnet population. The Scotch Metis were the descendants of the Lord Selkirk settlement, born and raised in Selkirk. One of them, fiddling on his violin, would insist that he was a pure-bred Scotsman and he remembers this tune from the old country of Scotland, unfortunately his complexion betrayed more tribe than the Glen.

With the increased immigration from Europe, the population of Lac du Bonnet and district became more heterogeneous. There came the Ukrainians, Polish, Swedes, Norwegians, the Finlanders and Latvians from Russia. The Ukrainians took up homesteads in the Brightstone area, the Scandinavians settle in River land, the Latvians in Letonia, however this multi-cultural multi-lingual community formed a transplanted mosaic of Europe and living harmoniously to build up Canada.

The Latvians did not leave their native land Latvia, Russia of their own free will. It has been stated by some of those settlers, the land in their homeland was owned principally by German barons, while the peasant population was practically landless. Moreover they recalled the harsh treatment their fathers and forefathers that were subjected to working from 4 a.m. until dark and being flogged for the least disobedience. With the rise of the freedom movement in Russia, the newer generation revolted and demanded more land and better treatment. The Russian government took the part of the big landowners and sent a detachment of soldiers to subdue the rebels. In the battles the soldiers didn't fare so well in their fight with the rebellious peasants. The government sent a large contingent of Cossacks as a punishing expedition, and they punished at random. This resulted in the escape of these Latvians to Canada and South America and establishing a community in the Lac du Bonnet area of Lettonia.

In 1905 J. D. McArthur was awarded a big contract from the federal government to build the Transcontinental Railway Line 250 miles east

from Winnipeg. This was the most difficult and largest railway contract awarded in Canada at that time. It is related that when the engineers informed J. D. McArthur of the difficulties involved he remarked "Give me enough Swedes and enough snuff and I'll build a railroad to hell".

When the major work was completed east, with railway stations, water tanks, etc. the entire construction equipment consisting of the locomotives, four steam shovels, gravel plows, flat cars, boarding cars and other camp equipment was sent to Edmonton to build a railway in the Peace River country. Perhaps J. D. McArthur's greatest vision was the creating of an empire in the Peace River country.

In 1910 he made an agreement with the Alberta government to build the Edmonton Dunnigan and British Columbia Railway from Edmonton to Grande Prairie and Peace River, and also the Alberta and Great Waterways, from Edmonton to Fort McMurray on the Athabasca River. He built and operated these two railroads which consisted of more than 1000 miles of track in northern Alberta, which opened up a very fertile and productive country for the future generations. He built more miles of railroad than any other contractor.

He also built a sawmill near Dunnigan yards, bringing in the logs by rail from the Lac La Biche and Lesser Slave Lake. This operation was under the name of North-West Lumber Company. The Dunnigan yards were the terminus of the railway. He also operated a sawmill at Atikokan, Ontario.

In 1920 Mr. McArthur could not see why Manitoba could not have the important industry of a paper mill instead of continuing as a source of raw materials for paper mills in Ontario and the U.S.A. One important point here is that a cord of wood exported brings in \$15.00 to \$20.00 whereas if made into newsprint in the province that cord of wood would make approximately 1 ton of newsprint valued at from \$130.00 or more a ton.

After many disappointments, Mr. McArthur finally secured from the Dominion government, Pulpwood Berth No. 1 and a permit for the Pine Falls power site on the Winnipeg River. He urged that the first capital for the mill come from the people of Manitoba. In the spring of 1922 he obtained a 99 year lease for the mill site.

In 1924 the C.N.R. line was completed from Winnipeg to Pine Falls. In 1924 he succeeded in buying the land now occupied by the paper mill.

Mr. McArthur was the first president of The Manitoba Pulp and Paper Company, unfortunately he did not live long enough to enjoy the fruits of his labour. He died on January 10, 1925 at the age of 74, leaving a record of achievements for half a century. It is our solemn duty to remember this



man who did so much not for the monetary gain alone as for the compelling force of his nature to work breath when he saw the opportunities that presented themselves for the development of the vast natural resources of Canada.

Mr. McArthur sold his farm and timber limits in

and around Lac du Bonnet to his nephew, Alexander McIntosh who in turn turned it over to his son Ramsay McIntosh who now operates a modern alfalfa dehydrating plant and wheat farm.

(Courtesy of Mrs. L. T. Patterson, niece of Cecil Patterson, curator of the Transcona Museum.)

# *Early Municipal History*

Minutes of the first meeting of the council of the Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet, held in the schoolhouse, Tuesday, June 5th, 1917.

Members present: Reeve Frank Allard. 1917 councillors — Wm. Trouton - Ward one; Omer Lavoie - Ward two; John Ongman - Ward three; Andrew Kalnin - Ward four.

The meeting was duly opened with Reeve Fr. Allard in the chair. First order of business: to appoint officers, moved by O. Lavoie and seconded by Wm. Trouton that Wm. D. Halliday be appointed the Secretary Treasurer of the Municipality at salary of one thousand dollars per annum. — carried.

Moved: by Wm. Trouton, and seconded by O. Lavoie that M. Pfiefer be appointed Assessor for Ward one and two for the sum of one hundred dollars. — carried.

Moved: by J. Ongman, seconded by Andrew Kalnin that J. G. Ellstrom be appointed Assessor for Ward three and four for the sum of four hundred dollars. — carried.

Moved: by Wm. Trouton, seconded by O. Lavoie, that Samuel Smith be appointed Municipal Constable and Health Inspector, special duties salary or fees to be fixed by by-law. — carried.

Moved: by O. Lavoie, seconded by Wm. Trouton that Secretary Treasurer W. Halliday be authorized to purchase the necessary stationery to carry on business of the Municipality. — carried.

Moved: by Fr. Allard, seconded by J. Ongman that Secretary Treasurer look up place to hold council meetings. — carried.

Moved: by O. Lavoie, seconded by Wm. Trouton, that Council pass by-law Number One to organize the School District of Landerville within the Municipality — carried.

Moved: by W. Trouton, seconded by Frank Allard that Secretary Treasurer write to the Local and Federal Governments and find out what land was held by each within the Municipality. — carried.

Moved: by O. Lavoie, seconded by W. Trouton that Secretary Treasurer advertise for Medical Health Officer. — carried.

Moved: by Wm. Trouton, seconded by O.

Lavoie that Reeve Fr. Allard, Secretary Treasurer W. D. Halliday and Councillors F. Trouton and J. Ongman be appointed a delegation to wait on the Municipality Commissioner to get information regarding finance. — carried.

Moved: by Wm. Trouton, seconded by O. Lavoie that this meeting do now adjourn to meet again Tuesday, July 3rd, 1917 at 10 a.m. at Lac du Bonnet. — carried.

Reeve Frank Allard  
Sec. Treasurer W. D. Halliday

submitted by Stella Hammerstedt

## **MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEETING AT LAC DU BONNET, MANITOBA February 7, 1922**

Lively meet, Provincial and Government promises money — February 7.

The Lac du Bonnet Municipality Council met in Lac du Bonnet February 7. Reeve Oscar Peterson was in the chair. Councillors Wm. Troughton, Bergstrom, J. Ongman, Joe Billan were in their places.

After opening remarks by Reeve O. Peterson, the Council proceeded to business. They are continuing their road policy, the main feature of which is to provide main trunk lines connecting the centre of the Municipality of Lac du Bonnet with the outlying parts. Work will be pushed, therefore on the Brightstone-Lac du Bonnet road as soon as climatic conditions allow. This road shortens the distance for the large farming districts of Red Deer and Brightstone by four miles.

In line with their policy for encouraging tourist trade to Lac du Bonnet, thus giving the farmers a greater market for farm produce, is the automobile road connecting Lac du Bonnet and Winnipeg, already part of this road is staked out. As was pointed out Lac du Bonnet is within a few hours ride by automobile from Winnipeg, and great advantages can be reaped by the town of Lac du Bonnet and surrounding farmers in the coming of

summer visitors and through traffic to Great Falls.

Reeve O. Peterson was able to show that the Government was behind the road policy by saying that a grant was promised by the Provincial authorities to help the Municipality.

A lively discussion was provoked when representatives from out of town pointed out to the Council the need of a road in their district.

They had statements to show how little had been done and requested information on what was done with the local taxes. The Council promised to give the information also promised consideration of the roads spoken of, but kept to their general policy of trunk roads first.

Among the speakers was Harry Holyk who came with his speech prepared and well in hand.

A motion was passed, relating to a petition from the Brightstone Athletic Club. They requested a grant of \$50.00 (fifty dollars) for the construction of a hall, which would serve as a community centre for Brightstone and Red Deer. A warm discussion followed, the grant was made. This step is not unique, as it is now the settled policy of our older municipalities to aid in anything that tends to the public good.

March 20, 1922: Many cases of Diphtheria in the Municipality, Schools Closed:

A serious outbreak of diphtheria has occurred. A number of schools have been closed by the Health Officer, and the cases under observation put under quarantine.

Brightstone School was closed March 16th.

Red Deer School was closed also. Although no cases have been reported there, many of the people have been in houses where sickness existed and therefore are likely to carry it to the district.

Cases of diphtheria have been occurring too frequently in the Municipality. People are not staying indoors, and are spreading disease wherever they go.

#### UNINCORPORATED VILLAGE OF LAC DU BONNET IN 1922

In 1922, Secretary Treasurer, Wm. Halliday to write to all elevator companies asking if any of them will come to Lac du Bonnet with a view of erecting an elevator, there being in the district over one hundred bushels of grain this year.

**December 1922:** Moved: By F. Trouton, seconded by J. Alksne, that Secretary Treasurer, Wm. Halliday be authorized to get the Municipal Chamber wired for electric light.

**August 1922:** D. A. Ross M. L. A. was returned by a large majority.

Dr. Royal Taylor be appointed Municipal Health Officer at a retaining fee of \$600.00 per to

be paid \$50.00 per month.

That a lady be appointed to clean the office and council chamber, office to be scrubbed once a week, and chamber once a month, chamber to be swept once weekly, and her compensation to be six dollars per month, also that six cuspidors be purchased for use in the Municipal Building.

Board of Trade dates back to 1923. Honorary President — D. A. Ross, M. L. A.; President — Oscar Peterson; Vice President — A. Le Vasseur; Treasurer — Hans Johnson; Secretary — W. W. Childe.

#### SOME FACTS CONCERNING LAC DU BONNET — 1922 S. M. Hammerstedt

Population: Lac du Bonnet Municipality is 1,800; Lac du Bonnet — 200; Pinawa (old) — 100.

Farms in the Municipality of Lac du Bonnet — 1,750.

The assessment of the Lac du Bonnet Municipality in 1922 is \$112,900. (Taken from the Lac du Bonnet Times in 1922).

The leading firms in Lac du Bonnet in 1922:

J. D. McArthur — Lumber, brickyard and general store, also farm consisting of some 2,000 acres of which 500 is under cultivation.

Granovsky Brothers — General merchants and produce dealers.

R. N. Campbell — General merchant.

Frank Allard — Meats, vegetable and fruits.

Hans Johnson — Motor launches and rowboats.

Oscar Peterson — General store.

M. H. Danzker — Druggist, stationery and fancy goods.

R. Robidoux — Restaurant and general store.

Mr. Lambert — Jeweller.

D. Levine — Second hand store.

Jack Parks — Barber shop and pool room.

W. McDevitt — Hotel.

W. D. Halliday — Livery.

Royal Bank of Canada, Manager — R. E. Emmett.

Medical Practitioners in 1922: Dr. Malcolm, M.D. Health Officer; Dr. Granovsky, Dentist; Miss K. I. Halliday, Practical Nurse.

Lac du Bonnet churches in 1922: Roman Catholic Church — Father Senez; St. John's Anglican Church — Rev. T. H. Broughton.

Educational opportunities: Lac du Bonnet three room school — Principal, Mrs. Hamilton.

Law enforcement: Mr. Eckman, Provincial Police; R. N. Campbell, Justice of Peace; Corporal Hallam, North West Mounted Police.

Many excellent private lodging houses, the local hotel, and across the river, Silver Lodge, proprietor



Nels Johnson, is open annually for summer visitors.

M.J. Kavanagh — agent — Mutual Life of Canada Insurance Co.

### VILLAGE OF LAC DU BONNET

First meeting of the newly incorporated village of Lac du Bonnet was held January 6th and carried over to January 7th, 1948.

Mayor and councillors received no remuneration for their time.

First Mayor J. Sparman, Councillors M. F. Brown, Mike Mikolaychuk, Albert Arsenault. Death of Councillor elect J. W. Carron made it advisable to call an election and Mr. V. J. Rowe made the fourth councillor.

Mr. J. W. Halliday was acting Secretary Treasurer with Mr. Teare later acting as Secretary Treasurer for the Village as well as Municipal Council. All regular meetings to be held second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.



Standing L-R: Mayor A. W. Campbell, retiring mayor Walter Zarecki. Councillors, 1964-66, L-R: Alta Atkinson, Herb Dancyt, Mike Kabaluk, Peter Klassen.

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 1948 - 1950 | This council carried on.   |
| 1950 - 1951 | Mayor J. Sparman — Councillors Albert Arsenault, Mike Mikolaychuk, V. J. Rowe and J. M. Peterson.  |
| 1952        | Mayor M. Danylchuck — Councillors C. J. Hapko, R. Freund, A. R. McIntosh and J. W. Peterson.   |
| 1953 - 1954 | Mayor Edythe Brown took over January 1953, also W. A. Campbell and Emil Kiziak, R. McIntosh, and C. J. Hapko — Councillors and J. W. Wade as Secretary Treasurer.                                    |
| 1955        | Mayor Edythe Brown, Councillors R. McIntosh, Councillors C. J. Hapko, W. Petterson and O. F. Bjornson.   |
| 1956        | Mayor Edythe Brown, Councillors Mazie Coates, J. W. Peterson, O. F. Bjornson and A. Lavoie.  |
| 1957        | Mayor Edythe Brown, Councillors Mrs. M. Coates, J. W. Peterson, A. Lavoie and R. McIntosh.   |
| 1958        | Mayor Walter Zarecki, R. McIntosh, C. H. Klassen, J. W. Peterson, and H. A. Dancyt — councillors.  |
| 1959        | Mayor Walter Zarecki — R. P. Waters, P. H. Klassen, J. W. Peterson and H. A. Dancyt — councillors.   |
| 1960 - 1963 | Mayor Walter Zarecki — R. P. Waters, M. Kabaluk, P. H. Klassen, and H. A. Dancyt — councillors   |
| 1964 - 1966 | W. A. Campbell, Mayor — M. Kabaluk, Alta Atkinson, P. H. Klassen and H. A. Dancyt — councillors.   |
| 1967 - 1968 | Mayor W. A. Campbell — M. Kabaluk, Alta Atkinson, H. A. Dancyt and Steve Tobac — councillors.  |
| 1969        | Mayor W. A. Campbell — Lyle Wilcox, M. Kabaluk, Steve Tobac and H. A. Dancyt — councillors.  |
| 1970        | Mayor W. A. Campbell — Lyle Wilcox, M. Kabaluk, Steve Tobac and A. J. Apsit. J. W. Wade resigned in July as Secretary Treasurer and Baldur Holm took over until 1971 when Eugene Woloshyn took over. |
| 1971        | Mayor Campbell — M. Kabaluk, Lyle Wilcox, Steve Tobac and A. J. Apsit.   |
| 1972        | Mayor L. Wilcox (after resignation of Gordon Johnson) — Victor Worona, Alfred Apsit, Martin Okolita and L. Wilcox and F. Hanton.   |
| 1973        | Mayor R. Waters — M. Okolita, V. Worona, B. McKay and Apsit. Helen Towle took over as Secretary Treasurer.   |
| 1974 - 1977 | Mayor F. Ehinger — W. A. Campbell, Linda Drykacz, Glen Hirst, S. Tobac.  |
| 1978 - 1980 | Same mayor and councillors but Mrs. Helen Towle resigned and we now have Warren Besel.   |

**REEVE AND COUNCILLORS OF LAC DU BONNET MUNICIPALITY  
FROM 1917 - 1980**

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Reeve</b>                           | <b>Councillors</b>  |
|-------------|--|---|
| 1917        | Frank Allard                           | Wm. Trouton, Ward 1; Omer Lavoie, Ward 2<br>John Ongman, Ward 3; Andy Kalnin, Ward 4                        |
| 1918        | Hans Johnson                           | Wm. Trouton, Ward 1; Omer Lavoie, Ward 2<br>John Ongman, Ward 3; Otto Stein, Ward 4                         |
| 1919        | Reeve elect Fr. Allard<br>Frank Allard | Councillor elect Chas. Holmgren, Ward 4<br>Omer Lavoie, Ward 2; J. Ongman, Ward 3<br>C. M. Holmgren, Ward 4 |
| 1920        | Frank Allard                           | Wm. Trouton, Omer Lavoie, John Ongman<br>John Alksne  |
| 1921        | O. Peterson                            | Wm. Trouton, Jos. Bilan, Andrew Bergstrom<br>John Alksne  |
| 1922        | O. Peterson                            | W. Trouton, O. Ongman, Jos Bilon, J. Alksne   |
| 1923        | O. Peterson                            | Jos. Bilon, Peter Lingren, John Alksne, Wm. Trouton   |
| 1924        | R. Robidoux                            | A. Pfeifer, Jos. Bilan, P. Lingren, B. H. Campbell  |
| 1925        | R. Robidoux                            | J. Bilon, P. Lingren, B. H. Campbell, Pete Lingren  |
| 1926        | R. Robidoux                            | M. J. Pfeifer, J. Bilan, P. Lingren, G. Larson  |
| 1927        | R. Robidoux                            | M. J. Pfeifer, S. Sikora, P. Lingren, G. Larson   |
| 1928        | R. Robidoux                            | Dmytro Holyk, S. Sikora, P. Lingren, G. T. Larson   |
| 1929        | R. Robidoux                            | D. Holyk, S. Sikora, P. Lingren, C. Haugen  |
| 1930        | R. Robidoux                            | D. Holyk, S. Sikora, P. Lingren, O. Donner  |
| 1932        | R. Robidoux                            | D. Holyk, S. Sikora, A. Bergstrom, O. Donner  |
| 1933        | R. Robidoux                            | D. Holyk, O. Lavoie, A. McIntosh, O. Donner   |
| 1934        | A. R. Salter                           | D. Holyk, O. Lavoie, A. McIntosh, J. Bietting   |
| 1935        | A. R. Salter                           | D. Holyk, P. Lingren, J. Bietting, A. McIntosh  |
| 1936        | A. R. Salter                           | D. Holyk, O. Lavoie, P. Lingren, J. Bietting  |
| 1937        | A. R. Salter                           | D. Holyk, J. Sikora, P. Lingren, J. J. Bietting   |
| 1938        | A. R. Salter                           | Mike Woloshyn, Jos. Sikora, P. Lindgren, J. Bietting  |
| 1939        | A. R. Salter                           | M. Woloshyn, C. Mazur, P. Lindgren, J. Bietting   |
| 1940        | A. R. Salter                           | D. Holyk, C. Mazur, P. Lindgren, J. Bietting  |
| 1941        | A. R. Salter                           | Dan Holyk, Conrad Mazur, A. E. J. Davies<br>John Bietting   |
| 1942        | O. Lavoie                              | Dmitro Holyk, Conrad Mazur, A. E. J. Davies<br>J. Bietting  |
| 1943        | O. Lavoie                              | Dmitro Holyk, P. Lindgren, J. Bietting, C. Mazur  |
| 1944        | O. Lavoie                              | Dmitro Holyk, Conrad Mazur, Pete Lindgren<br>John Bietting  |
| 1945        | O. Lavoie                              | D. Holyk, Julian Bilan, A. Arsenaault, John Bietting  |
| 1946        | E. Wojciechowski                       | Joe Mazur, Julian Bilan, A. E. J. Davies, John Bietting   |
| 1947-1950   | E. Wojciechowski                       | Joe Mazur, J. Bilan, A. E. J. Davies, John Bietting   |
| 1948        | E. Wojciechowski                       | Joe Mazur, J. Bilan, A. E. J. Davies, Robert Belluk   |
|             | E. Wojciechowski                       | Jos. Mazur, J. Bilan, A. E. J. Davies, R. Belluk  |
|             | E. Wojciechowski                       | Joe Mazur, J. Bilan, A. E. J. Davies, R. Belluk   |
| 1951-1953   | E. Wojciechowski                       | Jos. Mazur, Wm. Brincheski, John C. Horn, R. Belluk   |
|             | E. Wojciechowski                       | Jos. Mazur, Wm. Brincheski, John C. Horn, R. Belluk   |
|             | E. Wojciechowski                       | Jos. Mazur, Wm. Brincheski, J. C. Horn, R. Belluk   |
| 1954        | E. Wojciechowski                       | Jos. Mazur, Michael Drabyk, John C. Horn, R. Belluk   |
| 1955-1957   | E. Wojciechowski                       | J. Mazur, Michael Drabyk, John Grewinski, R. Belluk   |
|             | E. Wojciechowski                       | J. Mazur, M. Drabyk, John Grewinski, R. Belluk  |
|             | Ed Wojciechowski                       | J. Mazur, M. Drabyk, John Grewinski, R. Belluk  |
| 1958        | E. Wojciechowski                       | J. Mazur, Ed Sikora, John Grewinski, R. Belluk  |
| 1959        | E. Wojciechowski                       | J. Mazur, Ed Sikora, Byron H. Campbell, R. Belluk   |
| 1960        | Herry Olenski                          | J. Mazur, Ed Sikora, B. H. Campbell, R. Belluk  |

| Year      | Reeve          | Councillors  |
|-----------|----------------|--|
| 1961-1964 | H. Olenski     | J. Mazur, Ed Sikora, J. Grewinski, Bob Belluk        |
|           | H. Olenski     | J. Mazur, Ed Sikora, John Grewinski, R. Belluk       |
|           | H. Olenski     | Jos. Mazur, Ed Sikora, J. Grewinski, R. Belluk       |
|           | H. Olenski     | J. Mazur, Ed Sikora, J. Grewinski, R. Belluk         |
| 1965      | H. Olenski     | J. Mazur, E. Sikora, R. Tinant, R. Belluk            |
| 1966-1970 | Walter Zarecki | W. J. Okrainec, E. Sikora, R. Tinant, R. Belluk      |
|           | W. Zarecki     | M. J. Okrainec, E. Sikora, R. Tinant, R. Belluk      |
|           | W. Zarecki     | M. J. Okrainec, E. Sikora, Robert Tinant, R. Belluk  |
|           | W. Zarecki     | M. J. Okrainec, E. Sikora, Robert Tinant, R. Belluk  |
|           | W. Zarecki     | R. Tinant, Ed Sikora, M. J. Okrainec, R. Belluk      |
| 1971      | W. Zarecki     | M. J. Okrainec, E. Sikora, Ian Harkness, Bob Belluk  |
| 1972-1974 | W. Zarecki     | M. J. Okrainec, Ed Sikora, Leo Drabyk, R. Belluk     |
|           | W. Zarecki     | M. J. Okrainec, Ed Sikora, Leo Drabyk, Robert Belluk |
|           | Walter Zarecki | M. J. Okrainec, Ed Sikora, Leo Drabyk, R. Belluk     |
| 1975      | Leo Drabyk     | M. J. Okrainec, Ed Sikora, Ronald Hirst, R. Belluk   |
| 1976      | C. L. Drabyk   | M. J. Okrainec, E. Sikora, R. Hirst, R. Belluk       |
| 1977      | C. L. Drabyk   | M. J. Okrainec, Ed Sikora, Ron Hirst, B. Belluk      |
| 1978      |                |  |
| to        | C. L. Drabyk   | J. C. Okrainec, Ed Sikora, Ronald Hirst, R. Belluk   |

#### LIST OF SECRETARY TREASURERS THROUGH THE YEARS

1917 - 1923 William D. Halliday  
 1923 - 1961 Frank Teare  
 May 1961 to July 1961  
     Acting Secretary Treasurer Albert Wood  
 August 1961 to 1967 Charles L. Cherrey  
 1968 - September 1979 R. J. Moore  
 September 1979 to date Ms. B. L. Neisteter

C. L. Cherrey is a grandson of W. D. Halliday.

#### MUNICIPALITY OF LAC DU BONNET SECRETARY TREASURERS

William D. Halliday — 1917 to 1923  
 Frank Teare — 1923 to 1958  
 Albert Wood (acting secretary) — 1958 to 1961  
 Charles Laverne Cherrey — 1961 to 1967  
 R. J. Moore — 1967 to 1979  
 Ms. B. Neisteter — Present

# Old Pinawa

by Helen Smith

The group of derelict brick houses stand in a small clearing staring with vacant eyes across the scrabble of weeds at the row of towering spruce; more spruce crowd behind them casting deep shadows and a peculiar stillness weighs the air. Close by, at the foot of a long hill, there is a jumbled mass of masonry resembling the ruin of a Roman viaduct. A little river steals around and beneath the great blocks to run silently away over granite steps.

This was all that remained of Old Pinawa; thus it stood for many years largely forgotten and seldom visited. During the summer of 1969, the brick houses were demolished and according to unconfirmed rumor there may be some scenic development of the site.

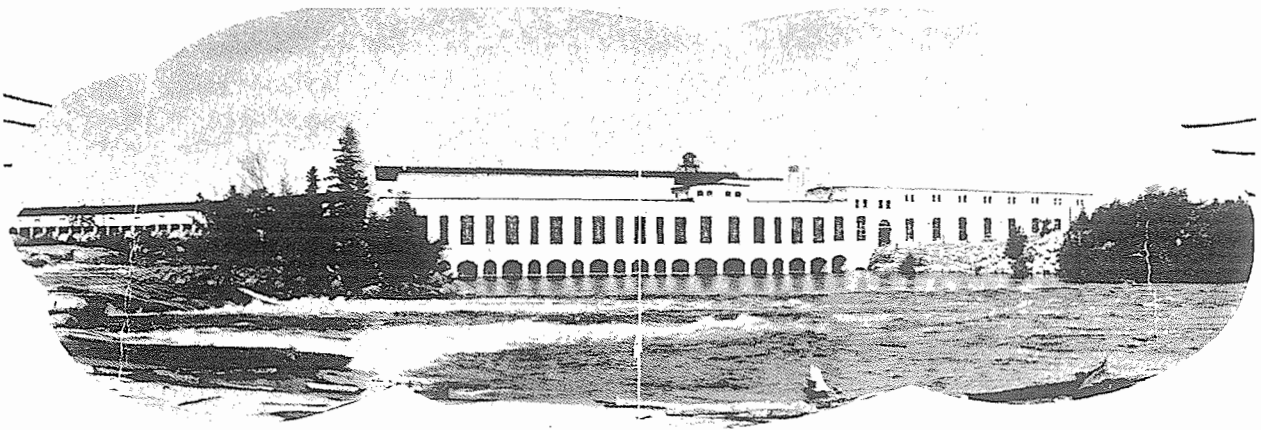
Here was the first hydro-electric development of the Winnipeg River for the purpose of serving the needs of a growing Winnipeg. For close to fifty years, it was a busy and self-contained community. Then the towering spruce formed a neatly clipped hedge and the scrabble of weeds was a smooth expanse of lawn. The brick houses and the row of frame dwellings, long since removed, were alive with warmth and family life and bright with flowers. There was a school, a post-office and general store; there was a large garden to supply

fresh produce and sheep grazed in the fields; a herd of cattle supplied milk. Religious services were given by an Anglican minister and a Roman Catholic priest from Lac du Bonnet. Medical needs were met by a doctor from the same centre.

Mrs. Jack Wade, who grew up there, tells of a way of life which seems idyllic in contrast with the strident present. Separated from the nearest centre, Lac du Bonnet, by the river and ten miles of corduroy road, the one hundred or so inhabitants felt little sense of isolation. There were many recreations. In summer there was swimming and tennis, fishing, picnics and hiking. In winter, tobogganing, snowshoeing, skating and curling. Mrs. Wade fondly remembers her great dog who performed yoeman service as a one-member dog team.

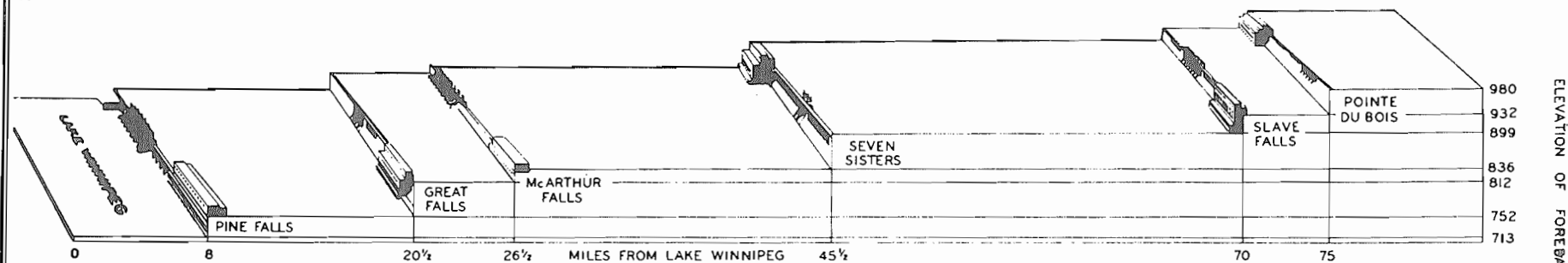
Pinawa is an Indian name meaning 'sheltered waters', a name as apt for the Channel as Indian names traditionally are. In 1911, Government surveyors named the stream Lee River, a reasonable English equivalent. In general usage, however, that portion upstream from the powerhouse site is still referred to as the Pinawa Channel and the downstream portion retains the name of Lee River.

In the late 19th century, Winnipeg was a rapidly expanding boom town known as the 'Chicago' of Canada. An interesting account, relevant to the electrical development of the early days, may be

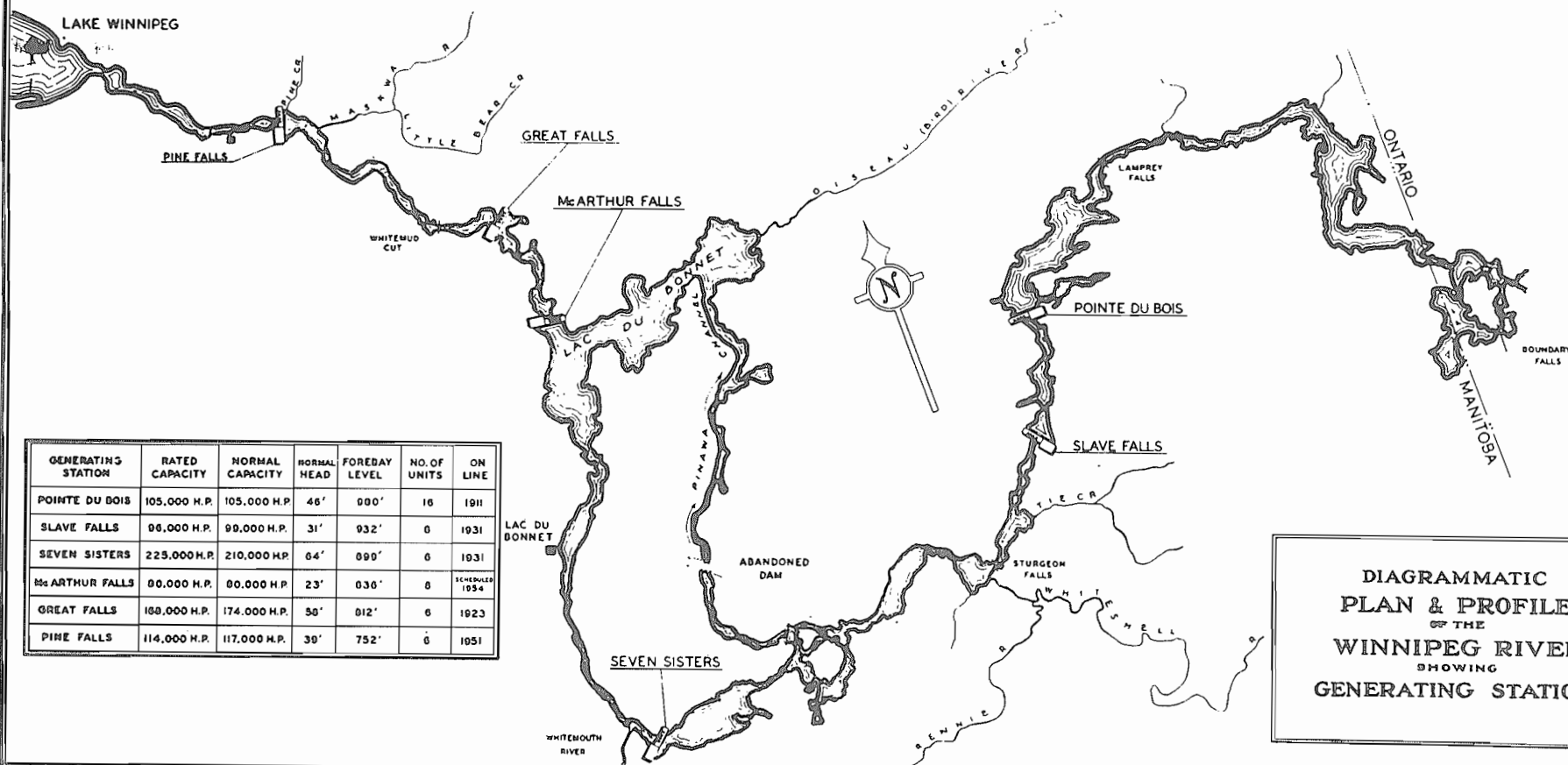


Pinawa the Pioneer, 1902  
First hydro power 1906 — closed 1951





# WINNIPEG RIVER



DIAGRAMMATIC  
PLAN & PROFILE  
OF THE  
WINNIPEG RIVER  
SHOWING  
GENERATING STATIONS

found in an article in the Manitoba Hydro publication Image of Autumn 1964. According to this account, the LIGHT first came on in Winnipeg when the Hon. R. A. Davis, proprietor of the famed Davis House on Main Street, illuminated the front of the premises with an arc light. The year was 1873 and, quoting from Image, "this took place six years before Edison's first incandescent lamp — and exactly three years before Alexander Graham Bell spoke the first complete sentence over a telephone". Here was the beginning of Winnipeg's well-deserved reputation as the City of Lights. The famed arc lights of Paris (all sixteen of them at first) were not in use until 1878.

As the population of Winnipeg mushroomed, the necessity for electrical power became evident to the enterprising and farsighted. The potential of electricity was unimagined by the average person at the turn of the century. The Winnipeg Electric Street Railway Co. which operated a steam plant in Winnipeg the capacity of which was 7000 h.p. had, before the turn of the century, been investigating the possibilities of hydro-electric power to fill the demands which were bound to come. The Winnipeg River had been surveyed for its potential and land purchased in the Seven Portages area (Seven Sisters) as early as 1897.

This great river had first been surveyed by La Verendrye's son from Kenora to Lake Winnipeg, its contours mapped and its many falls measured. La Verendrye had named it the Maurepas River in honour of the French Minister of Foreign Affairs.

With falls to choose from, one wonders at first thought, at the site chosen for this initial development. Mr. K. C. Fergusson of Great Falls, who became Superintendent of WESR Co. hydro plants in 1922, has the explanation. The Pearson Engineering Company of New York was hired to survey for the likeliest site. Working after freeze-up, unaccustomed to -30 degree temperatures, they found that the Seven Sisters area was frozen over but the water was running in the Channel. Accordingly, it was recommended that the Pinawa Channel site be developed which, it was felt, would give a monopoly on hydro power. The project got underway. A franchise was granted in perpetuity and financial backing was obtained from London, England. Hugh L. Cooper of the Pearson Engineering Company was chief engineer and, it should be noted here, this same gentleman built the first hydro plant in Russia on the Dnieper River and was a sponsor of the Passamoquoddy Tidal Development of the Bay of Fundy, a project which never got underway. Walter Whyte was assistant and resident engineer.

Construction was begun in April, 1903. Accustomed as we are today to engineering miracles performed with seeming ease, we would do quite

well to give some thought to the difficulties encountered sixty-odd years ago in difficult terrain, without modern methods of transportation. The Channel has never been more than a large creek so a diversion dam 1900 feet long was built at the junction of the bypass and a control dam below that, both eight miles above the site of the power house. (see map) The railhead was at Lac du Bonnet and at that time there was no bridge across the Winnipeg River. The tons of heavy equipment were towed across the river on barges by a steam tug operated by Harry Nystedt during open water. The dock was located near the present location of the grain elevators. In winter, the equipment was hauled over the ice. Miles of corduroy road were constructed on the other side, one going past Simonson's house and the other following the transmission lines. Anyone who has ever encountered muskeg will appreciate the difficulties involved in moving heavy equipment over such terrain and may well imagine the consternation when one generator went off the road and into the swamp. According to Mr. Fergusson, this became the 'Jonah' of the plant, slipping a cable on another occasion and smashing a wall, and causing some flooding in the power house another time. This is pre-Cambrian Shield country and great rock cuts were necessary throughout the Channel to the control and diversion dams, an arduous and delicate undertaking. At this time, the going wage for labourers was ten cents an hour for a ten hour day. The rock drillers received fifteen cents an hour.

The official opening of the Pinawa Dam was a milestone in the history of Manitoba. The following despatch is quoted from the Winnipeg Free Press of May 29th, 1906.

#### "LAC DU BONNET POWER IS READY"

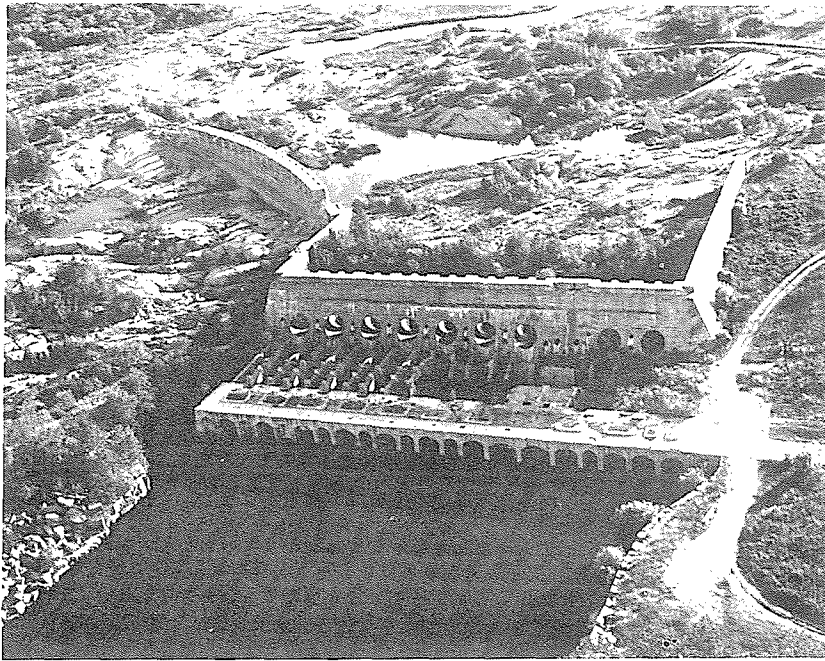
"The first hydro-electric plant of any size between Sault Ste. Marie and the west slope of the Rockies. It is the first of many proposed hydraulic sites for the Winnipeg River which Ishram Randolph, the Chicago expert, states is capable of almost one million H. P.

When work began, three and a half years ago, plans were for a plant producing 15,000 H. P., but since then, Winnipeg has forged ahead and the plans are for 30,000 h.p. with cost of \$3,000,000.

Controversies have raged over the perspective merits of other power sites on the river. —

The Street Railway Company is now developing 7,000 h.p. of steam at their station on Assinaboine Avenue and it is this that the present development will supplant. — Work on the receiving station on Mill Street has been completed. At the present time, it is the intention to generate 10,000 h.p. but it will take only a few weeks to double or triple this if necessary.

At the power house, the energy is generated at



Visitors to the old Pinawa site are invariably struck by its similarity to an ancient Roman ruin. The majesty of a vanished era lingers on.

Because Pinawa was not built on the mainstream of the Winnipeg River, it was necessary to retire it in 1951 to allow a more efficient development of the River at Seven Sisters. Pinawa was built between 1903 and 1906. It cranked out power for 45 years, 4 months, and 27 days.

2,200 volts. From the generators it is wired to the transformer station where the voltage is raised to 60,000 volts which is economical for long distance transmission. It is sent as 3 phase current to Winnipeg over a special transmission line (double circuit) which is one of the features of the development work. At Winnipeg, another large transformer station has been installed where the current is 'stepped down' to different voltages and forms of current for local distribution.

Dam — 40 feet at highest elevation, 22,000 cubic yards of concrete — one part cement, 3 parts clean sand and 5 parts broken stone.

Dam is in three sections. In the centre, the section is 200 feet in length through which the intake pipes pass to the wheels. To the right, there is a wing wall running at right angles for 160 feet upstream and then deflecting to an angle of 45 degrees to the north for another 120 feet. On the south side, there is a similar wing wall for 105 feet from the end of which is carried the overflow dam — 500 feet in length, which is used for regulating the height of water in the forebay. When the water rises to the top of the overflow dam, the surplus flow escapes by this avenue to the river below and allows floating ice to escape.

The power house and transformer station at the river form one big building about 700 feet in length." End of quote.

The official ceremonies took place on May 31st, 1906 with many dignitaries present and following are excerpts from the account of that day carried by the Winnipeg Free Press again —  
**"POWER TURNED ON AT LAC DU BONNET"**

"Lt. Gov. Sir Daniel McMillan yesterday in-

augurated the great enterprise which the Winnipeg Electric Street Railway Company have had under construction for two years for developing energy on the Pinawa Channel of the Winnipeg River, and the opening of which really marks a new era in the development of Winnipeg — The four generators, each with a capacity of 2,500 h.p., will give the Company 10,000 h.p. from the Winnipeg River. By the end of September, the Company will have another four generators with a capacity of 5,000 h.p. each — The buildings are all of fire-proof construction. Part of the power house remains to be completed. However, the immense work of cutting a channel through the ledges of rock that projected across the Pinawa and the building of an immense dam with reinforced concrete is done and will control water in volume large enough to generate power in accordance with the engineer's plans. — Sir Daniel McMillan commended the Company on the undertaking and said it had required 'courage and enterprise to enter upon the undertakings of the magnitude of that which they had just seen'. He also said that the growing importance of Winnipeg was testified by the need for harnessing the power of this great river and compared the event to being second only in importance to the arrival of the first locomotive. — Mayor Sharpe said the concrete work was the best in Canada". End of quote.

With regard to Mayor Sharpe's words, it is worth noting that some years after the dam closed down in 1951, the site was used by the Army for demolition experiments. The great blocks of concrete gave way but did not disintegrate and they lie there today, mute testimony to the excellence of the original construction.

The first power from the new hydro-electric

plant flowed through the transmission lines to Winnipeg on Saturday, June 9th, 1906. Forty-five years later, redundant because of the greater hydro-electric complexes which have completely tamed the Winnipeg River, the last switch was turned off at 17:58 hours on September 21st, 1951. The members of the last operating staff at Pinawa were: George Cobb, operator; H. Lundquist, oiler; J. Ventz, oiler; and L. Peterson, cleaner.

Once the name Pinawa was synonymous with the first great step forward in Manitoba in the use of natural resources scientifically for the service of society. It is particularly fitting that Atomic Energy of Canada, Ltd. chose to perpetuate the lovely old name by giving it to their atomic reactor complex and townsite in the Whiteshell, another first in Manitoba concerned with harnessing another kind of energy for the benefit of mankind.

We are indebted to Mr. K. C. Fergusson of Great Falls for much of the information in the foregoing article.

### ANDERSON FAMILY

Charley Anderson, born January 1st, 1885. Passed away April 5th, 1961, 76 years old. Arrived from Sweden Christmas Eve 1903 in Halifax with twelve young men, driven to a bush camp 20 miles away and worked there that winter, came to Manitoba the following summer 1904, worked at Pointe du Bois in 1905 as just starting to clear the site for the plant, then moved to Pinawa and became foreman of the outside gang and lived there until 1920 or 1921, then moved back to Pointe du Bois when he retired in 1950 from Winnipeg Hydro.

Barbara Heck Parsons, born September 20th. 1888. Passed away August 12th, 1975. 87 years old. Left Newfoundland for Halifax 1904 or 1905. Arrived in Manitoba the following year and stayed with a married sister in Pinawa. Married Charley Anderson in 1907 in Winnipeg. Douglas Anderson, born January 29th, 1908. Earl Anderson, born March 7th, 1909. Claude Anderson, born April 30th, 1911. Irene Anderson, born October 24th, 1926.

The Anderson family lived at Pinawa from 1905 till we moved to Lac du Bonnet in 1921, then moved to Pointe du Bois in August 1923, so we are fairly familiar with early conditions of all three places, so this write-up will be from 1903 to 1923.

The Town of Pinawa consisted of:

A powerhouse — (first in Manitoba).

A store and post office — (combined.)

A water tower — (gravity fed to the houses.)

A large stable — (consisting of a stable boss, and staff, light and heavy horses, milking cows, etc.

Later a garage, with a Model T Ford, and truck.)

A staff house — Or mess house as it was called in those days, with cook and staff to accommodate the single staff and visitors.

An ice house — (for everybody's use).

A community hall — (With player piano, used for all forms of recreation including church, Sunday school, etc. (and later a hand cranked movie projector.)

A log school — Later a school built about a mile north of town, to accommodate the surrounding population.

The homes — Five brick houses, steam heated from the powerhouse. All other homes, log construction, with electric lighting only, running cold water only, heating and cooking all by wood stoves.

A skating rink.

A curling rink — (one sheet of ice, with canvas covered sides.)

A large boat house — (consisting of about ten stalls.)

A large company garden — (which sold fresh vegetables through the company store.)

A tennis court — (Later wired with lighting for night playing.)

The lawns were all well kept, and cut by the company staff. Pinawa could be classified as a model company town in those days, and apart from the company store with its monthly billing system, supplied canned and staple goods, anything else was purchased from McArthur, Granovsky or Campbells store at Lac du Bonnet, and there was also Eatons catalogue, which came



Anderson Family  
Mrs. Anderson, Douglas, Mr. Anderson, Claude, Irene, Earl.



in handy long after you had received the new issue, depending upon whether you had a one or two holer?

The transportation from Pinawa consisted of horse drawn sleigh or cutter in the winter time, across the Winnipeg River ice, to the C. P. R. station at Lac du Bonnet in time to catch the morning train, for Winnipeg, and which returned that same night. I might add the buffalo blankets, and hot bricks were always appreciated on cold days.

The summer transportation consisted of horse drawn democrat, and later by a model T car or truck, to the Winnipeg River, opposite Lac du Bonnet then across the river in a steam boat, to the Lac du Bonnet dock, and walk to the C. P. R. station or stores.

The summer recreation consisted of boating, picnicking, fishing, swimming, etc., and there was usually a gathering on the 24th of May and July 1st, on the lawn with races for the children, and always enough willing hands to see that ice was available, and to hand crank the five gallon ice cream freezers, and free ice cream for all, and the dance or sing-song which followed that evening in the community hall, the music supplied by a player piano.

The winter recreation usually started off with a Halloween masquerade dance, with friends and visitors from Lac du Bonnet, and followed by a school Christmas concert, with the arrival of Santa Claus, and presents for all the children, plus a turkey for every family from the Winnipeg Electric Co. not to mention the skating and curling which followed.

As children we could usually tell if the doctor, or some official was coming to Pinawa, by a driver and team of real snappy pacers being dispatched to Lac du Bonnet, to pick up said party.

The Winnipeg Electric Co. always kept two or three teams of fast horses in reserve for any emergency.

There was also a telephone line between the powerhouse, and some homes, depending upon your position, and also a line to the C. P. R. station at Lac du Bonnet, and the doctor's office, and also to Winnipeg Mill St. terminal.

The building of the powerhouse, and the methods used if one will keep in mind, that engineers in those days had very little knowledge of coffer dams, so the powerhouse was built, and then the river built to the plant. The use of horses and slushers or scrapers, sand from the big hill by horse and wagon, timber from the bush, the mixing of concrete mostly by hand, and the transporting of heavy equipment like generators, transformers, turbines, etc., all done in the winter time by big sleighs, and powered by six horse teams. If one can visualize, there were numerous bush camps around



Mrs. Anderson and sons, Claude, Earl, Douglas.

the area run by J. D. McArthur, hauling logs and cordwood to the mill at Lac du Bonnet, so lots of horsepower available.

In those days very little power equipment available and what wasn't done by horses, had to be hooked up some way to a steam boiler, whether it be some form of orange peel, or drag line to lift rocks or earth, or some form of dredge to make the river bed larger, resulting in the plant being completed and generating power to Winnipeg in 1906.

The continued operation of the powerhouse in the early years, and the problems encountered with heating the building, controlling the water from Camp 5. The problems with frozen ice, and the flooding of the plant in 1910 just to name a few are interesting stories in themselves.

The minister would have service at Lac du Bonnet Sunday morning, then journey to Pinawa or Pointe du Bois on alternative Sundays and hold evening service, spend the night in the staff house, visit people on the Monday and return to Lac du Bonnet that same evening.

I would think the most memorable thing that ever happened to the Anderson family, was in the winter of 1912 when Dad went over the Pinawa spillway and as he hit the bottom, a big wave washed him upon a cake of ice, and the gang ran down below and threw a rope to him which he tied around his waist, and had to be dragged through 50 feet of fast water before reaching land. He was taken home, had a hot bath, a good slug of rum, and back on the job in two hours. Of course, the word went around that Charley Anderson had gone over the spillway, and when he walked back into the plant, had the hardest time convincing all and sundry that it really did happen.

As children we had our chores to do, either to

go for a quart of milk both morning and night, see that the wood-box was filled with enough kindling, and wood for the next day, to weed and water the garden, just to name a few.

It was always a thrill to ride up to the big hill with one of the teamsters for a load of gravel, a trip to Lac du Bonnet was quite an event in those days, and a trip to Winnipeg was on a par with a trip to Hawaii today.

The two years we lived at Lac du Bonnet, I remember Malcolm was doctor, Mr. Emmett the bank manager, Mr. Willson the bank teller, and a great ball player, Mr. Shapland was the station agent, Rev. Todd was the minister, and later followed by Rev. Broughton. I believe the Woodbine Hotel, which was run by the Wellman family, had just been closed down, and another hotel run by Oscar Peterson, who was also Mayor of the town, or Municipality, before the travellers hotel was built by the Shaplands. Billy Halliday was the municipal clerk, and also ran a livery stable in those days. The brick yard and sawmill were both closed down when we arrived, but a lathing mill still operated during the summer months.

Submitted by  
C. G. Anderson

#### OLD PINAWA HISTORY

Information taken from a letter to A. McLimont, Esq., General Manager of the Winnipeg Electric Railway, dated Pinawa, October 17, 1917 to F. W. Woodman, Superintendent.

The following comprise the regular operating staff at Pinawa:

— F. W. Woodman, General Superintendent of water plant and all work in connection with it.

— C. W. Walker, Assistant Superintendent responsible for the operation of the power house having charge of all work done and all men employed therein.

— W. L. Lindsay - Timekeeper and general office worker.

— H. Toyer - electrician

— W. A. Walsh, blacksmith

— J. S. Peterson, patrol man or transmission line, responsible for telephone lines from Pinawa to the Winnipeg River crossing, helps wheelman and electricians as required.

— Switchboard operators: G. Hannoford, H. Gillis, J. M. Bloor, and have charge of the oilers and cleaners on their respective shifts.

— Oilers - C. M. Holmgren, J. Shears, H. Shears.

— Cleaners - W. A. Campbell, A. C. Aitkins, J. Watson.

— Firemen - M. Pearson, J. W. Peterson, P. Ryplanski - attend to firing of boilers for steam

heating plant - required only from October to April. They work in eight hour shifts.

— Gardener - M. Pearson, May to September.

— Chore Boy - F. Shears in barn, mess house, office and store.

— Chauffeur - J. Strosser - brings in supplies from Lac du Bonnet, carried mail and passengers, attends to maintenance of car and truck.

— Stable Boss - C. Kiloup

— General Foreman - C. A. Anderson. Has charge of all labourers and teams, attends to maintenance of proper water levels, ice cutting, etc.

— Head race patrolman - J. Erickson. Lives at control dam during the winter, releases ice jams, patrol head race and generally keeps Superintendent in touch with ice conditions at head of Winnipeg Channel. Attends to general repairs in the summer.

— Cook - J. Small, cooks in company boarding house.

— Cookee - A. Nelson

— Boat Captain and engineer - H. Nystedt, runs company ferry boat at Lac du Bonnet.

— Deck Hand - J. C. Tindall.

— Labourers - about four are required for the regular operation of the plant.

— Additional staff engaged in construction work:

— Carpenter foreman - W. J. Lennerton

— Carpenters: E. M. Vansickel, F. Grunberg, E. Saudners.

— Steam Engineers: F. Waters, W. Peterson. Run rock crushing plant, steam drills, concrete mixing plant, steam derrick, etc.

— Teams and teamsters

— Labourers averaging twenty.

#### RUFUS ANDREWS, STABLE BOSS AT OLD PINAWA IN 1907

Rufus Wade Andrews, born May 5th, 1880, Dugald, Manitoba. Married Olive Eliza Steel of Clearsprings, Manitoba, December 29, 1903. Family: Six boys and two girls.

Dad was born on a farm at Dugald, Manitoba. Mother, the daughter of James Steel of Clearsprings district near Steinbach, was born in 1881. She attended Ridgway school then attended Collegiate in Winnipeg to become a teacher. When teaching at Dugald, she met and married my dad in 1903.

While sharing the operation of the family farm dad augmented their income by peddling potatoes in Winnipeg and he worked in the woods in the winter time cutting and hauling timber. In 1907 the young couple decided to try their fortune at the Pinawa Power Plant. By this time they had two children, a boy and girl. Life wasn't exactly a bed



Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Andrews.

of roses for them. They lived in a tent with their youngsters, with a room in the stable to augment their quarters, since Dad was employed as stable boss. A hole in the ground with a covered box in it served as their refrigerator. This they seemed to share rather frequently with wandering bears who had a taste for butter and raspberry jam. During the cold weather the stable room had to suffice for the family of four.

Besides overseeing the care of the horses, it was Dad's job to drive the "rig" to carry the officials back and forth to Lac du Bonnet. Stories of Old Pinawa were part of our upbringing and the names of Anderson, Taylor, Harding, Hanniford were very real people to us although through hearsay. Though only residing in Pinawa for about a year, friendships developed that have now extended into second and third generations.

From Pinawa, adventure called them to a homestead near Humboldt, Saskatchewan — then back to farming in Dugald. In 1916, we moved to Westbourne on the beautiful White Mud River ... on the Portage Plains — Macdonald, in fact.

After a winter trip to Texas, my parents decided to move there where they went into the chicken business. In 1932, a devastating hurricane struck our area and finished that. It was an ill wind but even so, brought some good because my brothers and Dad bought wrecked buildings and tore them down to use for future building. As always they rose to meet the challenge. They built two more homes for themselves near Brazoria. They built their own travel trailer before they were in vogue. They made numerous trips across the United States and Canada.

Our father died at the age of 85 in 1965. Mother moved to Angleton, Texas in 1966. She bought a new brick home when she was 89. The same

summer she and my sister toured the Canadian Northwest by bus. She went home to her eternal rest in 1972. She had experienced the fullest here on earth of both joy and hardship, with full acceptance. She went with joy to meet the new challenge of an eternal life with the Lord she loved so much and served.

Six remaining children, numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren continue to populate Texas — May we meet each challenge as courageously!

Living children are: J. R. Andrews of Clute, Texas; Lillian Andrews Ross, Tulsa, Oklahoma; John Frances Andrews, Brazoria, Texas; Helen Andrews Lee, Angleton, Texas; Laurence Malcolm Andrews, Freeport, Texas; Alfred Neil Andrews, Angleton, Texas.

Submitted by  
Helen A. Lee

### **BLOMQUIST — JACOB CLARA (VICKNER)**

Information by Axel Blomquist

Father came to Canada in 1911. Our step-mother and ten of 12 children came to Winnipeg in 1913.

Hana (Blomquist) Johansson, now living in Stockholm and Anna (Blomquist) Hagman deceased, remained in Sweden.

Those that came to Canada are:

Fred (Fritz) resides in Vancouver.

Axel resides in Old Pinawa district.

Annie, deceased.

Beda (Blomquist) Nicholson lives in Winnipeg.

Eric lives in Victoria, (now deceased).

Evelyn (Blomquist) Spitzer resides in Vancouver.

Gunda (Blomquist) Archer resides in Winnipeg.

Ted lived in Winnipeg, now deceased

Nancy (Blomquist) Steele resides in Ladysmith, B. C.

Charles resides in Nanaimo, B. C.

Father built a home in East Kildonan and it was almost finished except the plastering when we arrived. We lived with a neighbor for two weeks till the plaster dried.

Times were hard in 1915 so Father decided to take a homestead. He and I came to Lac du Bonnet area and he picked the farm in the Brookfield area, where the quarry is now located. We built a camp, then a house which is still standing.

I worked on the Grand Trunk B & B and elevators, fished on Slave Lake in the winter of 1917. I enlisted in the army in the spring of 1918 and went overseas.

In 1919 I worked in Winnipeg for awhile and

came to Old Pinawa, fall 1920 and worked for Winnipeg Electric Company. Next spring filed on a homestead so quit my job to clear land, built a house and then worked part time on construction work.

I married Nan Soderholm in 1923 and we had a family of seven children.

**Bernice** married Gordon Craig, resides in Winnipeg. Their children are: **Donald** married and lives in Edmonton, Alberta; **James** lives in Windsor, Ontario; **David** will intern in spring 1979, now attending Medical School, University of Manitoba.

**Ray** married Blanche Ross, resides in British Columbia. Their children are: **Bruce**, single, lives in Vancouver; **Sharon**, married, has one daughter.

**Kenneth** married Lillian Lambert, resides in Winnipeg. Their children are: **Brian**, married, has a son; **Wayne**, single; **Lynda**, married, has a daughter.

**Clifford**, single, lives at home in Pinawa.

**Daniel** married Elena Menard, lives on home farm in Pinawa.

**Audrey** married Walter Worona, lives in Riverland area.

**Ellen** died at age of six.

We incorporated the farm in 1969, Clifford and Daniel are partners, started hog and cattle farm.

Life on the farm was hard but there was the humorous incidents too. I recall one time when we had the first three children, Nan and I went picking wild strawberries and left the children at home. When we arrived back we heard terrible noise and screaming. I rushed into the house and there was a porcupine walking around the house. I had to use a broom to get him out.

Before there was a bridge across the Pinawa Channel we had to use a ferry and it would often be on the opposite side when you wanted to cross. I remember coming home from Winnipeg and the ferry was not there so I removed my clothes, tied them to a stick and swam across holding my clothes out of the water. I often had to swim across, when the ferry was not on my side.

During the depression we had so much meat we could hardly give it away. I butchered eleven head of cattle and sold it at three cents a pound. Towards spring, I had to peddle it and I didn't get paid for some time, but I did collect all my money.

The following year, I sold nine head of cattle to a dealer and got \$140.00 for all nine.

Wanting to make some money, I hit upon the idea of growing potatoes. I don't know how many acres I planted but I had about 1200 bushels that fall. Some of my neighbors helped me plant and pick them. My basement was full of potatoes up to the ceiling, just enough space to fire up the furnace. I sold two small loads to Winnipeg Electric Company at Great Falls, that was all I could sell.

Towards spring I sent out word I had potatoes for sale, fifteen cents a bushel. Sold about fifteen bushels so lowered the price to ten cents, got rid of a few more bushels but still had about 1,000 bushels so I told the people to come and get them for nothing and I still couldn't get rid of them. Finally we had to bag them up and haul them out of the basement and dispose of them.

I built a small house for Nan and myself, and I have retired.

Submitted,  
Axel Blomquist

## PETER AND CLARA FRANK

Peter Frank was born in the year 1885 in Hälsingland, Sweden. He left his home and family and came to Canada in 1903. Like most immigrants he couldn't speak a word of English. He stayed in Winnipeg where he got his first job working for Brown and Rutherford who at that time were in the cordwood business.

While living in Winnipeg he met and married Anna Johnson. They then moved to Lac du Bonnet where they took a homestead in the Riverland district. They had one daughter "Elsie". When Elsie was three years old Anna died. After losing his wife he worked out wherever jobs were available, mostly in bush camps cutting and hauling cordwood or logs. In the summer he would go west or wherever men were needed for harvesting. While harvesting in Starbuck, Manitoba approximately three years after losing his first wife, he met and married Clara Sandmoen.

Clara was born in Warren, North Dakota, U. S. A. in the year 1892. She came with her parents to Starbuck at the age of 12 where she lived until she married Peter.

They then sold their homestead in Riverland and took a homestead in the old Pinawa district, where they began farming and Peter also worked for the Winnipeg Electric Company.

They had three children, Clarence, Alvart and Elvira. Peter Frank died in January 1955 and Clara died in March 1977.

**Elsie** married Agnar Frank and they lived on a farm in the old Pinawa district until they lost their only son in 1953. Then they moved to Keewatin, Ontario. Agnar died in October 1966. Elsie still resides in Keewatin.

**Clarence** married Mildred Schuman and is now retired after working at various jobs, his last place of employment being City Hydro at Pointe du Bois. They now live in Lac du Bonnet. They have four children. **Sylvia** married Norman Wold, reside in Lac du Bonnet, have two children Bradley and Beverley. **Mervin** married Karen Bogie, they have

two boys, Glenn and Jason and all reside in Golden, B. C. **Carol** married Ivan Keller and they reside in Garson, Manitoba. **Ronny** is single and lives in Calgary, Alberta.

**Alvart** married Anita Gagnon, they now reside in Uranium City, Saskatchewan where he is employed by Eldorado Mines. They have two children: **Douglas** is married, has two sons, Carl and Warren; **Della**, married, has two girls, Kim and Darcy.

**Elvira** married Walter Rosenholm, they farm the home place in old Pinawa. No children.

Elvira Rosenholm

## HANNAFORD FAMILY

Father: **George** — fifth child born to John and Liza Hannaford on August 3, 1866 at "Hangar Mill Farm", Salcombe, Devonshire, England.

George Hannaford's father owned a large sheep farm which was run by the family and hired help. Besides sheep, there were cattle, horses, apple orchards and a cider mill. Rabbit and pheasant hunting, sailing and fishing were the popular pastimes. Church was attended twice on Sunday by all the family.

Mother: **Ethel Elsie** — first child born to James and Minnie Tuckett, on March 20, 1881 at Gatton, Queensland, Australia. Family sailed to England settling on "Little Hemsford Farm" near Totnes, Devonshire, England.

Ethel Tuckett's father owned a dairy farm. Fresh butter and cream, etc. were delivered every morning to shops in nearby town. Being the eldest, she helped at home, attended a girls' school, sang in the church choir, played the piano and eventually worked as bookkeeper for a local dairy.

George and Ethel were married at Christ Church in Paignton, Devonshire, England on August 18, 1904.

Children: **Clarence George**, born November 25, 1905. **Georgina Betty**, born August 9, 1913.

Immediately following their wedding, the Hannafords sailed for Canada on the SS. Manitoba, destination — Winnipeg, and a job with the Winnipeg Electric Co. at the Mill Street Sub-Station, and rented rooms on Lombard Street.

George's older brother, John, had left England some time prior and was established at the site of construction of the Pinawa Power Plant. Eventually the Hannafords chose to join him.

What a tremendous adventure it must have been for two people who were raised on rolling green farmlands of gentle Devonshire. I am sure that the fact they were sharing the adventure with others from many countries made it easier. I doubt if they ever looked back.

So, with humor, pathos, dedication, determination, patience, friendship, love and loyalty, and above all great faith, they all fought and won many battles, including log roads through swamps, swarms of mosquitoes and black flies, bitter winds and impassable snowdrifts, sickness and worry and the long wait for the doctor when a new life could not wait to be born.

In the beginning there were not many children in Pinawa, the few received lots of training in hunting and fishing at an early age. Four-year-old Clarence Hannaford was nicknamed "Sonny" by the workmen, and the name remained for the rest of his life.

The Hannafords enjoyed the country — George Hannaford was a dedicated worker at the Pinawa Plant — eventually became Chief Operator.

My parents loved being near the water, and it was not long before they purchased a motor boat named "The Rambler" and which had a long and exciting life on the Pinawa Channel. My father was very familiar with the channel before and after the diversion of water and was a capable navigator so was often called on to take visiting Company personnel to the Control Dam, and our family spent many exciting vacations camping in the wilderness.

As the number of motorboats increased, there were boat races on the channel. If a new fast boat entered, some joker would be sure to tie some scrap iron to the rudder — initiation fee!

The first homes in Pinawa were built of logs, and those logs I am sure have a story of their own! The homes generally contained two bedrooms, livingroom, kitchen and a very necessary screened verandah, and of course outdoor "plumbing" which was quite a challenge at 40 below!

Most every home had a wonderful vegetable garden, by necessity if not by choice. The Company store stocked necessary staples but few fresh foods — the transportation was always difficult but especially so in winter. Meat had to be ordered a week or so in advance, and then quite often did not arrive or was inedible. The store also contained the Post Office. Everyone knew when the mail and supplies arrived and so the "Store" became quite a meeting spot for everyone — it was also where the paychecks were received, and as the song goes, many "owed their soul to the Company Store"!

I can remember my mother telling of inviting friends for supper, and as usual the meat did not arrive, so my father left with his shotgun (mother thought he was going to threaten the storekeeper) however, he came back with two prairie chickens so the meal was saved.

Another story often repeated was when my mother heard a noise in the kitchen and on investigating found four tall Indians there. They asked for matches which she gave them, then flour,



and she complied, then blankets — well, after contemplating her English wool blankets she gave a shaky “no” — The Indians left and when my father came home he assured her there was nothing to fear. Some weeks later they awoke to find a hind quarter of venison on the back step. From then on, whenever the Indians would be passing through and needed help they knew where to ask, and in turn they always repaid with deermeat, ducks or geese!

The first world war with its sacrifices, extra burdens and sadness brought everyone even closer together. My main recollection is of dozens of pairs of socks that were constantly in the knitting process. I very vividly remember the Armistice and the whole community marching all around with a makeshift band of pots, pans and washtubs!

We did not escape the influenza epidemic, but belonging to a Company community had its advantages as a registered nurse was dispatched from Winnipeg to care for everyone. Nurse Flathman made the rounds to every home every day. I don't doubt this saved many lives.

About this time a long-awaited dream came true — our piano arrived. My mother loved to play and sing, and from then on our living room became the community singalong. It was from here that many concerts got their beginning.

The Hannafords and others worked diligently to get a church service started in Pinawa. Many concerts and socials were held in the log schoolhouse, some of the proceeds going towards prayer and hymnbooks. Eventually an organ was purchased which my mother played for the monthly church service and for Sunday school. The ministers were also true pioneers as they battled the elements to hold services in three communities.

The Women's Auxiliary and all the related affairs played a very important part in the lives of the pioneers. The meetings at Lac du Bonnet and Pointe du Bois were events that gave a much needed change of scenery and exchange of ideas.

No one had much money, a “Shinplaster” (paper money worth 25¢) was a favorite birthday gift. Life was simple, Eaton's catalogue was a constant source of enjoyment! But we were rich in many other ways. The wild game was free as were the luscious wild fruits and berries. We had many sports to choose from such as swimming, tennis, baseball, cricket, skiing, sledding, curling or skating on the ponds with a bonfire nearby and potatoes roasting in the ashes.

As we were growing up, Pinawa too was growing and progressing. The corduroy roads were replaced by gravel, the horses by trucks and cars, the log homes by frame building with indoor plumbing, a new district school was built, also a dwelling for the teacher. The building of a recreational

hall with kitchen facilities was a great asset to the community. It served as a church and a social hall, and it was here where we learned at an early age to polka, square dance and schottische.

Even in the beginning of Pinawa all important dates were celebrated with great enthusiasm. The Christmas concert and the arrival of Santa (and no less important the arrival of wooden boxes of mandarin oranges at the store). Easter and egg dyeing and perhaps a new hat. The 1st of July sports day and picnic which ended the school year. A masquerade dance at Halloween with costumes that had been kept secret for weeks. The escapades of “Trick or Treat” night would fill a book. The Harvest Festival in the autumn with its outstanding array of homegrown produce and our lovable Matt Pearson as auctioneer. All these affairs were enhanced by the most marvelous array of food. Everyone had their own specialty from their homeland plus a topping of fresh cream!

Pinawa eventually became a jewel in the wilderness with its manicured lawns, spruce hedges and beautiful gardens. We who knew it well were always happy to return — it was like an oasis, and it became a popular vacation spot for city employees and their families.

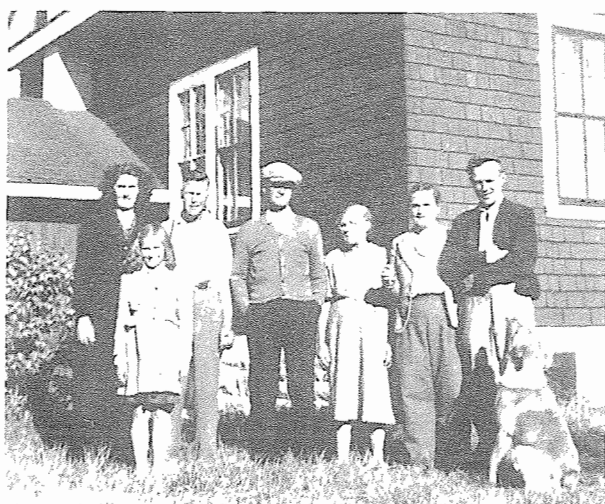
When progress finally doomed the now outdated power plant, my father retired and my parents moved to Lac du Bonnet. It was a pleasant life on the banks of the lake, and it was in that home that George Hannaford passed away on November 5, 1955 at age 89 years. For a young man from Devonshire who never looked back, it was a rich life. I am positive he would not have changed one minute of it.

Ethel Hannaford later moved to Flin Flon where she was active in her church and the senior citizens group. She passed away in 1966 at age 85 years after a short illness. I know her life was a rich adventure. She brought much to the wilderness community with her contralto voice, her expertise as a cook and seamstress, and most of all her great sense of humor. I can still hear her saying “life was hard in the beginning at Pinawa, but I have had such good times and good friends, I have been very lucky.”

Clarence Hannaford eventually joined Marshall Fields in Chicago. He was transferred to the Orient and remained there for 12 years, returning when World War II began. He happily settled in Flin Flon in a government position. He passed away suddenly in 1963, his wife and three children survive.

I, Georgina worked in the Actuarial Department of The Great West Life, was married to Bill Isherwood in 1942, moved to Michigan in 1952. We have two daughters and three grandchildren.

## CARL HAUGEN FAMILY



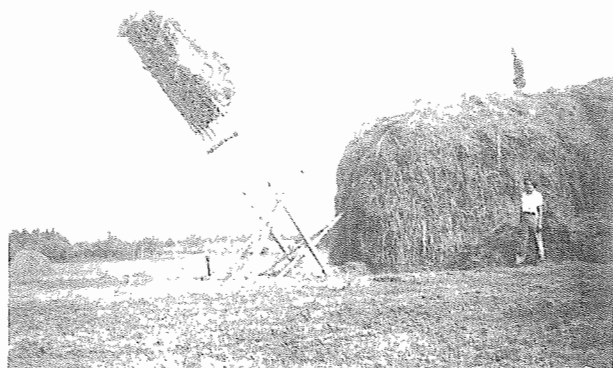
Haugen family at Old Pinawa farm — Ingrid and Oscar Gustafson, Father and Mother, Helen and Ervin Linnert and Judy, daughter of Emil Gustafson.



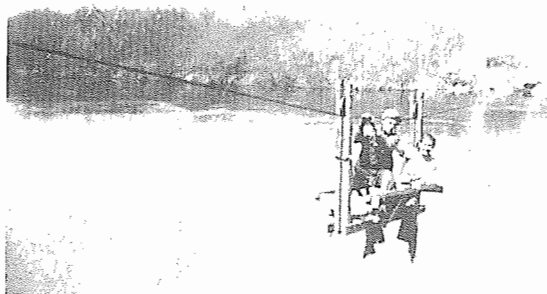
Helen and Ingrid Haugen



Helen and Ervin Linnert on the ferry at Lee River.



Mr. Haugen and daughter Ingrid haying.



Cable lift made by Ervin Linnert at Lee River.



Mr. and Mrs. Karl Haugen with children.

## THE HOLMGREN FAMILY

I am Hilda (Holmgren) Jeffrey, a daughter of one of the old pioneers of the first Pinawa, and have a few memories of those pioneer days.

My father was Carl Magnus Holmgren, better known as "Charlie" to friends and co-workers.

His family lived in Stockholm, Sweden. His father died when he was quite young and his mother remarried a Mr. J. Anderson. They had five children, four boys, Fred, Ivar, Maurice and Arvid, and a girl, Sophia.

As a young man Dad spent a few years in the Swedish Cavalry, one of the "Guards to the King."

As years went by, he thought he'd like to travel and see new horizons. His first stop was in Carmanville, Newfoundland. He was lucky and got work as a telegrapher. Also, here he met my mother, Janet Stanley Parsons, daughter of Sampson and Matilda Parsons. Mother worked as an assistant postmistress, and also spent months on

the sea as a cook for her father and brothers, who were fishermen.

A romance started and soon they were married. Travel was still in their minds and they crossed the ocean to Millertown, Nova Scotia, a little town near Halifax. They were there for a couple of years. My brother Francis and I were born there. My Aunt Barbara, Mother's sister joined us here.

Again they decided to move, everybody going "West," so they started off, too.

They journeyed by train till they got to Manitoba and on to Lac du Bonnet, a small town which was quite busy. They had a brick yard where they made bricks and also a large sawmill where they made all kinds of lumber, etc.

Dad's family also decided to come to Canada. They landed in Lac du Bonnet but settled in Riverland, a small farming community.

Dad got a job in the sawmill and everything was going well, but a few miles away there was a big construction job going on.

Being curious, he had to go and see for himself. This was the beginning of the Winnipeg Electric Company's first power plant at Pinawa.

He applied for a job and got one. Then he had to get a shack built for the family to live in. So in 1907 we all moved to Pinawa. After the plant started operating, Dad got a job in the plant as an "oiler". This really meant he had to oil all the big machinery.

Where we lived was adjacent to the Company's property. Very heavily treed, and lots of bush, we couldn't see anything. There was a road through the bush to the power plant and to the general store and post office, a staff house for single employees, and a few small log houses for married families. We called these little houses "Bee Hives". Years later four brick houses were built for the V. I. P.s.

Back to us — We got a horse as we had to haul our water from the river for household use and the animals in big barrels.

We also got a cow, needed milk for the family. My mother was the milker, as my dad didn't know how, but he soon learned. We also got some chickens.

We also got an ox for pulling up stumps and trees by the roots. The ox came in very handy as they are very strong beasts. Dad used to hitch the two of them together. It was quite a sight — one horse and one ox.

In August of 1907, my brother Harold arrived. Now our shack was getting too small, so Dad got some carpenters from Riverland and they built us quite a big house of hewn logs.

It had a large kitchen, livingroom, a sitting room, and one bedroom downstairs and four bedrooms upstairs.

Times were pretty hard, all work and no play. No plumbing, just outside biffys, no electric power, just coal-oil lamps or lanterns. The mosquitoes were terrible, and lots of other bugs and insects. Bull dogs were terrible on the animals. We used to wrap paper around our legs, under our stockings, to save getting bitten.

The lands had been surveyed now, and we had a quarter section. It was called a "homestead". Dad had been working hard at clearing the land, besides working at the power plant and Mother was kept busy at chores, and sewing clothes for us all. Eaton's catalogue was just coming out which was a God-send for all of us. We could order things from it.

The new house was built. Also another baby — Ada arrived. Two years, another baby — Clarence — and another two years, Gladys arrived — six of us now. Good we got a big house.

My aunt was married to Carl Anderson who also worked here. They had three boys, Douglas, Earl and Claude and one girl, Irene. Later on, they moved to Pointe du Bois.

Pinawa was a nice little town now. More people here, and some frame houses built. We had a large recreation hall, where we had all our dances and entertainment, etc. We even had silent movies at first, but later got the talkies. Had a new school too, one room with grades from one to grade eight. It was about a mile from where we lived, so we had to walk there and back. In the winter we took our lunches.

The 1920's now, a few cars were appearing which was quite different from all the horses that were used. We had a Touring car — big thing.

In 1928 Frank Jeffrey, who worked for the Winnipeg Electric Company, too, and I were married. We lived in Great Falls, Manitoba for a while at the Great Falls power plant. Then we went to Seven Sisters where another power plant was under construction. In 1931 our daughter Sheilagh arrived.

The next year, everything went wrong — "the dirty thirties" as we called them, and the "depression" was upon us. Most of the men were laid off — us too. No work, so we had to move back to my home. Our son Alastair was born that fall.

My brother Francis was married now to Lydia Milbrandt and living in Whitemouth. They had two girls, Del and Anjela, son Alan.

Harold, married to Margaret Rodgers of Sanford, two girls — Nancy and Connie.

Ada married Bert Lundquist, a Pinawa-ite. They had one son Barry, daughter Beryl.

Gladys married Nelson Hinds of Winnipeg, had two girls, Barbara and Bonny.

Clarence married Emily Ross, Winnipeg, one

son, Scott — one daughter, Shirley-Anne.

In 1939 the Second World War was declared. My husband enlisted in January 1940 with the Royal Canadian Engineers. He was in the army five and a half years. We were living in Lac du Bonnet then. After his discharge, he worked at several jobs, with the V. L. A., and lastly in Dauphin.

In 1946 — after working for 40 years, on eight hour shifts, and taking lunches every day, Dad decided to call it quits. He was 65 then and ready to retire and for his 40 years of service, he got \$40.00 a month as a pension, one dollar a year for every year he worked for the Company.

Again they packed up and left the farm and still heading "West." They settled in Nanaimo, B. C.

Gladys and Nelson, and Francis and family were already there. At the same time Ada and Bert, Clarence and Emily and their families went with them. Harold and Margaret stayed in Winnipeg.

We also were transferred back to Winnipeg in 1948, and have been here ever since. Mom and Dad didn't like having to go by boat to Vancouver all the time, so they decided to move there.

In 1953 they celebrated their 50th or Golden Wedding anniversary.

Dad was not too well, had a heart condition and passed away December 21, 1955. Mother passed away in June 1959. Bert passed away in Terrace, B. C. in 1964. Francis passed away in 1966, also from a heart attack. Lydia has remarried and is Mrs O. Goodman now. Ada also remarried to Louis Duncan but he passed away in 1977. Ada is living in Vancouver, all the grandchildren are married and have families of their own.

My family — Sheila, is Mrs Barry Bailey. They have four children, two boys, Jeffrey and Barclay, two girls, Shawn and Jan. They are living in Calgary.

Alastair is married to Shirley Jephson, they have two children, Kevin and Heather, here in Winnipeg.

And us, old folks now, celebrated our Golden Wedding anniversary in June, 1978.

Mrs. Frank (Hilda) Jeffrey

## OTTO AND JOHANNA KRISTOFFERSON

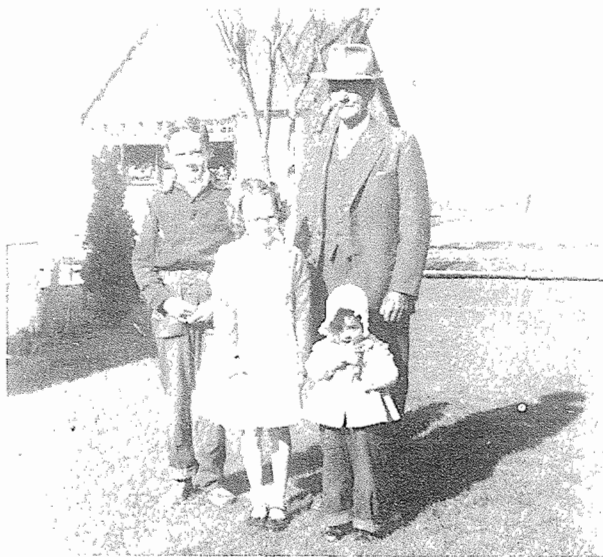
Otto was born in Norway, his wife Johanna in Sweden. After their marriage they came to Winnipeg in 1910 where Otto worked as a plasterer.

They left Winnipeg and moved to a farm in the Riverland district. In 1916 they moved to a farm close to Old Pinawa and was employed by the Winnipeg Electric Company. In 1925 Otto bought the present farm and built the house in 1926.

Three sons were born and all attended school in Old Pinawa.

Walter, the eldest married Katie Hunchak. Walter worked for Winnipeg Electric at Old Pinawa until the plant was closed and he was transferred to Great Falls where he was employed until his retirement. They still reside there. Their children are: Larry married Jackie Rankin of Pinawa and they have three daughters: Leanne, Laura and Tanya. Marlene married Bruce Riddell and they have two daughters: Crista and Brenly. Linda is a registered nurse at Misericordia Hospital in Winnipeg.

Harry, the second son was in the service. Later he married Christine Benson and lives in Gimli. He



Mr. O. Kristofferson with grandchildren Larry, Marlene and Linda.



Mr. and Mrs. O. Kristofferson with sons Harry, Herbert and Walter.



Kristofferson family home — 1926.

works as heavy machine operator connected with Gimli Airbase. He served on school board and was also magistrate. They have four children: Keith, Kenny, Alan and Judy.

Herbie, the youngest son still lives on the farm in Old Pinawa district.

Father was not mechanically inclined so Herbie stayed on the farm helping him. Enjoyed farming, it was rough at times but it also was challenging. We grew up during the depression so we appreciated what we accomplished. Living close to Old Pinawa settlement we enjoyed the association with the folk living there. Always something doing — silent movies, tennis, curling, dancing, etc. Herbie worked for the Winnipeg Electric besides helping his dad on the farm. As his dad grew older he quit his job and devoted his time to farming during the summer, cutting pulpwood in the winter.

submitted by Herbie Kristofferson

#### **DUGALD (1852-1923) AND CHRISTINA McCOLL (NEE MACDOUGALD) (1859-1936)**

Dugald came west in 1880 from Ontario to work on construction of the C. P. R. Christina joined Dugald in Winnipeg in January 1881. The temperature was 48°F below zero that day. They drove to Duffy's farm at Oak Bank in a wagon box mounted on sleighs, hauled by two oxen. The box was filled with hay and hot bricks and covered with buffalo robes and feather ticks.

Their eight children are:

1. Margaret — born 1878 — married James McLoed. They had 18 children.

2. Janette — born in St. Boniface, 1884 — married Jack Simmons in 1901. Jack operated a barber shop in Beausejour, Manitoba. They had four children.

3. Euphemia — born 1886 at Forest, North West Territories (now Alberta), married Walter Walsh in 1904. She was the first bride in Pinawa.

Their children are May (Mrs. Jack Wade), born 1905; Walter, born 1907 (killed at Beauharnois, Quebec 1932), Patrick, born Sioux Lookout 1912.

4. Mary — born in Forest, 1887 — married Aenaes MacDonald in 1911. They had seven children.

5. Agnes — born in Medicine Hat, 1891 (died 1920).

6. Flora — born 1893 at Rat Portage (now Kenora) married William John McPherson in 1913 at Beausejour. "Mac" worked at Pinawa 1905-1909 and then at Pointe du Bois 1909-1912. He turned on the first electric lights at Pointe du Bois. They had four children.

7. Randolph — born at Whitemouth, 1899. He died in 1930.

8. Wallace — born at Whitemouth, 1899-1947. Married Ethel Woollard of Lac du Bonnet in 1922. They had four children.

Dugald and family moved to Lac du Bonnet in 1900 to work at J. D. McArthur's sawmill. In 1901, they moved to Pinawa into the second house built there. The house was made of logs with floors made from wide white pine boards. There was an oil cloth floor covering in the front room; the kitchen floor was scrubbed with lye. Curtains at the windows were made of bleached flour sacks.

The first church service and Sunday school was conducted in this house by the Rev. William Bailey. A focal point of interest was a gramophone with a large horn and the favorite record of the children was "Won't You Come Home Bill Bailey".

There was no school in Pinawa at this time, but a doctor was at Camp No. 1. His name was Arnold. Christina acted as midwife and often called on for other ailments, such as whooping cough, measles, convulsions, etc. which she treated with her own remedies handed down over the generations, castor oil being the main thing plus quinine and electric oil. Sulphur and molasses was mandatory in the spring.

The family moved to Pointe du Bois in 1909. Dugald worked for John Gunn and Sons, contractors for the construction of the power plant. Dugald and Christina left Pointe du Bois in 1917. Wallace and Randolph enlisted from the Pointe.

Dugald died in 1923 and Christina in 1936. At a conservative guess there are 39 grandchildren, 82 great-grandchildren and well over 150 great-great-grandchildren. There are five living generations of these pioneers.

Submitted by  
Flora Cameron (McColl) McPherson  
on August 1, 1978 in her 86th year



**W. J. McPHERSON**  
(William John)

William McPherson was another old timer who came into the district to work on power house construction. He was born November 18, 1885 at Dundee, Quebec. He came west on a harvest excursion in 1905 but went to work at Pinawa where he worked until 1910. He then went to Pointe du Bois to work for City Hydro during the construction of the Pointe du Bois power plant. He turned on the first electric current in Pointe du Bois. At the completion of construction he moved to Winnipeg, in 1912 and continued working for the City of Winnipeg Hydro.

On May 1, 1913 he married Flora McColl at Beausejour. They lived in Winnipeg and Mac continued working for Hydro. He retired in 1930 as Assistant Superintendent of Substations. He died in December of 1959. His wife Flora is still living and is quite active. They had four children: Hazel, born October 1914; Cameron, January 1916; Vimy, August 1918; and Glen, September, 1919. They lived in East Kildonan and were all educated in East Kildonan schools. Cameron joined the Canadian Navy in 1940 and was boarded to officers training school at Royal Roads in 1941. He was then posted to Cornwallus, he was a gunnery officer on corvettes on the Halifax, Glasgow, Boston Triangle. He married Jean Ferguson of Truro, Nova Scotia in 1942. They had four children: Malcom, Heather, Cecilia and Margaret. He was discharged in 1945 and after his discharge joined the federal income tax department as an accountant, he worked in Winnipeg, Thunder Bay and Ottawa, retiring in 1975. Hazel, the eldest, married Randolph Lennox in June 1936. They had two children, Wilfred, born 1937 and Patricia, 1942. Hazel died in 1955. Wilfred married Patricia Petterssen in 1971. They have no children. He is employed as a switchman in the CPR. Patricia Lennox married Harry Jones in 1963. They have three children and live in Terrace, B. C. where Harry is a municipal assessor. Vimy married Les Wiebe in 1943 when both were employed by McDonald aircraft of Winnipeg. Les, an aeronautical engineer went to Montreal Vicers in 1944. He also worked for Canada Air retiring in 1971. One son Alan, an engineer, works for Beaver Construction Ltd. in Montreal. Glen enlisted September 8, 1939 in the artillery signal corp, went overseas December 5, 1939 and started active service in Sicily, served in Italy, France and Holland. He came home October 1945 and married Patricia Prouse at Thunder Bay, Ontario in 1955. They now live in Prince George, B.C. where he works for the Highway Department. They have three children, Rory, Sheena and Robert.



**MR. AND MRS. HARRY NYSTEDT  
AND FAMILY**

Mrs. Harry Nystedt came from Upsala, Sweden. Mr. Harry Nystedt came from Stockholm, Sweden. Mr. and Mrs. Nystedt came to Canada in 1900.

They were married at Selkirk, Manitoba and then settled at Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba, and there they raised their family.

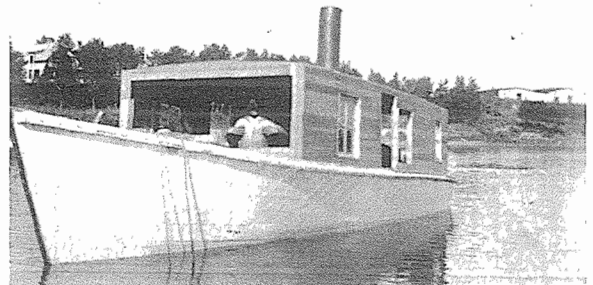
They travelled by train, horse and sleigh.

Their home was a four bedroom frame house and kitchen and living room. It was heated by wood stove and kitchen range.

Before coming to Canada he was a sea captain and belonged to the Cutty Sark Club in Winnipeg. His first job in Canada was on the gas pipe line in Calgary. Then they moved to Winnipeg and worked for the Winnipeg Electric Company and that's what brought them to Lac du Bonnet. He was a buyer for the store and mess hall that the Pinawa power plant and years later after they closed down, he used to keep close watch on the water level at Riverland, and had to phone it in twice a day, morning and night. At this time we were living at Riverland and we also had the switch board in our home.

Children of Harvey Nystedt were: Heralda, Harry, Edith, Gorden, Norman, Olga; (twins) Mabel and Gladys.

We had a wonderful life and being such a large family there was never a dull moment. My twin and I were born at Riverland and were brought into the world by a midwife. When we were old



"Little Bobs" - steam tugboat.

enough to go to school, and any of our brothers and sisters that were still at school, we had to walk two and a half miles. We were one mile across the river from Lac du Bonnet and that is where we got our mail and did the grocery shopping. In the spring of the year when the ice broke up, we had to travel eight miles by horse and sleigh to the store and to pick up the mail.

One of the biggest struggles was the spring and the fall of the year, when it was difficult to get the groceries for the family till the river froze over and was strong enough for someone to walk on. They used to come to our house to see if Harry Nystedt had walked across the ice on the river, as he was the biggest man around, and if it was strong enough to hold him, it was safe for the rest of them to go for their mail and groceries.

We had a gramophone and records that we used to play and dance to. There used to be a lot of whist played, and at Christmas time there was the Christmas concert, which we all took part in. Also at Christmas time all the older children used to come home from Winnipeg or wherever they worked, and there were never fewer than twenty or more at our Christmas table. Dad used to hitch the horse to the cutter and put the Christmas bells on the harness to go over to Lac du Bonnet to meet Heralda and Edith off the train from Winnipeg for the Christmas season.

They travelled to town one mile in the winter across the river, and eight miles in summer, unless you went by rowboat or motorboat. There was a mile to get the doctor or by car or horse, eight miles. They travelled by rowboat, horse and buggy, or by train to Winnipeg. First they lived in the Lac du Bonnet district and then in the later years, the Riverland district. We walked to school when we lived at Lac du Bonnet, about a quarter of a mile but when we lived in Riverland, we walked two and a half miles. The neighbours used to help each other with the haying and also to get the wood out of the bush for the winter. They also helped each other saw the wood up into stove wood for the kitchen stove. And if anyone was going to town for the mail, they called in to see if you needed anything. We did most of our shopping out of the Eaton's catalogue, clothing that is.

Heralda married Pete Blomberge and lived in Oakville, Ontario. She passed away May 2, 1977. They had no children.

Harry Nystedt lives at Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. He retired from Algoma Steel, married Helen and they have two sons and one daughter.

Edith lives at Calgary, Alberta, married Charles Appleby from Bedford, England, worked for Standard Gravel, Calgary, Alberta. They have two sons.

Gorden Nystedt lives at Vancouver and works

for C. P. A.. He married Dorothea McNaughton from Edmonton. They have three daughters and one son.

Norman Nystedt passed away in 1963. He married Evelyn Richmond from Riverland and they had one son.

Olga lives at Oakville, Ontario and married Fred Snowball who is retired from Good Year tire. They have three sons and two daughters.

Mabel lives at Edmonton, Alberta and is married to Keith Bothwell, Bothwell Construction Co. They have one son.

Gladys lives at Edmonton, Alberta. She married Bob Glanvill who works for the Department of Agriculture, Edmonton, Alberta. They have one son and one daughter.

### MATTHEW HENRY AND LUCY ANN PEARSON Pinawa Pioneers

Matt and Lucy were married in York, England on the 17th day of March, 1904. Soon after the wedding, they travelled to Canada with the second group of Barr Settlers. The train journey from Halifax to Battleford, Saskatchewan, was long and often hazardous and one can imagine their great disappointment on arriving in Battleford to find the piece of land allotted to them stony, rough and quite unsuitable for farming.

Abandoning the idea of farming, they made their way back to Winnipeg where they hoped to find employment. Jobs were scarce, but Matt heard of work available at Pinawa where a Winnipeg Electric Company Hydro Plant was under construction and Matt decided to try his luck there. Being short of money, he walked from Winnipeg to Milner Ridge and from there he took the train to Lac du Bonnet.

Arriving in Pinawa, he immediately found work with one of the construction gangs and spent some time at camp five where cuts for the proposed channel were being blasted out of the bed rock.

As at all construction sites in those early days, the living quarters at Pinawa were rough and ready, so Lucy remained in Winnipeg. She was homesick for England and as soon as money was available she returned to England where the couple's first child, a daughter, Kathleen, was born. Lucy stayed in England for a year and nine months. She then returned to Pinawa where the couple set up their first home. This was a very primitive dwelling, and here, eventually, a second daughter, Dorothy, was born.

Shortly after this event Matt and Lucy moved to their first real home, a fine log house containing two bedrooms, a large living room, big kitchen and

attached shed. Here the family lived for the next seventeen years. Born to the couple during those years were two sons, Robert and Fred, and three more daughters, Margaret, Thelma and Ruth. It was a sad time for the family when Fred took ill and died at the age of two years. He was buried at Lac du Bonnet, in the year 1919. Some eight or nine years later the family moved to a fully modern home. Here, life with all the amenities was more comfortable, but could never replace the remembered joys of life in "The Old Log House".

After the end of construction, and when the power plant was in full operation Matt began the work for which he had been trained in England — gardening and landscaping. The beauty of that small community and the park-like area within the spruce hedges were entirely due to Matt's planning and development. A very large company garden was necessary in those days to supply the employees with enough food to last through the winter months. A large root cellar under the community hall provided space for the storage of all root vegetables while some canned peas, corn, beans, etc. provided a necessary change of diet. When the summer gardening was finished, Matt moved into the power house where he tended the boilers which provided heat to much of the community.

During the years of Pinawa's development, Matt was very active in community affairs. He acted as Secretary Treasurer for the Community Club for over thirty years. One of the important duties of this office was the selection and ordering of the Saturday night movie. How the young folks would clap their hands and shout when the selection turned out to be Charlie Chaplin, Buck Jones or Tom Mix movie.

Another highlight of the Pinawa winter was the annual concert or variety show. Matt was very active in these concerts, and took part in many comedy skits and songs. After the initial performance at Pinawa, the concerts were taken to Lac du Bonnet and Great Falls. In later years Matt often recalled one concert at Great Falls. He and Tommy Dickenson travelled by train to Great Falls the day before the concert to prepare the stage and make final arrangements. Disaster struck that night in the form of a good old fashioned Manitoba blizzard which blocked the road from Pinawa to Lac du Bonnet. Since there was no way for the rest of the cast to reach Great Falls, Matt and Tommy put on the entire concert by themselves, digging in to their repertoire for songs and skits which they had performed in previous years.

Community entertainment became less important after the advent of the motor car, when a trip to Lac du Bonnet became a common occurrence rather than a rarity. The young people found it

necessary to leave home to seek work, which left Pinawa inhabited by an older generation who were content to stay home and listen to their favorite programs on radio.

Lucy died on April 11th, 1932, and was buried at Lac du Bonnet. Matt continued to work at Pinawa until September 1950, when he retired at the age of 69 years. He was pleased to receive from the Winnipeg Electric Company a certificate of honourable and faithful service of 45½ years.

He continued an active and useful life until the age of 80. He died in December, 1961, and was buried beside his wife in the cemetery at Lac du Bonnet.

Thelma Minnie Heaney (nee Pearson)

### TEXMO FAMILY

My father was Elling Christian Angel Texmo. He was born January 27th, 1889 on a family owned island off the Norwegian coast near Ornes Norde Helgeland. They were all seamen in my father's family, earning their living from the sea. There were no schools so my grandfather hired a tutor from the mainland. We all loved the stories of Dad's boyhood in Norway. One story in particular intrigued us all. His family raised chickens but only for the feathers which were used for pillows and bedding purposes. The carcass was thrown away because they believed it was not fit to eat. They bought very little for their home. All food was grown, caught, or made at home, including flour. They made their own furniture as well. Outside of metal utensils and tools they were pretty well self-sufficient. Of course, they always checked the shores for anything the sea brought them along with the tide. My grandfather always tried to get apples for the Christmas tree. He had to go to the mainland for them and they were very expensive but it was a once a year treat and very much appreciated by all. Later, when Dad came to Canada he saw what he thought were the most beautiful red apples he had ever seen. He went to the store and bought some and hurried outside to have a big



Stanley Texmo, Bob Belluk and Elling Texmo tearing down the wing wall at Old Pinawa — 1952.

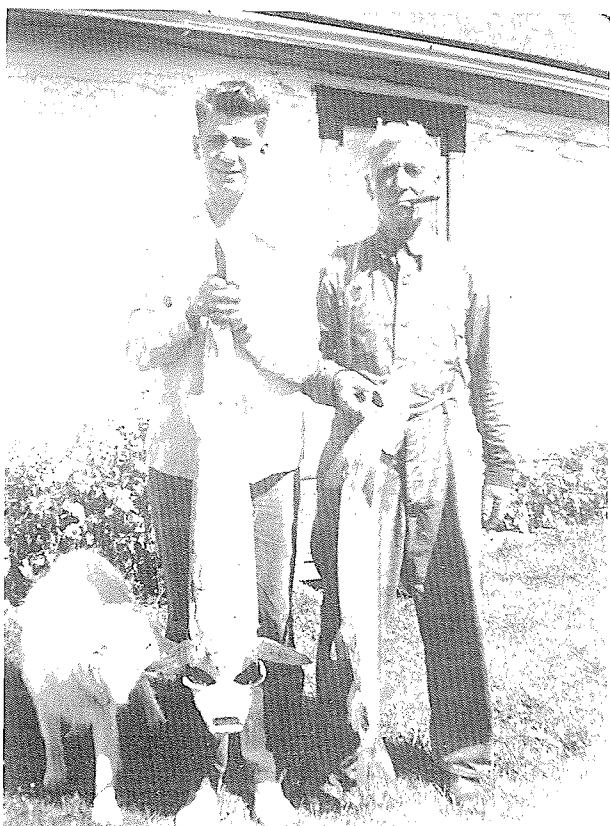
bite. But they were tomatoes! He was really quite disgusted. Father learned to enjoy chicken very much after awhile, but he would never come to enjoy tomatoes nor if he could help it would he ever eat one.

Father came to Canada when he was 17 years old, he learned English very quickly and liked it here very much. His first job was with the Grand Trunk Railroad in Western Ontario. He started as a powder monkey and later became a dynamite

#### THE FISHING GANG



E. V. Caton, unknown, Tex, K. C. Ferguson, unknown, Bill Hunt, Fred Pratt and Ab. Garbutt.



Elling Texmo (Tex) and his second youngest son, Kenny.

man himself. He further educated himself while living in the railroad camps and all through his life for that matter, by doing crossword puzzles. He may not have pronounced all the words correctly but he sure knew what they meant. Along about 1909 he moved to Winnipeg where he met and married Marie Larson. They had nine children, losing their firstborn to pneumonia just before he was a year old. The other eight all thrived and are as follows: Evelyn, who married Tommy Burns. He was stationed at the Air Force Base in Lac du Bonnet. They had six children. Evelyn and Tom are retired now and live in Sechelt, B. C. Stanley, who married Esther Rosenholm from Riverland. They had two children and they now live in Prince George, B. C., where Stanley works as a carpenter. Delores married Herb Sills. They had three children and live in Courtney, B. C. where Delores operates a Travel Bureau. Walter married Doreen Darracott from Winnipeg and they had four children. Walter is semi-retired and lives in Moses Lake, Washington. Byron, who died in 1966, married a lovely girl from Parry Sound, Ontario whose name is Elsie. We never met Elsie but we all wished we could have. They had two children. Vivian married Russell Watts. They had three children and they are retired and living in Emerson, Manitoba. Mona, who married Philip Knight, lives in Powell River, B.C. They had three children. Then there was Kenny. He apprenticed as a machinist in Great Falls, Manitoba. When he had his papers he began working in Winnipeg, where in the fall of 1962 he was killed in a car accident and he is still mourned by us all. (See Picture 1)

In 1910 Dad came to Pinawa with his family and there he remained until his retirement in 1951. Shortly after he retired, Dad, my brother Stanley, and Bob Belluk tore down the spillway and power house that so many years before he had helped to build. (See Picture 4) In the early days at Old Pinawa my father worked as a dynamite man and labourer, later becoming labour foreman. The part of my father's job that he loved the most was taking the Winnipeg Electric dignitaries and their friends on fishing trips up the Winnipeg River. My Dad was an avid fisherman and he knew how to handle any type of boat. We lived in the second brick house from the end and the guest house was the last one. This was where the visiting dignitaries stayed while in town. From the stories I remember there must have been some high old times there. Apart from these tours he headed, he also had the responsibility of checking the levels in the water meters that were installed along the Winnipeg River system. His real pleasures, though, were piloting the "Peggy" as the launch was called and the people he met while on these fishing trips. (See Picture 2) My father was a gregarious man and



Ladies pictured left to right. Two girls in front, Margaret and Lily Nelson. It's Lily's bridal shower. 2nd row, left to right: Mary Picard, Mrs. Tindall, Ruth Pearson, Dot Middlecote, Thelma Pearson, Margaret Pearson, and Mrs. Szwago. 3rd row, left to right: Zenta Kronberg, Mrs. Carl Nelson, Mrs. Lundquist, Mrs. Pete Frank, Ada Holmgren, Mrs. Gus Larson, Mrs. McLennan, Mrs. Kristofferson, behind her Mrs. F. Shears. Back row, left to right: First two unknown, Marie Thor, Mrs. Agnes Frank, Elvira Frank, unknown, Kay Loveridge.

made good friends with ease. He was completely relaxed with everyone from the company president to the newest labour recruit.

In 1929 tragedy struck my Dad's family. His wife Marie died leaving him with eight children, the youngest not even a year old. There were hard times for my Dad trying to cope, but the older children worked hard caring for the smaller ones and of course the townspeople and those of the surrounding area all helped a great deal. In the early part of 1934 Dad began corresponding with a girl from Madisonville, Kentucky. He got her name out of a Ranch Romance Magazine. However, this girl had so many letters to answer she passed one on to her youngest sister. This was my mother, Ruby Marie Meredith. They corresponded for a length of time. My father decided to go and see the World's Fair in Chicago and then go on down to Kentucky to meet my mother. They fell in love and were married June 22, 1935. Then came the second family: myself, Chiquita Valentonis; George and I have one daughter and have lived in Lac du Bonnet for 23 years. Jerry married Ann Lussier. They have six boys and live in Port Hardy, B.C. Mary-Anne, who married Gerald Sundstrom also lives in Port Hardy. They have two boys. All three of us married into local pioneer families. The last of the children is Linia. She

married Thomas Hay III of Winnipeg and they presently reside in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Twelve children my father provided for and yet none of us ever felt deprived, and I think this in part was due to Dad's love of life and his enjoyment of people.

Living in Pinawa in those days was very different. It was a small close knit community. I believe that only those people who have lived in a company town would understand how it was. There were about 20 houses plus a staff house, so of course everyone knew everyone else very well. Once in awhile it could prove irksome but the advantages far outweighed the occasional small dispute. We almost lived as a large family, everyone sharing each others sorrows and happiness. I remember Lily Nelson's bridal shower. (See Picture 3). This was in 1950 and some of these ladies are gone now but it is pleasant to remember their good and generous ways. Even though it was a small community, there was a great deal of social activity. There was an active tennis club and there were movies in the hall where Dad acted as projectionist. The company picnics with the homemade ice cream were particularly nice. I remember stories of the many box lunch socials and of course there was the annual Christmas concert! Who can help but remember the old time Christmas concert



and not be made happier by the memory. What I remember most about Old Pinawa was the beauty of it. Mr. Matt Pearson was a full time gardener and he kept the public areas in immaculate condition. Of course, there was an amiable but constant contest between the residents themselves to have the nicest garden and yard in town and as a result Old Pinawa was quite a showplace. I'm sure all former residents of Old Pinawa remember the gentle goodness of Bill Loveredge who was our storekeeper and postmaster. We all liked and admired our superintendent Mark Wentz. I'm sure as children we all stole strawberries from Mrs. Szwago's garden, and we really delighted in pushing Paul Ryplanski's wood pile over at Halloween. It was so neatly piled it was an open invitation to mischievous children. In my memory and in the longer memories of my parents, I never knew of anyone who lived there that wasn't accepted and made part of the large family that was Pinawa.

In 1942 my Father, Mother, Mona, Kenny, Jerry and I moved to a log house on the farm that my Dad had homesteaded when he first came to Pinawa. Here again are special memories, particularly on the fishing we did. We had night lines for pickerel and we had sturgeon lines that everyone of us took our turn helping my Dad on as we grew up. We had so many sturgeon from our lines that we kept them alive in a cage type wooden box in the river where they could be used as needed. To this day I have never tasted smoked sturgeon like my Dad made. My brother Jerry comes close but not close enough. We had fish all summer and venison all winter. I didn't know there was such a person as a game warden until I was nearly 16. We had a very large garden and my mother was good at preserving. We had cattle and chickens so as far as food goes we had ample. There was no electricity or T. V. and most of the time we had no radio as the batteries were so expensive and ran down so fast. Father was frugal with the radio, especially during war time so that we could have the news of the world. We went to that grand institution known as the one room schoolhouse, S.D. No. 1627, I believe it was. My father, along with Axel Bloomquist and Dave Packer served many years as trustees for our school. We loved our teachers but were in awe of "The Inspector". Many of us had to row across the river to get to school, as well as walking long distances. We all liked school though, and I strongly suspect if for no other reason than just to play and be with other children. We very much looked forward every spring to the baseball games we would have with the neighbouring school districts. In late May we would go to their schools and then invite them back. It would have been nice

if we could have won once in awhile though. Riverland in particular was hard to beat. At least we had the consolation of the lovely cold lemonade and the lunch that followed these games.

I wish my daughter Georgia could have grown up in the way I did and have the same experiences and opportunities to know nature the way I did. I also have wished many times that she could have known her grandfather. Tex, as he was known by all was a man that one could point proudly at and say, "He is my Dad." He died in Selkirk in early February, 1958 and a true pioneer passed on.

Submitted by:  
Chiquita Valentonis  
Lac du Bonnet

## WALTER ANDREW WALSH AND FAMILY

Walter Andrew Walsh met Uthemia Isabell McColl at Pinawa in 1902. They were married in Kenora, Ontario in 1904. Walter Walsh was a blacksmith and a good one. He worked at his trade all his life. He worked on the Norman Dam at mines in the Lake of the Woods, at Pinawa power plant during construction, at the rock cuts and at Pointe du Bois. He worked for two years at power house construction at Conawingo, Maryland then returned to Sioux Lookout and Transcona where he worked for the CNR. The family moved to Hanley, Saskatchewan where Walter opened a blacksmith shop with his brother-in-law Joe McColl. They stayed there for a couple of years and moved back to Pinawa in 1916 where the family lived until the power plant closed down in 1951 and Walter Walsh retired. They had four children. Mona died in infancy, May graduated from St. Boniface Hospital Nursing School in 1929, Walter Jr. was a welder working on construction work, primarily power house construction. He was killed in an industrial accident at Beauharnois, Quebec in 1934. Patrick Andrew Grey Walsh spent a number of years on land survey work then enlisted in the armed forces on June 8, 1940 in Victoria, B. C. He sailed for England September 10, 1940 where he remained until 1943, when he sailed from England to North Africa in October of 1943, landing in Algiers. From Algiers he went to Sicily in November 1943 and saw action in the Ortona Line in January 15, 1944. He went from Naples to Marseille in January 1945 then from Marseille to Holland by their own vehicles. He saw action again in Arnheim, February 1945 and remained in Holland till the end of hostilities in 1945. He arrived home on November 25th, 1945. He married Vivian Layard February 15, 1947 in St. Marks church at Gangees, B. C. Their son Walter Andrew married



Jennie Scott of Gangees, May 21, 1954. They have two sons. Daughter Vivienne married Kelly R. Fossett June 1, 1975, they have one son. The youngest son, James Grey Walsh, married Deborah Cossie. They have no children.

### THE JAMES WATSON FAMILY

My father came to Pinawa in 1911, direct from England. He lived with the Matt Pearson family that first year and got a job with the Winnipeg Electric Co. working in the Company garden and doing odd jobs. Later he worked in the power house.

My mother, two sisters and I came the next year, 1912. Edith was 13, Anne 2, and I, Dorothy (Dollie) was 9 years old.

Our first home was a log cabin that Dad had bought from the Company. It was built beside the river up the dike and all the back of us was swampland. There were only two rooms at first but we managed somehow. The usual outhouse was out back and we got our water by dipping a pail in the river, being careful not to let any minnows get in. The mosquitoes were terrible and Mother had to sew cheesecloth to put on the beds at night. It was like a tent over us. Dad used to make a smudge and go through the house in the evening to smoke them out but it only seemed to daze the mosquitoes and they were soon as lively as ever. Edith suffered terribly from them and had to put newspaper inside her stockings.

There was no school when we arrived which suited me fine, having gone to a strict English school. This did not last long as the school was built that summer and opened in September. The



Pinawa — Mr. and Mrs. James Watson and Ester Peterson, May, 1941.



People journeyed to Lac du Bonnet for a hockey game. Mrs. Bill Gillies, Miss Terrel, our first teacher; Mrs. J. Bloor, Ray Gibson, Mrs. Campbell, Stanley Johnson, Ray McLeod and Mrs. Watson.



Christmas party at the old log schoolhouse with the entire child population of Pinawa present at that time (1914).

school was a one room log cabin with a big pot bellied stove in one corner. Many a cold winter day we had to do our lessons around the stove to keep warm. Our first teacher as I remember was Miss Terrel and there were just nine pupils. The first school bell was just a triangle made by the blacksmith.

There was no recreation hall at that time so all concerts, dances and church services were held in the school. Later on, a warehouse was renovated and made into a very nice hall. For music, we now had a player piano, so with several accordions and a couple of violins we did very well. Our dances were always well attended and the Halloween and Christmas concerts were something we all looked forward to. We had a hockey team by now and later a curling rink. So with tennis (which practically everyone played) and the old swimming hole in the summer, our lives were far from dull.

As time went on Edith moved to Winnipeg, met and married a Scotsman, Bill McLennan. They had five children who spent most of their summers at Pinawa with Grandma and Grandpa Watson. Anne married Bert Clarke at Pinawa. I'm sure a lot of people in Lac du Bonnet will remember them. They had two daughters, Marion and Betty-



1st prize winning garden at Seven Sisters Falls - home of Harry Hudson.

Anne, who attended school in Pinawa before the family finally moved to Winnipeg. I married Harry Hudson and we had seven children. Raymond, Donald, the twins Allan and Marjorie, George, Brian and Patricia Anne. The two older boys were in the last war and I'm sorry to say that Donald lost his life, the latter part of the war. He is buried in Holland.

Soon after we were married we had moved onto a farm a couple of miles down river while Harry still worked at the power house. We lived there ten years but finally moved to Seven Sisters. My father had retired and was in Winnipeg. Both he and Mother passed on many years ago. Harry passed away in 1960 after a lengthy illness and Edith's husband died a few years ago.

So that's my story of Pinawa. It's hard to believe such a lovely little place is no more, the power house demolished and the green lawns just rubble. We have many memories, however, like Dad getting out the accordion on winter evenings and playing the old songs and hymns. I remember most of them! Ester and Pete Peterson dropping in for a spot of tea. They lived next door. Or maybe the Pearsons arriving for a visit or a game of cards with my parents while we children played outside. Later, the Walsh family moved next door. May (Wade) and I became great friends and still are.

On Sunday evenings most people took a walk across the dam after church. I never tired of that walk and we would stand for ages gazing at the dam which was very beautiful with its little islands. I could go on and on.

Yes, we made many life long friends at Pinawa. We can't bring it back but we can remember.

Submitted by:  
Dorothy (Dollie) Hudson  
nee Watson

**Editor's Note:** In January 1935 I did my two week's practise teaching at Pinawa School and stayed at the home of Mrs. Hudson's parents. One of my assignments was to teach a new song from the Music Reader each day. I chose "Cherries are

Ripe" for Grade I. I ended with "Love's Old Sweet Song" so Mr. Watson called me "Sweet Adeline". I remember, also, Mrs. Watson's delicious butter tarts and the "cozy glow" in the bedroom, a round electric heater new to me.

Mr. Steeves was the teacher then. Mr. Bailey, Misses Bass, Crease, Coleman, Eliza Jane Chambers who married Mr. Stratton, an electrician and Jean Wallace, who married Mr. Woodman, the superintendent, all taught at the first log school, Mrs. Hudson tells me.

In later years, Mrs. Marion Hilliard taught in Pinawa and is well remembered. One Christmas she wrote a poem called "Pinawa Hill" to put on her greeting cards. Two verses of it follow, thanks to Dollie Hudson.

### Pinawa Hill

Heed all residents who gladly thrill  
As from the height of our majestic hill  
You view the beauteous vast expanse  
Of forest, river, rock — heaven's entrance  
Charming Pinawa.

As forever purposeful on its melodious seaward  
way (the river)

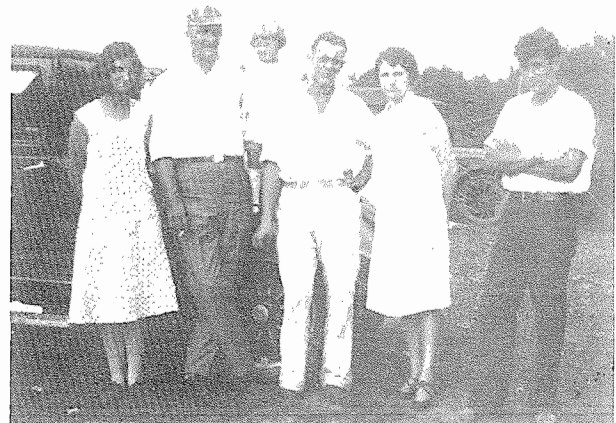
We ponder on the progressive changing day  
To meet man's ever-incessant growing need,  
This symphony demolished scrapped,  
Let us succeed

Preserving Pinawa.

Mary Hilliard  
Pinawa, Manitoba  
1931

### THE WENTZ FAMILY

Mark, born 1890 in Grafton, North Dakota was raised with four brothers and four sisters in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Ann (née Hammelsmith), born in 1891 near Winnipeg, was also reared in Grand Forks along with four brothers and a step-sister.



L to R: Marguerite, Mark, Pearl, Edward, Ann, Earl.

Mark and Ann were married in Grand Forks in 1910, remaining there for a few years where their first son, Edward was born and then moving on to Edmonton, Alberta where Earl and Marguerite joined the unit. Mark then moved the family to Winnipeg for a number of years and, in 1922 to Pinawa where he was employed as an electrician and later as superintendent of the Pinawa power plant until its closure. The other children, Kenneth and Pearl, were born at Pinawa.

The Wentz family all were lovers of music and many delightful hours were spent together with Mark "fiddling" the violin; Ann on ukulele; Edward on cornet; Earl on either drums or saxophone and Marguerite leading the way on the piano. Mark enjoyed hunting, curling and socializing. Ann enjoyed gardening and sewing, and took great pride in her family and home . . . but imagine her amazement one day when she found a horse paying a visit as Earl had managed to coax his "critter" up the five front stairs, through the verandah and into the front door of their brick home, before the "halt" was ordered. Mark and Ann continued their love of travel and in vacation times greatly enjoyed maintaining family ties across the continent.

As the Pinawa School was an elementary setting, arrangements had to be made for the children to complete high school elsewhere. Edward went to live with relatives in Grand Forks for this period of time. Pearl was sent to Winnipeg and Earl and Marguerite attended the Lac du Bonnet High

School.

Transportation to Lac du Bonnet, the health and business centre of the region, often posed a problem in the early years. For the most part, horses were used for travel, but various other means were tried. Edward and Earl were instrumental for instance, in constructing a snowmobile which was short-lived when it overturned near the Pinawa store. Also, Mark bought a small car and when it became bogged down in either snow or mud, the three or four men who rode in it, simply placed it in the "go" position again.

Edward married Margaret Smith of Winnipeg and they made their home there.

Earl married Margaret McGuff of Winnipeg. They raised their three children, Mark, Gary and Jeanne in that city.

Marguerite married John Coone of Winnipeg and had one son, John. They now reside in Vernon, British Columbia.

Pearl married Bill Maskell of Winnipeg and they raised their two children, AnneLeigh and Bill, there. The former has carried on the musical tradition of her aunt Marguerite, so well remembered in the Pinawa community.

Many endearing memories of family and friends are retained by Marguerite and Pearl, who now survive this close family, broken by the death of Mark in 1954, Ann in 1961 and their brothers Kenneth (1925), Earl (1976) and Edward (1978).

Submitted by Pearl Maskell  
September 1978.



Old Pinawa School



New Pinawa School



Pinawa School — June 1929



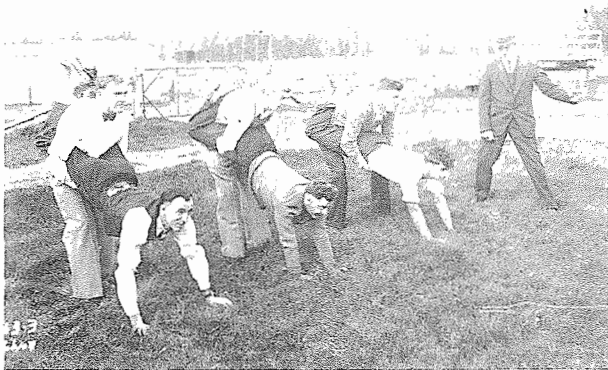
Pinawa Halloween Masquerade



Pinawa Town Site



Tennis court in Old Pinawa — 1914.



Activities at the 25th anniversary celebrations.





# *Pointe du Bois*

**Yesterday's isolation presented problems  
and novel ways to circumvent them**  
by Shath Square

Pointe du Bois, a community of 300 people, situated on the Winnipeg River in the Whiteshell area of eastern Manitoba, is a town that is different. Though set in the wilderness, electric power provides the town with modern conveniences.

Unlike most Manitoba towns, which are characterized by a main street extending into an unlimited field of wheat, Pointe du Bois is so rugged there isn't enough flat ground for a softball field and not a blade of wheat is grown.

## **Site Of Hydro Plant**

Pointe du Bois is a company town, site of the Winnipeg Hydro electrical power plant. Most members of the community work directly or indirectly for the plant.

Forty years ago residents lived in near isolation. Their only link to the nearest town, Lac du Bonnet, was the 25 miles of private railway owned and operated by Winnipeg Hydro. Transportation to and from Lac du Bonnet was provided by a gas bus fitted with steel wheels so it could run on the railway track. Because of numerous curves and hills running time for the journey was at least one hour.

Few people became ill in those days; they simply didn't dare to. With no resident doctor, dentist or nurse anyone who took sick had to wait at least an hour for Dr. J. S. Wood from Lac du Bonnet. When telephoned the doctor would jump into the model "T" Ford (fitted with steel wheels) and drive the 25 miles on the track to make his call. Since the car was not built basically for this kind of travel, it occasionally fell off the track and the doctor would have to jack it back on or walk the rest of the way. In later years, for winter calls, the doctor "went modern" and built what probably was the forerunner of today's snowmobile. He designed, with skis and airplane body, a vehicle motivated by a propeller. In this contraption he drove on the snow between the tracks.

With only one store which lacked refrigeration, fresh meat was impossible to preserve. It became a ritual for residents to shoot a moose or deer each fall to provide fresh meat for the winter. No animal was shot for its antlers. Meat not immediately eaten was preserved in glass sealers for later consumption. A diet of moose meat turned out healthy residents!

Winter recreation centred on the community hall where whist drives, dances and concerts were held. The New Year's Eve dance, a masquerade affair, was the big event of the year. Residents would vie with one another to see who could make the most original costume. One year a male member passed himself off so well as a woman that he received a proposal from one of the young gallants.

Like many Manitoba towns, curling was the favorite winter sport. The rink, with two sheets, had natural ice. With the wide range of temperatures the ice heaved badly; it required a high degree of skill to get a rock into the 12-foot ring, let alone on the button.

Summer sports were boating, fishing, swimming and tennis. Tennis was the most popular. The court was made of concrete slabs and was hard on footwear. The late J. W. Sanger, an ardent player, wore out six pairs of tennis shoes in one season.

With no beach in the area, residents learned to swim well or not at all. An exciting but dangerous game was to swim through the rapids below the power plant for about half a mile down the river and catch a small rock that broke the surface. If you missed the rock you swam across the river and walked home.

## **Miles Of Wilderness**

From the townsite to Boundary Falls on the Ontario border, 35 miles of wilderness extended along the Winnipeg River. It provided unlimited fishing and boating. One of the pleasures in those days was to cruise slowly down the river in the evening and watch numerous deer and moose feeding in the bays and inlets.

The only transportation in the town itself was a horse and wagon driven by the late John McGraw. There were no automobiles, not even a bicycle.



Aerial view of Power Plant and town site - Pointe du Bois.

The horse and wagon were used to pick up freight from the post office to deliver around the town. There was great excitement one year when several residents decided to buy cars: not to drive in the town, since roads were unsuitable and there was no where to go, but to drive around Lac du Bonnet.

On Wednesday and Friday evenings the gas bus would go to Lac du Bonnet to meet the CPR train from Winnipeg and pick up passengers and freight for Pointe du Bois. The bus had a two-hour layover. Car-owners would travel to Lac du Bonnet, drive around the town for the two hours, garage their cars, then return to Pointe du Bois.

Weekday entertainment consisted of meeting the bus from Lac du Bonnet. Passes were required to ride on the bus, as there was no hotel at Pointe du Bois. Passengers that did arrive usually were people that you'd seen every day for at least 10 years.

Occasionally a resident would bring a relative from the big city of Winnipeg. If the visitor was a young lady the local swains were in an uproar. For some, a four-day visit ended in marriage and a lifelong stay.

As they get older most children want to earn some money. In cities it's usually a paper route. At Pointe du Bois running a trap line was the most lucrative task. After 4 p.m. with the school day

over, children could be seen skinning muskrats and weasels they had caught. With muskrats at 65 cents a skin, it took a lot of trapping to make pin money.

### End Of Isolation

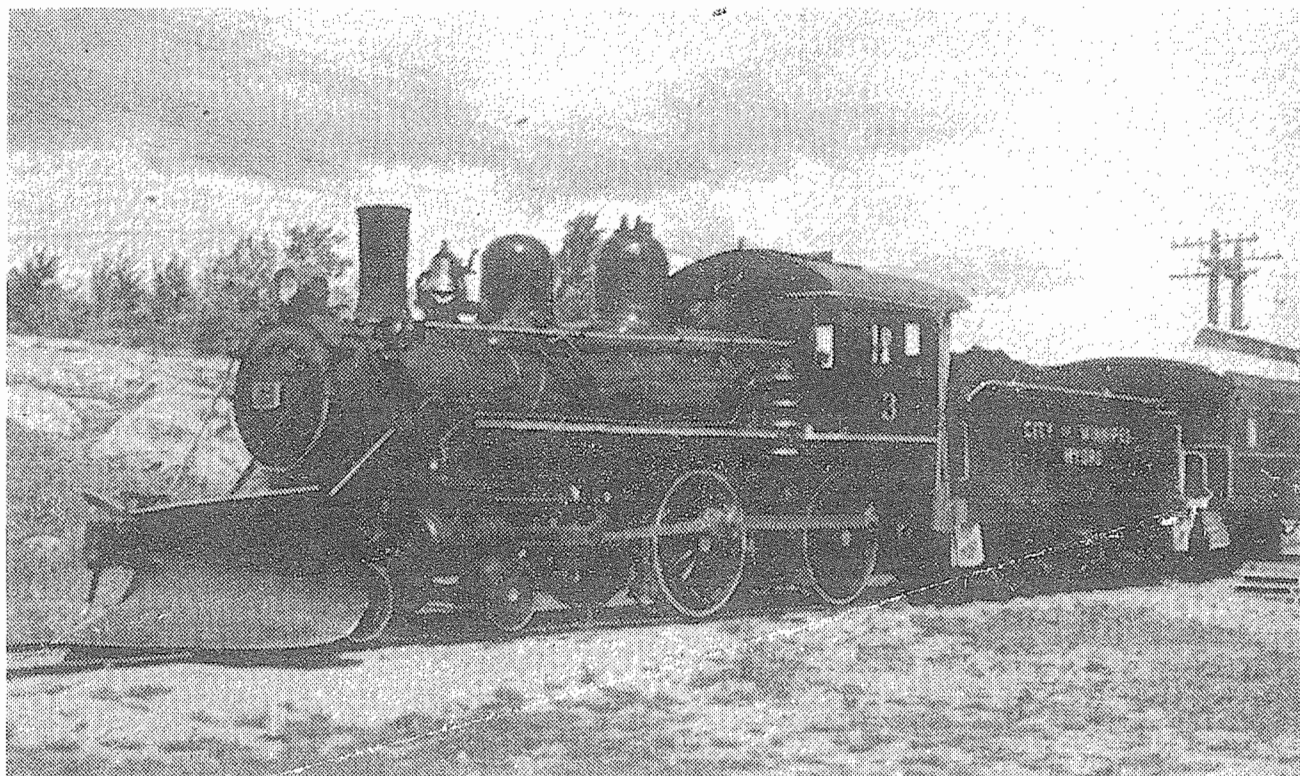
Though life was pleasant for some, others found the isolation difficult. The government was approached to build a road from Lac du Bonnet. Months went by and nothing happened. The community decided to build their own road. With no power equipment, residents surveyed and actually cut through several miles of bush to begin the highway in their spare time. Finally the government built the road, and today people can drive from Pointe du Bois to Winnipeg.

With the road constructed, there was the inevitable invasion of tourists. Where small trails crept along the river a highway now runs, lined with summer cottages. A tourist camp stands where trap lines were laid. The bays and inlets where the deer and moose fed now are clogged with boats.

Change must come, and change usually benefits the majority.

But I know, as many others, that we had the best of it.





### LOCOMOTIVE NO. 3

— Out of the past and into the present-day plans of promoters of our heritage. The spirit of centennial year carries on!

Recent discussions by Winnipeg city council on the merits of using Locomotive No. 3, the oldest operating steam locomotive in North America, to haul tourists around Winnipeg as a centennial project, brought back many nostalgic memories.

In her prime, from 1919 to 1927, No. 3 hauled freight and passengers over the 25 miles of private railway owned by Winnipeg Hydro. The railway ran between the villages of Pointe du Bois and Lac du Bonnet in eastern Manitoba.

The trip from Pointe du Bois to Lac du Bonnet wasn't only a journey in those days: It was an adventure.

#### Quick Breakfast

We would rise at 4 a.m., dress and have breakfast quickly to catch No. 3, which left Pointe du Bois at 5 a.m. The early departure was necessary so passengers who wanted to continue to Winnipeg could catch the CPR train which left Lac du Bonnet at 8.

Under the guidance of Peter Riddle or engineer Percy Laurie, No. 3 would pull out of the Pointe du Bois station with its one passenger coach to negotiate the 25 miles of track and — by actual count — the 67 curves in it.

#### Informative Engineer

When Mr. Laurie, an avid hunter, was engineer, he always made a point of keeping his passengers informed of what was going on up ahead. As we approached Mile 5, we would listen expectantly for Mr. Laurie to give a short blast on No. 3's whistle. When we heard it, we would rush to the windows. It meant he had spotted some game. And, sure enough, we would be treated to the sight of a large moose lumbering off into the woods or a big buck darting off in fright.

Mr. Laurie repeated this at miles 10 and 16, also good hunting spots. It wasn't unusual to see six or eight deer and several moose during the trip.

No. 3's greatest obstacle in its journey was a 500-foot hill. Fortunately, there was a good half-mile of straight track before the bottom of the hill. An air of excitement would grip the passengers as the locomotive gathered speed to assault the hill and words of encouragement would be shouted by younger passengers. No. 3 never failed to reach the top, though its panting would often approach a wheeze as its speed was reduced to a point where you could walk comfortably alongside.

Three miles from Lac du Bonnet it had to cross the Winnipeg River over a wooden bridge about 600 feet long. Shortly after the bridge was built in 1908, a locomotive had crashed through, killing the engineer. The bridge was rebuilt and reinforced but as a safety measure, No. 3's passengers got out before it towed the empty coach over. The passengers would walk across the bridge and reboard the train on the other side.

### **The Bridge Walk**

A walk across the bridge on an early summer morning could be quite pleasant, but at 11 p.m. with the temperature at 30 below and strong winds from the Winnipeg River sweeping over the bridge, the walk could be most unpleasant.

Though the idea of No. 3 towing tourists around Winnipeg may seem a novelty, it's really old hat. It pulled flatcars of tourists from Lac du Bonnet to Pointe du Bois between 1924 and 1927. In those days Winnipeg Hydro ran one-day excursions to view its power plant at Pointe du Bois.

### **Passengers' Problems**

At Lac du Bonnet, visitors boarded open flatcars, which had nothing more than a few two-by-fours thrown up to support a beaverboard roof. Long wooden benches running down the centre of the flatcars provided seating accommodations. If the weather was good, the trip could be most enjoyable. If it rained, passengers arrived huddled together like sheep in a pasture during a snow storm. The major discomfort was from the cinders and ashes blown from No. 3's smoke stack as it struggled with the tortuous curves and hills to Pointe du Bois.

Plans for No. 3 are still uncertain. Still, I do hope, even if it never runs again, that it will at least be given a place of honor so those who knew it can recapture its spirit when it was sovereign of the 25 miles of railroad between Pointe du Bois and Lac du Bonnet.

### **MR. AND MRS. EDWIN (TEDDY) LODGE THE '70' TWO from Around the Hydro Circuit May 1972**

We would like to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Edwin (Teddy) F. Lodge on the occasion of their Wedding Anniversary, which was on May 17th. It isn't too often we give recognition to such occasions, but, with "Teddy" being a long time Hydro pensioner coupled with the fact it was their 70th Anniversary, we felt it should be mentioned. Amazing as it may seem, Mr. and Mrs. Lodge were married in Surbiton, Surrey, England, on May 17th, 1902... before any of us presently employed by the Hydro were born!

Teddy was first associated with Hydro when he left his family to look for work in Canada in 1910. He found a job with a contractor, building transmission towers for the line between Pointe du Bois and Winnipeg. Following his employment with them, he took a job working for a contractor during construction of the CNR Transcona Shops.

On February 1, 1912, he joined the Winnipeg Hydro as a Patrolman in Transmission Lines. As he now had permanent employment, he sent for his wife and three sons and they settled at the "Pointe". This was the start of a long family relationship with Winnipeg Hydro that exists to this day.

In following years, the three boys were joined by two more brothers and two sisters... the Lodge



Lac du Bonnet Ladies vs. Pointe du Bois at the Pointe (Bus on track), late 30's.

work force was well under way. Today, five of these children still survive. One of the sons, "Bill", was formerly a Tester and Repairer with Distribution Engineering, he retired on pension on August 7, 1970. Another son, Roland, is a Leading Mechanic in our Substations Maintenance Division and a third son, Percy, is a Heavy Maintenance Foreman at the Power Plants. Both daughters, Mrs. Margaret Hodge and Mrs. Violet Anderson, reside in Winnipeg and are married to Hydro employees. Two older sons have since passed away.

Two grandsons are also employees of Winnipeg Hydro, they are Roland Hodge, who is an Apprentice Mechanic in the Substations Equipment and Building Maintenance Division and Allen Lodge, who is an Electrician's Helper in the same division. A great-grandson, Reg Byman, is a Meterman Apprentice in our Meter Division. In all, Mr. and Mrs. Lodge have 15 grandchildren and 34 great-grandchildren.

In his early years with Hydro, Mr. Lodge patrolled our transmission lines by saddle horse,

working out of both Lac du Bonnet and Lee River, as well as the Pointe. He was an ardent curler while at the Pointe, but gave that up after retirement, in favour of bowling. He was still bowling while in his 80's, but has since had to give that up too. Some may find it hard to believe, but Teddy has been on pension since May 15, 1946. At that time he moved to Winnipeg, then went back to Pointe du Bois for a few years before finally settling in Winnipeg.

Mr. Lodge, who is 91 years old, and his wife who is 88, reside in their own home in Elmwood. Outside of some help they receive from relatives, with gardening and other such chores, they are quite self sufficient. Mrs. Lodge, as a matter of fact, is still spry enough to make the odd trip downtown on her own.

So, along with the many congratulations they have received, including a message from the Prime Minister of Canada and one from Winnipeg Mayor, Stephen Juba, we would once again like to add Winnipeg Hydro's sincere congratulations, to this grand old Hydro couple.



Myrtle Brownell, Ester Peterson, New Year's Eve in the 1920's.



'Pete' Peterson, New Year's Eve, in the 1920's.



Pointe du Bois teacher - Miss Crease, Christmas concert.



Senior Boys Hockey Pointe du Bois - L-R.: Back - H. Eby, C. Anderson, E. Marcus, G. More, J. Hansen, Mr. Jackson, J. Laurie, H. Williams, B. More, F. Hawkes, V. Hawkes, Walter Murch, Art Smith, Roy Lodge, Ed Preece.

### THE HAWKES FAMILY

Edward John (Jack) Hawkes was born in London, England in 1887, and was the first son of Edward Hawkes, who owned and operated a Box-building establishment in Luton. In 1911, while reading glowing accounts of Canada being a Land of Opportunity, his father decided that Jack, who by then had learned the trade, should go to Canada to learn what he could about Canadian lumber.

Consequently, along with several members of the Howcroft family, he arrived in Lac du Bonnet. There they joined Robert Howcroft and his son who had come some time earlier and settled on a grant of land or "homestead" at 6-mile Siding, near the C.P.R. tracks leading to Lac du Bonnet.

After working at various jobs in and around Lac du Bonnet, Jack eventually obtained employment with J.D. McArthur, who operated the local Sawmill and Lumber business. His first job was that of "Cookee", later on he worked with the horses and mules used in operating the lumber mill.

At this time he and Elizabeth Howcroft, the eldest daughter of Robert Howcroft, whom he had met and courted before leaving England, decided to be married and make their home in Canada. Since her arrival from England, Elizabeth had been

employed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R.M. Campbell, who owned and operated the General Merchants Store in Lac du Bonnet.

So, on May 7th., 1913, Edward John Hawkes and Elizabeth Howcroft were united in marriage in the Anglican Church at Lac du Bonnet. Their first home was one of several houses owned by J. B. Letain on the location now known as First Street, where in March, 1914, their first son, Robert Edward (Ted) was born.

At this time, construction of the City of Winnipeg Hydro Electric Power Plant at Pointe du Bois was being completed and Mr. Hawkes obtained work as a Groundman in March 1915. The family then moved into a larger house, also owned by J. B. Letain, on the site where Casey's Motor Motel now stands. Here, in January, 1916, their second son, Valentine George (Val) was born.

Later on, as the work progressed, it became necessary for the family to move again, this time to the Brokenhead River area, where living accommodations consisted of a few tents. One of the larger ones, that had the sides boarded halfway up with lumber became their home for the summer, and it was here, in July, 1917, that their third son, William Frederick (Fred) was born. It was a trying time for the family, having to contend with the lack of proper facilities, and also with the heat, flies and mosquitoes. However, they all survived and in October moved into a new home near the Tyndall Substation, where Mr. Hawkes had obtained employment as an Operator.

After nearly two years spent at Tyndall the family made their final move in May, 1919, to the community of Pointe du Bois, a new home, and a job in the practically new city of Winnipeg Hydro Electric Power Plant. The community was located in one of the most beautiful areas of Manitoba, with the historic Winnipeg River curving its way through, and high rocks covered with trees of many species surrounding the area. Archaeologists claim that the oldest rock yet discovered anywhere is at Pointe du Bois, 1,800 million years old.

Although there was no road at the time, transportation to the nearest town, Lac du Bonnet,

approximately twenty-five miles to the southwest was no problem. At the beginning of the construction, a railway had been built, primarily for hauling building materials, machinery and supplies necessary for the new powerhouse, and this was also used to convey the people to and from in a Tramway Bus. This vehicle was especially fitted with wheels similar to those on a locomotive, enabling it to stay on the rails. There was also the locomotive, at that time believed to be the oldest operating steam locomotive in Canada, and remembered with nostalgia by oldtimers who called it the "Muskeg Limited". A coach was attached when it was used for carrying passengers, and many who were youngsters at that time, as well as the adults have memories of the occasions, some happy and exciting, as well as some sad, when trips were taken "out". When the highway was finally built during the late forties and early fifties, and the Pointe Railway was removed, our locomotive was taken to Winnipeg, renamed the "Prairie Dog Special" and is presently being used to convey sightseers around the city.

Even though the community might have been considered isolated by some, the pioneers enjoyed it to the fullest extent. The homes were equipped with the most modern facilities, there was a Community Store owned and operated by resident shareholders, a three-roomed schoolhouse, and a church that was built by the residents themselves from materials supplied by the Hydro, where people of all denominations worshipped. There was also a large Recreation Hall, where the members of the Community Club operated and maintained a weekly picture show, and also organized dances, card parties, concerts and other festive events.

For recreation in the summer, there was fishing or travelling up the river to picnic on one of the many beauty spots, also swimming for all ages, the older people teaching the younger ones. Baseball was played by men, women and children alike, and there was also a Tennis Court for those who enjoyed the game. Many of the people were avid gardeners, and there was never a lack of vegetables fresh from the garden, or a beautiful bouquet of flowers for any occasion during the summer months.

In the winter time many of the boys were interested in hockey, so they would bring out their shovels and brooms and clear off a large area on the river where they could practice the game. Later on, they cleared a patch of ground, fenced it with lumber supplied by the Hydro, and made a regulation skating rink, which was occupied all winter by skaters of all ages, and on which many an exciting hockey game was played. There were always plenty of "fans", especially when out of town teams came in, to cheer on the home team, and many

heated discussions took place in the old railway coach which had been utilized as a skating shack. Curling was also a very popular game, and many older people considered snowshoeing to be an enjoyable pastime, while the younger ones enjoyed skiing down the snow covered rocks.

The Hawkes family settled in their new home, soon becoming involved in the various activities, and forming friendships that lasted their lifetimes. Eventually, following the custom, another son Arthur John (Art) arrived at the new home in August, 1927.

In due time, the four boys completed their education in the Community school, Ted later going into Winnipeg and taking a Business Course. Returning to the Pointe, he started work in the Power Plant, eventually becoming the Operating Supervisor. He married the former Win Chable, and they had a family of three boys, Ian, Rick, and Gregg. Later on, the family moved to Winnipeg, where Ted became Supervisor of Technical Standards and Procedures for the Winnipeg Hydro. Their three sons are now all married and living in Winnipeg.

When Val finished school, he worked at various jobs with the Feldspar Mines on the Winnipeg River. Eventually he obtained work as a laborer with the Winnipeg Hydro in 1940. Over the years he worked at various jobs in both the Pointe du Bois and Slave Falls Power Plants, and in March, 1973 he became Superintendent of Power Plants. He is married to the former Eileen Neily, and they have a family of three, Alan, Valerie and John. They are all married now and all are living in Manitoba.

Fred first worked in the Pointe du Bois Supply Company Store, later joining the Armed Forces, where he served until the end of World War II. After his discharge he obtained employment with the C.P.R., first as a driver, and then in the Shipping Department, where he eventually became foreman. He is married to the former Margaret Stevens and they have two sons. Both are married, Doug living in Winnipeg and Ken with the Airforce in Saskatchewan.

When Art left school he joined the Canadian Army, later transferring to the Airforce, where he eventually reached the rank of Major before retiring recently in B.C. He is married to the former Marie Holsteinand. They have four children, Sandra, Kirk, Brad and Kal, living in various parts of Canada.

Mr. Hawkes continued to work in the Power Plants, eventually as an Operator, until his untimely death in 1949, at the age of 62 years. Mrs. Hawkes stayed on at her home in the Pointe, working in the residence until retiring at the age of 70. She passed away in Winnipeg, in 1973, in her



eighty-first year.

They leave many happy memories of the past for their four sons, twelve grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren.

Eileen R. Hawkes

### THE STANLEY HODGE FAMILY

by Annie Hodge

I was born in Lancashire, England in 1895 and came to Winnipeg in 1903. I attended Isbister School until 1905 when we moved to Selkirk where my Dad, Wm. Holliday worked on the Locks. Then we moved to Pointe du Bois in 1908 where my Dad built the first engineer's residence.

I married in 1912. My husband came from Bristol, England. We had three sons, Dave, Ken and Bryant and one daughter, Florence. I now have seventeen grandchildren and twenty-four great-grandchildren.

The land we originally owned in Lac du Bonnet now has a road around it to the river end on which my sons Dave and Bryant live, and across from them, grandsons, Norman and Garth live.

I always enjoyed my days in Lac du Bonnet. My husband was the first Santa Claus to drive around town in a cutter belonging to Mr. McIntosh using the horse from the milk delivery van. They toured the streets giving the children candy. Everything went fine until they came to a street where no milk was delivered. Then the horse absolutely refused to go down that street, (no milk, no candy!).

#### William Holliday:

William Holliday first arrived at the Pointe in 1908, and erected the first building "The Residence." Thus he is "The Old Timer of Pointe du Bois." His great characteristic is his willingness to help anyone and everyone in any way possible. A few years ago he commenced harvesting the wild rice from Rice Lake, and was the inventor and builder of the "Wild Rice Harvester." He is interested in photography, chicken farming, canary raising, and boat building. Always happy and smiling, Bill Holliday is one of the best loved members of our community.

The above paragraph was taken from an article entitled "Introducing William Holliday" from a Hydro publication.

### SAMUEL SHATH-SQUARE

Samuel Shath-Square was born in the village of Thurlestone, a few miles from Plymouth on the South coast of England.

When he emigrated to Canada he soon found that hyphenated English surnames were not popular in Canada, so he dropped the hyphen and became Sam Square.

His first job in Canada was working with a survey party in what is now St. Vital. In fact Ellesmere Avenue in St. Vital was named by him after his school in England.

In 1916 he applied for a job with the Winnipeg City Hydro as an electrician. The Hydro said there was an opening at Pointe du Bois but the applicant had to be a married man. My father immediately proposed to my mother on a Friday afternoon, they were married on Saturday, and left for the Pointe that evening where they lived for the next 40 years.

Sam Square was an ardent curler, an excellent tennis player and big game hunter. He participated in many curling matches at Lac du Bonnet, Great Falls and Pinawa. He enjoyed living at the Pointe where he could enjoy the many outdoor activities the town provided.

Sam eventually became superintendent of the Pointe du Bois and Slave Falls power plants.

He died in 1959 at the age of seventy.

### MRS. OLIVIA MARGARET SQUARE

Mrs. Square's maiden name was Coutanche. She was born in Jersey in the Channel Islands.

At 18 she went to England and took her teacher's training at Salisbury Teacher's Training College. After graduation she taught in a small village in England.

The lure of the great Canadian West tempted her, so she came to Canada where she taught in several Saskatchewan schools. Later she taught in Winnipeg school. Her first class had 75 students, none of whom could speak English. Her job was to teach them English.

In Winnipeg she lived with Miss Margaret Crease (later Mrs. Thomas Broughton) who taught at the Pointe for a number of years.

Mrs. Square, Mrs. Peter Riddell and Mrs. John McGillvray often took daily walks along the railway track accompanied by every dog in the Pointe. On one memorable occasion, they were so engrossed in their talk and gossip that they were suddenly surprised to see a bridge in front of them. It was the Lee River bridge. They had walked 18 miles!

Mrs. Square enjoyed the outdoor life at the



Pointe. She was a keen curler and tennis player. Mrs. Square is now in the West Park Manor nursing home in Winnipeg. She celebrated her 92nd birthday this year.

### HELIER SHATH-SQUARE

Helier Shath-Square lived at Pointe du Bois from 1917-1932. He left Pointe du Bois in 1933 to attend school in Winnipeg and University of Manitoba.

At the outbreak of World War II, he joined the navy and served with the Royal Navy for five years. He did convoy work with the Royal Navy around the African coast. Landed on D day four hours after opening assault. After the war, he joined Air Canada and worked for the company for 25 years.

Shath served as civilian aide-de-camp to His Honour Lieut.-Governor Richard S. Bowles for a period of five years.

At present he works as the Inventory Control Manager for Princess Auto and Machinery in Winnipeg.

He does professional writing as a hobby, it must be in the family. My wife has written and sold stories. My daughter Johanne is a journalist with the Vancouver Sun in Vancouver and my son David is a free-lance writer.

### THE POINTE HONORS FALLEN AND RETURNED VETERANS

by Alex Brown

The people of Pointe du Bois through the medium of their community Club staged a Welcome Home party in the hall for those of their members who served in the forces during those grim years between 1939 and 1945 and into 1946 on Monday evening, November 11th, Remembrance Day.

There were forty-four men and five women who answered the call from here and of these, seven men paid the supreme sacrifice. In respect to their memory and in tribute to their honor a period of silence and contemplation was observed. S. F. Long, President of the Club in a few words expressed his pleasure in welcoming the veterans and also at seeing such a large attendance for the event. He then introduced F. Malby, assistant Manager

of the City Hydro as guest speaker of the evening.

Mr. Malby thanked the President and members for having given him the opportunity to be present on this occasion as he felt it an honor to welcome the boys, to renew old acquaintances and to meet new friends. He spoke on the splendid contribution which this community had made to the war effort, both in the number of men and women who had given their services and of the work done at home. He also stressed the personal interest which Mr. Sanger, General Manager of the Hydro had in all the returned men and women and conveyed his best wishes to the present gathering. Mr. Malby then presented to each one of the returned personnel an initialled wallet as a gift from the Club.

Those present to receive them were Ole Fors, Arthur and Fred Hawkes, Johnny Hunt, Bill Karklin, Keino Keola, Holgar Larsen, Jimmy Laurie, Bob Lodge, Roy Lodge, Eddie and Harold Marcus, Bill McCraw, Alex, David and George Moore, George Shand, Harry Smith, Max Spigelman, Jack Upritchard, Howard and Russell Williams and Helen Laurila. The gifts were forwarded to the others who were unable to attend. J. H. Brownell, K. N. Brownell, J. L. Clarke, E. Cleven, C. Connell, Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Hodge, K. Kushak, G. K. MacDonald, A. N. McCruden, W. K. McLeod, R. B. More, L. and W. Pruden, H. S. Square, Mrs. G. McGee, and the Misses V. Laurie and O. North.

Flowers were sent to the parents of those who laid down their lives in the conflict: H. Glassco, H. Grierson, S. Laurila, C. Mayo, R. J. McCruden, S. Palmer and J. Sanger.

Mr. Long thanked Mr. Malby for his address of welcome and for his services at this function. Mr. M. Spigelman responded on behalf of the boys and conveyed the thanks and appreciation of them all for the gifts and also for the many kindnesses accorded to them while they were away by the people at home. Another feature of the evening was the introduction to the gathering of Mrs. George More, a bride who recently arrived from Scotland to join her husband. Refreshments were served and dancing followed and everyone had such a wonderful time that it was three before all could be persuaded to go home. The committee in charge of this function certainly succeeded in doing an excellent job and were to be congratulated for it.

Archives, Springfield Leader.  
November 19th, 1946.

# Great Falls

## THE STORY OF GREAT FALLS By The High School "Beaver Club"

Permission has been received from the Publisher of "The Story of Great Falls" to use the information contained therein in writing "The Story of Lac du Bonnet", or whatever title may be given to this treatise. For this we are most grateful.

We would like to thank Miss Margaret Busch in particular. It was her original idea. Again, we would like to thank the boys and girls of the Great Falls School for their effort in gathering the information required in order to make it a success.

"The Story of Great Falls" is an excellent little history without which much of what went on in former years might have been lost forever. It is for this reason we are most thankful to all those responsible for the existence of this little book and finally for its distribution to those who were interested at the time it was published.

A.W.H. Lee

### Foreword

The pupils of the Great Falls High School take great pleasure in dedicating this little volume to the pioneers of Great Falls, Manitoba, and acknowledge with thanks the help that they have been given in collecting their material.

Margaret C. Busch  
Principal



### GREAT FALLS

It stands on the bank of a river,  
A peaceful town so to say;  
And though it change with the ages  
I'll remember it that way.

The houses with their matching roofs  
All turned toward the sky;  
Revealing tales, unknown to me,  
To the clouds that sail on high.

The low beach, where all do swim  
Is filled by old and small;  
While the waves rush and sparkle  
Midst the sound of a seagull's call.

It may seem queer to strangers  
But those who know it from birth  
Treasure its natural beauties,  
For to them it's Heaven on earth.

By Belle Fraser.

### EARLY TRANSPORTATION IN GREAT FALLS

In 1912 my father, John Thompson Forbes and David Wm. Johnston left Winnipeg by C.P.R. to see their homesteads on the Winnipeg River, east of Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba. At Lac du Bonnet they procured an Indian guide, Isbister by name,

and they left the Lake by portaging at McArthur Falls and then again at Grand du Bonnet Falls, where the Winnipeg Electric Power plant now stands. The next year they had the same guide and this time he brought along his wife. The description my father gave us included a near fight between the guide and his wife over a bottle of whiskey. However peace was soon restored.

In 1914 they decided to walk. There was a trail from Fort Alexander to Lac du Bonnet. From the present road you can see evidences of this trail especially when nearing Pine Falls. Along the trail, here and there were small log buildings where travellers could get in out of bad weather or spend the night under shelter. They were small and not very high, in fact some looked as if one would have to get on their hands and knees to enter but at least they were a covering, even if there was only a bag nailed over an opening for a window and a make shift door to keep the snow and the wild animals out.

The company planning the power plant did some clearing and laid the tracks for a railroad, but the Great War stopped all activity for the time being.

J. D. McArthur used to run a train for taking out logs between Camp 2 and Lac du Bonnet. They were very generous in allowing travellers on their train which consisted of a series of flat cars and a caboose. It depended on where the log cutting was going on, how far the train came but it always made the trip a little shorter if one could ride a little way. We used to go to the station as early as 8 o'clock and sometimes it would be 4 p.m. before we would get going. This train only ran in the winter.

The mailman came down the river by canoe. He went from Fort Alexander to Lac du Bonnet and back, usually taking from five days to a week for the round trip. On mail days the settlers would watch for his boat in order to post their out-going mail. Usually he would come up to the house if he had a letter for you. In winter the mailman would travel by dog team. After the tracks were laid he had a hand car at mile 2 which we now know as the Y. Some settlers would use this car to go to the lake.

Mr. Johnston got a marine engine and built a gasoline car. He had the engine built in with wood and there was a board around it to stand on and four car wheels. One could get up on the board and then sit on the engine if you were careful not to sit over the opening left for the exhaust. If a passenger didn't notice this opening before the engine started he would find himself pretty uncomfortable. Not entirely satisfied with this Mr. Johnston got a Casey Jones, as it was called, from Molson. Riding on this was considered real comfort, as it had a

seat with a rail for leaning back on, all around it. A trip on these cars was always exciting, for you knew when you left home but you never knew when you would get back.

When the construction of the power plant started, engines large and small made their appearance. There was a rail line running from Great Falls to Mud Falls. The old "1000", a C.P.R. engine used to run daily. Passengers now had the privilege of riding in a box-car, through which daylight could be seen in many places. In winter there would be a stove set in a sand base, and if you were lucky you would be in the first row around the stove on a wintry night. On pay days the car would be packed so full of people that one could only marvel as to how they got the door closed. The track used to extend a bit past the Y where a huge boulder marked the end of the line. Usually the train stopped before it reached this stone but on one exciting trip the brake didn't hold and the car stopped, only when it hit the boulder. It threw the passengers but no one was hurt.

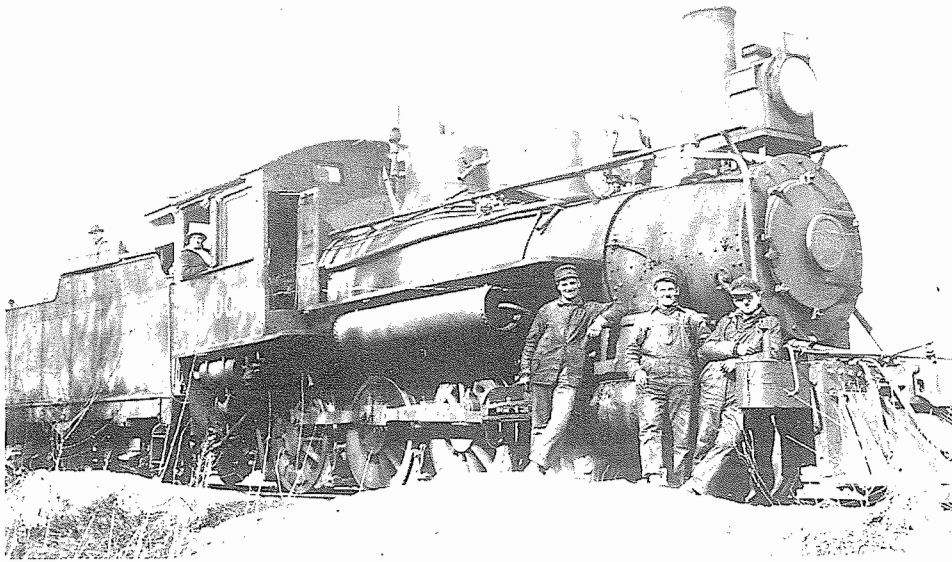
Mr. Waters used to have a wood cutting business near Mud Falls. He had a Ford car and a contraption for his wheels which enabled the car to run on the tracks. The Doctor had one of these conveyances too. The C.P.R. agent from Lac du Bonnet used to run on the tracks with a motorcycle between here and Great Falls.

One day a gasoline bus made its appearance with a schedule of some kind. Now we could leave home and have some assurance that we would be returning at a more or less definite time. Civilization seemed to have caught up with us when a gas electric bus next made its appearance.

The government decided to improve the road between Great Falls and Lac du Bonnet which until now had been merely a trail. This project brought motor transport into its own and this road is now a part of a very busy government highway, which links up with the No. 1 Highway at Seddon's Corner.

The first car was brought into the district by Oscar Sandlund, by train, and he used to go to St. George and once in a while to the pulp mill town of Pine Falls, which was then being built up. The ride there was a terrible one as there was a mile and a half of corduroy road and several mud holes which refused to dry up all summer. Mr. Samwald had a Ford car a few years later which nearly all the pioneers of Great Falls remember, because it was the only one here for years. Some of the old timers thought that should have a place on the highway as a monument to pioneer days.

By Iris Fraser  
(Through the courtesy of Mrs. L. Howes.)



Tender: Foreman at the sawmill. Cab: Mrs. Cadinac wife of "McArthurs". Manager and organist at St. John's Church. Emil Nasstrom, Fireman.

Arthur Clarke: Conductor, switchman and recorder. Frank Waters: the genial engineer of the "Muskeg Limited".

## THE WINNIPEG RIVER RAILWAY

Railroad construction in Great Falls, Manitoba was begun in 1913-14, but owing to the outbreak of war it was discontinued until the fall of 1922. The first rolling stock was Engine No. 1000, bought by the Winnipeg River Railway from The Great Northern Railway in May 1914.

The railway was operated as a separate company for a while after 1922, and then it was taken over by the Manitoba Power Company as a subsidiary. When this company became defunct and was absorbed by the Winnipeg Electric Company, the latter had control of the railway.

On Lawrence Lee's birthday the No. 1000, (shown above) and its jimmy cars was wrecked and subsequently scrapped. No one was hurt.

On April 10, 1930, the P.M. 6, full of passengers, ran through the switch at Mile 13, and out on the ice at 9 p.m.

In July 1935 the operation of the line was taken over at a rental of \$1.00 per annum from the Winnipeg River Railway Company by the Canadian Pacific Railway. This company sent its first train in under a total eclipse of the moon to be greeted by the tooting horns of all the cars in Great Falls.

Mr. S. H. McIntyre is the present agent.

## GREAT FALLS

A beautiful falls went swirling by  
And nature had its way,  
A creek joined in below it  
And everything was gay.

For many years the bubbles sprayed  
The rapids ripped and swirled,  
And among the peaceful waves  
The noiseless ripples curled.  
Then everything was blasted out,  
Dynamite did the job.  
The rocks and waves were put to rout  
And nature's joys were robbed.

The rocks were blasted from the falls  
And the boulders moved away.  
Where once was but a nature call  
The power house stands today.

Where once played this charming falls,  
From this building, great and grey,  
Comes a whistle every day, which calls  
To the men along the way.

All falls like this, where're they be,  
Can help our war to win.  
We're working for our country,  
And our hearts are true within.

By June Carlson





### THE GREAT FALLS POWER PLANT

Construction of Great Falls started in 1914 but was discontinued when World War 1 broke out. Revival of the project was undertaken in 1922, in November of that year by the Northern Construction, Fraser Brace Co. Construction was pushed rapidly forward during the spring and summer of 1923 by a gang of 2000 men. In a period of 13 months No. 1 Machine, a Hydro Electric generator of 28000 H.P. at a designed head of 56 feet was ready to deliver power to the line on January 3, 1923. This is a record of construction speed, surpassed by no other Hydro Electric Development, before or since. Most Hydro Electric developments are built in progressive stages, as a market for the sale of power is built up, and too rapid a development would make the fixed charges for idle equipment a severe drain on the financial resources of a company.

The initial development of Great Falls consisted of two machines operating at a head of 27 feet. Then in November 1927 a third machine was added followed by a fourth in 1927, which also entailed the construction of the second half of the power house. The fourth and final development consisted of the addition of two more machines in 1928 — six in all with a combined capacity of 168,000 H.P.

This rapid development was reflected in the surrounding community. The only access to eastern Manitoba at that time was the C.P.R. Railway to Lac du Bonnet. A highway was constructed from Beausejour through to Lac du Bonnet in 1923.

The Manitoba Paper Co. started construction at Pine Falls in 1926 and was in operation in 1927, using as a means of access, a railway running from Beaconia on the C.N.R. to the site of the paper plant at Manitou Rapids on the Winnipeg River.

A pioneer road running from Great Falls to the paper company's plant, now called Pine Falls was used in the early days of construction until the railway was finished. It was not until 1931 that a road was constructed connecting Lac du Bonnet with Great Falls and Pine Falls. This road passes through one of the oldest settlements in Manitoba-

St. George - which was settled after Lord Wolseley's expedition down the Winnipeg River to quell the uprising on the Red River.

The village of Great Falls was started at the time of construction in 1923, when the present general store, 8 houses, a hospital (now the guest house) and a staff house was built. In 1925 three additional houses were built, and three more in 1928. In 1929 the old staff house was torn down and the present one, the Recreation Hall and four more houses were built.

As expansion of a Hydro Electric Co. is limited to its potential energy. Further expansion at Great Falls is not to be expected, but improvements and replacements will be made as the need arises. With the development of the surrounding rural district all progress in this area would reach a maximum, unless some mining project to the north east of the power plant reached a commercial stage. Large deposits are available within a distance of 12 miles, but a market for this material would have to be secured.

In completing the head of the plant at Great Falls, it was necessary to blast out a channel through a rock ledge or ridge, two and a half miles down the river from the site. This lowered the water some ten feet and exposed sections of river bed never before seen by man and provided Great Falls with a beautiful, sandy beach within the confines of the village. The large areas of rocky outcrops, with their glacial scratches and chatter marks are of special interest to geologists.

Printed through the courtesy of  
Mrs. K. C. Fergusson.

### VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS OF GREAT FALLS

#### THE COMMUNITY CLUB

The Great Falls Community Club was organized on Thursday, January 10, 1924, in the school house with the following officers and committees: President - Mr. W. Billyard, Vice-President - Mr. A. Lee, Secretary-Treasurer - Mrs. A. Lee, Hon. President - Mr. Lewis, and Hon. Vice President - Mr. K. C. Fergusson.

Convenor of Dancing Committee - T. Simondson, Convenor of Sports Committee - Mrs. Waters, Convenor of Musical Committee - Mrs. McArthur, Convenor of Social and Refreshment Committee - the late Mrs. Samwald.

The above people were responsible for many of the good times, that we hear so much about, in the old school house, on the hill. Free dances, with music by anyone who could play, were enjoyed by all comers. A rink was made on the river and the

following excerpt from a newspaper tells of a gay Carnival!

"An ice carnival was held at Great Falls on February 8, 1924, under the auspices of the Community Club. There was a large attendance and a variety of good costumes. The following persons were given prizes:

Ladies best costume — Miss E. Kaake, Miss A. Forbes. Girl's best costume — Betty McArthur, Edith Waters. Boy's best costume — Jack Howcroft, Harold Galley. Men's race — Mr. Quennonville, Mr. Geo. Ortwein, Mr. D. Jacques. Ladies race — Miss A. Forbes, Mrs. A. Lee. Girls race 11 and under — Molly McArthur, Edith Waters, Betty McArthur. Boys race 11 and under — Palmer Ricker, Leo Touraine. Boys race 15 and under — Edmund Touraine, Ronald McArthur.

One of the most interesting events of the evening was the hockey game played by the two Great Falls teams, Amazons vs. Sheiks, the results of which was a tie 2-2. After the game refreshments were served at the rink."

The Community Club was in existence until it was replaced by the Great Falls Recreation Club in October 1929.

### THE RECREATION CLUB

The Recreation was organized on a similar basis to that of Pinawa, when the Anderson Hall was built in 1929. The first officers were: President - Mr. K. C. Fergusson, Secretary-treasurer - Mr. J. O. Jones. The purpose of the club was to promote recreational activities for the employees of the Winnipeg Electric Company and their families, as well as for those residing in the district wishing to become members of the club according to its constitution.

As a foundation, each employee subscribed 1% of his salary. This provided for picture shows for all employees and their families irrespective of size, every Saturday night.

Many other recreational activities have been built on this foundation, as the wishes of the members directed. Admission charges for these activities were left to the discretion of the committees in charge.

During the past few years the Recreation Club has interested itself in the annual Christmas program for the children, and they have provided gifts for all as well as serving lunch. To raise extra funds for this, special monthly committees were formed, who were responsible for some sort of entertainment twice a month, usually a whist drive.

Other successful activities have been dances, and the highlight of this past winter was a Cribbage Tournament. Paul Gauthier and Mrs. K. C.

Fergusson were the winners in the "A" class and M. Busch and Mrs. G. Sinnock won in the "B" class.

The present officers of the club are: President - Mr. R. McHaffie and the Secretary-treasurer - Mr. A. Ross. Mr. Harvey Battram and Mr. R. McHaffie have charge of the moving picture machine.

### THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Another Great Falls organization worthy of mention was the Women's Institute. In the spring of 1925 the need was felt for some type of Woman's organization to bring the women of the community together, both socially and for some unified purpose. Hence, the Woman's Institute. A tea was held at the home of Mrs. Williams (now of Seven Sisters) early in May where the idea was proposed and accepted. A week later an organization meeting was held and officers elected.

The Institute functioned successfully for five years during which several worthwhile projects were carried through. Sufficient funds were raised to furnish a private ward in the new wing of Grace Hospital, and a brass plate on the door of the ward bears words to that effect. A Baby Clinic was held under the able supervision of Dr. Ellen Douglass, and all learned how to care for their children more efficiently. The Institute was responsible for Christmas trees for the children for a number of years, and sponsored most social events in the community.

Apart from these community interests, the members, through the monthly meetings, where papers were given on many and varied subjects, gained inspiration and friendship which made the daily routine much more worthwhile. The Institute taught us how necessary it is to work together and in forgetting our own personal interests and petty grievances for a little while, we could become an integral part of the community.

Printed through the courtesy of  
Mrs. Williams of Seven Sisters, Manitoba

### GREAT FALLS EMPLOYEES' UNION

On October 8, 1934 an invitation was received at Great Falls from the sub-station operators in Winnipeg, asking the hydro plant employees to unite with them in their efforts to secure better working conditions and a higher standard of living.

The result was almost immediate acceptance of the offer by the Great Falls operators followed quickly by the Pinawa operators, to be followed shortly by Seven Sisters. It was later decided, when requests were made by the maintenance staff, that they be included, and that membership in this organization be open to all employees at the plants.



Thus the employees became organized in what was nothing more than a company organization which comprised the sub-station operators in Winnipeg and the hydro plant employees. Later this association became affiliated with the O.B.U., a Winnipeg Labor Organization.

It is interesting to note that in some instances, the increase in wages since the organization of the Great Falls employees, is as high as forty per cent, and the differential which existed between the City Hydro and this Company can be said to no longer exist. During this time, also there have been improvements in living conditions too numerous to mention.

Printed through the courtesy of Mr. A. Lee  
Hydro Plant Chairman, 1934 to 1942.

### THE GREAT FALLS WAR AUXILIARY

On Sunday, October 22, 1939 a general meeting was called in the Anderson Hall by Mayor K. C. Fergusson, to consider forming a local branch of the Red Cross Society. W. D. Johnston suggested at the meeting that an organization of their own be formed. After discussion it was moved by W. D. Johnston, and seconded by W. J. Doherty that the "Great Falls War Auxiliary" be formed. This was carried and the following officers were elected: President - K. C. Fergusson, Vice-Presidents - Mrs. S. H. McIntyre, W. D. Johnston, A. F. Bartley and secretary-treasurer J. O. Jones.

Registration No. C-232 was granted by the Dominion government on November 20, 1939.

On January 6, 1940 Pinawa was to join the organization here, so the name was changed to "Great Falls and Pinawa War Auxiliary". The Pinawa officers were: Chairman - M. E. Wentz, Vice-Presidents - Mrs. C. M. Holmgren, Mrs. H. Leith, M. Pearson, E. Fuller, and the secretary was W. E. Loveridge.

To December 1943, this organization has raised the following sums of money: Great Falls, \$4,156.64 and Pinawa \$1,770.64, making a total of \$5,927.28. This money has been used to send parcels of food and woolen clothing to men in the services overseas. This last Christmas 18 parcels were sent to men in the Air Force, 10 to the Navy and 85 to men in the Army. To date this year they have sent 82 Royal Fruit Cakes of two pounds each, and 373 parcels of 300 cigarettes each.

The women of the Auxiliary meet every two weeks and faithfully keep up their knitting for the boys over there as well as sending cigarettes or cake once a month to the boys in service in Canada, who are from Great Falls.

Printed through the courtesy of  
Mr. J. O. Jones, secretary-treasurer

### THE STORY OF TRADE IN GREAT FALLS

The first store in Great Falls was opened in the lower part of what was then called No. 102 in 1922. Mr. W. Fraser and family lived in the upper part of the building at that time.

This first business place was called "The Great Falls Trading Company", and was opened by Mr. Campbell, with Mr. J. C. Fraser as field occupant, and Mr. Mendlove as storekeeper under George Lewis who was the resident engineer for the Manitoba Power Commission. In 1924 Mr. K. C. Fergusson became the resident engineer with Mr. E. F. Braund as field accountant and storekeeper. The assistant at that time was Cyril Holmes. Shortly after Mr. Fergusson took over a new building near the C.P.R. tracks was chosen as the site for the store and it is there still. The original store is now a duplex house with Mr. and Mrs. A. Ross living in the upper part, while Mr. and Mrs. C. McLennan live downstairs.

In the spring of 1927 Mr. Buckingham of the accounting department in the Winnipeg Electric Company in Winnipeg, became the assistant accountant here with Mr. Braund still the field accountant and storekeeper.

In March 1929, Mr. J. O. Jones came from Pinawa to take Mr. Braund's place as the latter had been transferred to Seven Sisters Falls. Mr. Jones has been field accountant and storekeeper since that, excepting for the years that he spent in war service. While he was away Mr. Buckingham carried on, with Mr. J. Daniels, who came here in December 1937, as assistant storekeeper. Mr. Daniels kept this position until the fall of 1943 when at the behest of the Selective Service he was transferred to work in the power plant. Miss B. Baird is the assistant storekeeper now.

In 1939, a store was built by Mr. A. Arneson, about a quarter of a mile down the highway from Great Falls, and this helps to serve the large settlement south of the town proper.

By Velma Wilde

### ACCOMMODATION IN GREAT FALLS

In the early construction days of Great Falls, working men without a home here, were taken care of in a building called No. 10, which was situated on a corner near the road and the company railroad track.

Later a staff house of sorts was built near the site of the present one, but it did not prove very satisfactory so in 1927 the present staff house was built. This is a fairly modern, well equipped three-storey stucco building and provides accommodation for those of the Winnipeg Electric staff

who have no homes here, the teachers and visitors.

Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Feltham who at first lived in the duplex next door, were the first cook and matron respectively in the new building. They kept these positions for five years. For the next six years, Mrs. Ida Bowman was the matron. Her husband worked in the Winnipeg Electric Co.'s store here. Mrs. Thom was the matron for the next year and then Mrs. Ridge was in charge for the next two years. Since April 1941 Mrs. M. Thorbergson has been the matron. Her daughter Betty-Jean lives at the staff house with her. The Misses Francis and Nellie Komisarczyk have been the assistants here for the past six years.

By Betty-Jean Thorbergson

### THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH AT GREAT FALLS

The church services held in Great Falls owe their origin to the Shantyman's Christian Association. During the construction of the dam when several thousand men were employed by the Winnipeg Electric Company, the secretary of the above organization saw the opportunity of serving these men and seized it.

There had been a previous attempt to build the dam before the war, and an empty school house marked that period of activity. The first church service was held in that building. It was attended by a handful of men and women and plans were then laid for the formation of regular church services.

The Shantymen's Christian Association then lent a collapsible organ to the enterprise, and departed leaving the wife of a timber contractor, Mrs. McArthur in charge of the effort.

The picturesque figure of the Reverend Mr. Rodney then appeared on the scene. He was a small heavily built Englishman, who had for unknown reasons severed connections with any church. He travelled on foot during the snow season, from camp to camp trailing a four-foot toboggan behind him. This carried a lantern, a diverse collection of many slides and a large heavy drum of gas for light. Mr. Rodney took charge of the services. The slides undoubtedly drew the men of the camp. Besides religious pictures and hymns there were medical and travel illustrations. The black-bearded cleric moved in on the McArthurs and prepared to remain indefinitely in their already fully occupied home.

The school was opened about this time with Mr. Frye as teacher. Sunday School classes under the leadership of Mrs. McArthur were in full swing with about twenty Protestant children in attendance.

After a few month's time, Mr. Rodney took his

departure, rather hastily, owing to the kindly services of Mr. Frye on behalf of the McArthurs.

The permanent staff of the Power House then moved in, construction having been completed. Without a special leader, the services continued, but with greatly lessened participants. In turn the Williams, Lees, Ortweins and McArthurs read a sermon and announced the hymns. The collapsible organ was now replaced by a piano. Mrs. Howse sang special hymns and Mrs. Williams was an excellent pianist.

Finally the United Church came into being and Great Falls was included in the mission field. Students were sent from the Theological College each weekend and they were entertained by the families mentioned and by the Parseys. Harry E. Parker was the first student to serve here and it was during his time that the piano was bought. One of the means used to raise the money for the piano was the selling of subscriptions for McCall's Magazine, for which a commission was received. This piano was handed over to the Great Falls Recreation Club when it was formed. Mr. Parker also served during the summer of 1926. He is now Major Parker and has the position of Senior Chaplain for Canada and Newfoundland. He is stationed in Calgary. Bob Frayne who is now Squadron Leader in the R.C.A.F. preached here on the Sundays early in 1924. From that time until the end of September 1927 Homer Lane carried on the work. He is now the minister of Carmichael United Church in Regina, Saskatchewan. In 1928, Wesley Harland, a student who worked as timekeeper for the Company during the week, took the service on Sundays. He also went across the river to Broadlands and during the winter of 1928-29 he came out for weekends. He is now Rev. Wesley Harland of Briercrest, Saskatchewan, where he has been for six years. Murray Smith who was here in 1929 is now a Presbyterian minister in London, England. Later came David Owens who is now Professor of Philosophy at United College in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Mr. McKillop, now teacher of Manual Training at Brandon Collegiate, Bill and David Conley followed in quick succession. David Cavers, now the minister at Rocanville, Saskatchewan, Mr. Hambley, now of Kenton, Manitoba, and Mr. Waines, who is now Professor of Political Economy at the Manitoba University.

Printed through the courtesy of  
Mrs. A. Lee

### THE ANGLICAN CHURCH

The Anglicans of Great Falls have never had a resident minister in the town. The Rev. Broughton, and later Rev. Gibson of Lac du Bonnet would of-

ficiate whenever necessary. In 1935 Rev. Mr. Richardson of Lac du Bonnet began to hold an Anglican Service every Wednesday evening in the Anderson Hall, and he still comes every second Wednesday evening. He also holds an afternoon service whenever there is a fifth Sunday in the month.

### THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Great Falls is a mission of the Lac du Bonnet Roman Catholic Parish and a service has been held almost every month over quite a period of years. Many of these services were held at the home of Mr. M. Samwald and the remainder were held in the Anderson Hall.

Father Senez was the first to say Mass here, and since his time the following men have served this community: Father Dufort, Father Mazué, Father Laliberté, Father Vinet, Father Picton, Father Belanger, Father Lahai is the priest at Lac du Bonnet now.

### GREAT FALLS SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School classes for the children of Great Falls shortly after the construction of the plant. Mrs. McArthur was the first superintendent. Twenty-one years ago Mrs. A. Lee took over the work, and with the help of various teachers has carried on the work successfully since that time. At present Miss M. Nevin is the assistant teacher.

### EDUCATION IN GREAT FALLS

School for the children of Great Falls in early construction days, meant attending classes in Mess House No. 43, with Miss Martell as the first teacher. Shortly afterward a school house was built on a hill, on a spot that was considered safe from the blasting that was anticipated when construction really got under way. The builders were Mr. A. Rosenberg and Mr. Dave Johnston.

Following Miss Martell, Mr. Frye and Mr. Arbuckle were teachers in consecutive terms, and in 1923 Mr. W. F. Billyard took charge and was here until 1928. From old school registers one sees that Mr. Billyard sometimes had as many as 56 pupils and then again he would have a few as 24 as the population depended largely on the number of men employed in the plant. In the year 1923 to 1924 the following pupils were in attendance: Grade I — Jacqueline Tambeau, Berta Elgbacha, Billy Kirk, Judith Majander, Ina Lucas, Fanny Majander, Laurie Fagerland, Germaine Tambeau, Olga Unga, Tom Fraser, Edward Bamsh, Gordon Feltham, Louis and Ernestine Ricker, Gabriel, Edmund and Leo Touraine, Frank Couchenes, Isabel



Great Falls School, 1920.

Lecoille, Arne Magnusson, Alfred Johnson, John Courchenes.

Grade II — Roger Tambeau, Eugene Lalonde, Nessie Menzies, Mary Lecoille, Alan Magnusson, Irene Sanderson, Donat Ricker, Frank Johnson.

Grade III — Tina Signocotti, Beulah Ross, Iris Feltham, Betty McArthur, Ina Magnusson, Jack Howcroft.

Grade IV — Lillian Rossi, Lucien Tambeau, Germaine Lalonde, Blair Menzies, Leigh McArthur, Palma Ricker, Leo Samwald.

Grade V — Rafael Elgbacha, Leo Lalonde, Edith Johnson, Harold Galli.

Grade VI — Edith Waters, Jeanette Samwald.

Grade VIII — Ronald and Molly McArthur.

Mr. Billyard is now with the Correspondence Branch in the Department of Education, Winnipeg.

Mr. R. Lightly took Mr. Billyard's place as teacher in 1928 and in 1931 he was succeeded by Mr. R. M. Sundt who stayed until 1934.

From 1923 to 1930 Mr. J. F. Greenway of the Department of Education was the Official Trustee, then Mr. J. O. Jones took over until 1940 when he enlisted. While Mr. Jones was overseas, Mr. K. C. Fergusson acted as trustee, and did this work until 1942, when Mr. Jones after having received an honorable discharge, resumed his duties as company accountant and Official Trustee.

In September of 1934 Mr. J. B. Warkentin became the teacher and was here until 1943. He is now with the Polymer Construction Co. in Sarnia, Ontario.

In 1937 it was decided that the school was too far from the village proper, so a basement was constructed not far from the Anderson Hall, and in the

Christmas holidays of that year the school was moved from its place on the hill to its new foundation. Mr. C. L. Turnbull and Mr. L. Bjorkman had the contract for getting the school into its new position. At first only the upper room was used for classes but in 1938 it was decided that a high school was needed so a room was fixed up in the basement, with Mr. B. Popeski in charge. The pupils in the first high school in Great Falls were:

Grade IX — Elmer Parsey, Louise Gauthier, Arthur Gauthier, Winnifred Fergusson.

Grade X — Phyllis Bjorkman, Earl Parsey, Ronald Parsey, Holger Magnusson, Bill Rumsey.

Grade XI — Hugh Fraser, Anne Howes, Margery BurrIDGE.

Mr. Popeski taught here for three years and was succeeded by Mr. Beese until 1942 when Miss M. Busch took over the high school classes. In the spring of 1943 it was decided to divide the classes in the primary room, so Mrs. E. Allan of Winnipeg taught the three first grades in the Anderson Hall which was fitted up for a temporary classroom. During the summer of 1943 the school was remodeled and two classrooms were fitted out upstairs and one in the basement. When school opened in fall only the two upper rooms were opened, but over-crowding in the primary room again caused the third room to be opened this spring, with Mrs. G. Ortwein in charge of Grades IV, V and VI, leaving Grades I to III under the care of Miss M. Nevin. The following pupils are enrolled at the present time:

**Primary Room** — Teacher: Miss Nevin. Grade I — Lorne Hennessey, Hugh Carriere, Romeo Bruneau, Louis Starr, Elizabeth Schwetz, William Robson, Dorothy Mitchell, Helen Hanson, Valerie Jacques.

Grade II — Larry Metzler, Jack Mitchell, William Nault, Bernadette Osmar.

Grade III — Tom Magnusson, Albert Robson, Jim Samwald, Agnes Mitchell, Campbell Fergusson, Evelyn and Anne Fraser, Harvey Clark, Leo Carriere.

**Intermediate Room.** Teacher: Mrs. Ortwein.

Grade IV — Curtis Baker, Danny Wilde, Lewis Hanson, Eileen and Shirley Peterson, Juliana Carlson, Anna Osmar.

Grade V — Emma Mitchell, Kenneth Fergusson, June Magnusson, Lillian Carlson, Anita Nault, Margaret Hanson.

Grade VI — Elsie Arneson, Donald Fraser, Helen Fergusson, Alfred Carriere, Verna Bjorkman, Patsy Metzler, Carl Peterson, Doris Carriere, Alex Johnson.

**High School.** Teacher: Miss M. Busch.

Grade VII — Agnes Hanson, Rita and Alida Osmar.

Grade VIII — Iris Fraser, Velma Wilde.

Grade IX — Betty-Jean Thorbergson, June Carlson, Arthur Arneson, Paul Gauthier.

Grade X — Edwin Wilde, Bob Oakes.

Grade XI — Belle Fraser, Lawrence Lee.



**COCA COLA CREEK FALLS**

The water would dash, and shoot up high.  
I remember these things with a forlorn sigh  
The majestic rocks, and trees so old,  
The cross little ground-hog with his frightening cry,  
The swirl of a fish, who was once so bold,  
The deer on the banks, the twigs in the stream,  
All these things to me will always seem  
The beautiful part of a beautiful dream.

by Sgt. Jack Jacques, R.C.A.F.

(Note: Jack, a former member of the Beaver Club sent the above lines, when he heard of the blasting of the falls at Coca Cola Creek.)

### **WHO'S WHO IN GREAT FALLS**

**1919** — Mr. Glen Oakes was the first of the present residents of Great Falls, to settle in this district. He came from Niagara Falls, Ontario, on June 6, 1919, and is now employed by the Winnipeg Electric Company as patrolman and maintenance man. Mrs. Oakes came to Great Falls in 1923. They have two sons, Stanley, who is with a survey gang and Bob, who is now with the Pine Falls Paper Co.

Mr. and Mrs. L. Howes are "Down-easterners" who came to Great Falls from Winnipeg in July 1919. They live in a home of their own, constructed by Mr. Howes, about a mile down the highway along the shores of the Winnipeg River. Mr. Howes cycles to work in the plant, where he is employed as an assistant operator. They have a daughter, Anne, who is in the offices of the McDonald Aircraft Company, in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Mr. G. Melquist, who lives at the staff house while here, has been doing carpentering work at

various times for the Winnipeg Electric Company ever since 1919. His wife and family reside at Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba. They have five girls and four boys, two of whom are in the Services as Army Gunners, and are stationed in Nova Scotia.

**1920** — Mr. and Mrs. J. Gauthier came to Great Falls from Lac du Bonnet in 1920. Mr. Gauthier is a floorman in the plant. They have three sons in the services, Arthur with the Forestry Corps, and Omer, with the Artillery are overseas, while Maurice in the Army expects to join them shortly. Another son, Paul who has been attending High School intends to join the Navy. They have two daughters, Louise, who is married and lives in Vancouver, and Therese, who is attending school in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

**1921** — Mr. G. Vantoever, who is a native of Hilversum, Holland, came to Great Falls in 1921 from Winnipeg, Manitoba. He is employed here as a mechanic. Mrs. Vantoever, who was born in Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan, came here as a bride in September 1926. She was an employee of The T. Eaton Co. Ltd., before coming here.

Mr. D. Jacques came to Great Falls in 1921, and is a machinist with the Winnipeg Electric Company. He was born in St. Croix de Dunhaim, Quebec. Mrs. Jacques was born in Ste. Anne des Chênes, and came here from Winnipeg in 1928. They have two daughters, Valerie who goes to school and Corinne.

Mr. Fred Magnusson, a native of Sweden, came to Great Falls from Lac du Bonnet in 1921. He is employed by the company as a utility man and welder. Mrs. Magnusson came here from Lac du Bonnet in 1922. They have three sons in the services, L/AC Arne, L/AC Lennart, and Sgt. Holger, all with the RCAF overseas. Another son Allen lives in Winnipeg and young Tommy goes to school here. The Magnussons also have four daughters, Mrs. R. McHaffie of Great Falls, Elsie - an employee of McDonald Aircraft, Gladys who works in a branch of the Royal Bank of Canada in Winnipeg, and June at home.

**1922** — Mr. K. C. Fergusson, the superintendent of the power plant, was born in Girvan, Scotland. Previous to his permanent position in Great Falls, he was at the Pinawa Power Plant and he used to come here every week during construction to follow the development of the plant. When it was ready for operation, he put in Mr. McHaffie and Mr. A. Lee as the first operators. Shortly afterwards, Mr. Fergusson became the resident engineer here and he is now the superintendent of the three plants, Pinawa, Seven Sisters and Great Falls. Mrs. Fergusson came to Great Falls from Lac du Bonnet as a bride in 1930. She was born in Kenora, Ontario, and before her marriage did secretarial work in Winnipeg. They have three

children, Helen, Kenneth and Campbell.

Mr. W. Fraser came to Great Falls in May, 1922 from Keewatin, Ontario and Winnipeg. His present occupation is Labor Foreman. Mrs. Fraser was born in Eskisfjord, Iceland and came here from Winnipeg in September 1923. They have one son Hugh in the RCAF now stationed at Estevan, Sask., and a daughter Mary in the C.W.A.C. Four daughters Belle, Iris, Anne and Evelyn (the twins) and one son Donald are still at home.

Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Parsey came to Great Falls in 1922 from Rivers, Manitoba. Mr. Parsey is one of the chief operators in the plant. They have two sons, Ronald and Earl in the Army on the west coast and one son Earl who is employed in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Mr. R. McHaffie came here as a graduate from The University of Toronto in 1922. He was one of the first operators in the plant and is now the chief operator. His wife, the former Ina Magnusson, came from Riverland in 1923.

Mr. A. Lee began working with the Winnipeg Electric Company in 1912. In 1915 he enlisted with the Strathcona Horse R.C. and was discharged from the service in 1919. He then worked for the New York Edison Company in New York until 1922 when he came to Great Falls to work on construction with Fraser Brace Company, and transferred to the operating staff of The Manitoba Power Company, on December 24, 1922, and was one of the first men on the permanent staff here. Mrs. Lee was a teacher in East St. Paul before coming here in August 1923. They have two children Thelma, a student at United College, Winnipeg, and Lawrence in Grade XI here.

**1923** — Mr. George Ortwein had been an employee of the Winnipeg Electric Company in Winnipeg for five years before coming to Great Falls in March 1923. He is on the operating staff here. Mrs. Ortwein taught in Britannia School, St. James, before coming here as a bride in 1934.

Mr. G. Sinnick is on the operating staff here too, and came to Great Falls on November 20, 1923 from Winnipeg, Manitoba. Mrs. Sinnock came from Winnipeg in May 1925. They have one son, Warren who is serving in the Navy, and is now on the high seas.

**1924** — Mr. A. Hanson is a native of Denmark, and he came to Great Falls in 1924. He enlisted with the Canadian Forestry Corps in April 1942, and spent 15 months in service overseas. In October 1943, he was sent back to Canada and a short time later received an honorable discharge. Mrs. Hanson came here in 1924 too, from Lac du Bonnet. They have four children attending school here and one son Robert in the Royal Winnipeg Rifles. He served overseas until 1943 when he was transferred to the Lake Superior Regiment.



Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Johnson arrived in Great Falls twenty years ago. Charlie is the odd job man for the company, and Mrs. Johnson is the school janitress. They have three sons, William, Wilfred and Charlie in the services. William of the RCA and Charlie of the RCE are overseas and Wilfred is with the RCA in Canada.

**1926** — Mr. Randal came to Great Falls in April 1926 and is the chief electrician with the company here. Mrs. Randal came from Winnipeg in 1937. They have three sons in the RCAF, Mel stationed at Halifax, Len. at McDonald, Manitoba, and Allen serving in Iceland.

Mr. and Mrs. S. H. McIntyre came here from Clearwater, Manitoba. Mr. McIntyre came in 1926 and Mrs. McIntyre came in 1929. They live about a mile and a half out of the village. This past year Mr. McIntyre was the C.P.R. agent here. They have one son James, in the RCAF at Yarmouth, N.S. They have two more sons, Ray of Whitehorse and Charlie at home as well as two daughters who are married.

Mr. Ted Peterson is a native of Stockholm, Sweden and came to Great Falls in 1926 from Riverland. He works as a teamster with the company here and is also the fireman of the school. Mrs. Peterson came here in 1927 from Balsam Bay, West Selkirk. They have three children attending school, Carl, Eileen and Shirley (the twins) and one little girl Beverley at home.

**1927** — Mr. Anderson was born in Sweden in 1884 and came to work for the company at Great Falls as a carpenter in 1927 from Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba. Mrs. Anderson came here as a bride in 1937 from Dauphin, Manitoba. Mr. Anderson has two sons in the services overseas. Spr. Sigward is with the construction company of the RCE and Pte. Carl is with the Tank Transportation Company of the R.C.A.C. Sigward's wife and son Wayne live in Great Fall too. Mrs. S. Anderson came here from Roblin, Manitoba.

Mr. Jim Gibson came to Great Falls in September 1927 from Motherwell, Scotland. He is employed as an assistant switch board operator. Mrs. Gibson came from Pinawa, in 1926.

Mr. F. Buckingham is native of Wales and came to this country in 1912. He was employed by the Winnipeg Electric Company in Winnipeg as an assistant accountant for seven years before coming to Great Falls in 1927 to take up the same work here for the Manitoba Power Company. He is also the town post-master.

Mr. Walter French, whose home is in Lac du Bonnet, has been working for the company here as floorman since 1927. His wife resides in Lac du Bonnet. They have two sons in the services, Eric who was with the Winnipeg Grenadiers and is now a prisoner in Tokyo, and Leslie who is serving in

Italy.

Mr. J. F. Osmars came to Great Falls in 1927 from Ontario. He is a skilled laborer in the plant. He and his wife and family live about a half mile from town. Their two daughters Rita and Alida work in the staff house at Pine Falls, Lawrence is at home and Anne and Bernadette go to school here.

Mr. Harry Hoolypchuk is a native of Poland and came here in 1927. He works on the section for the C.P.R., and lives in this district.

**1928** — Mr. Cecil Park is a patrolman for the Winnipeg Electric Company and came here in 1928 from Lac du Bonnet, where his wife and family still live. He has a brother in service overseas.

Mr. O. Wilde came to Great Falls in 1928 from Makinak, Manitoba, and is employed by the company as a skilled laborer. He and his family live a mile or so down the highway. Mr. Wilde is also the town milkman. They have two sons, Edwin and Danny and one daughter Velma, going to school here.

Mr. G. Carriere came to Great Falls in 1928 from La Broquerie and works on the section here. His wife, a Miss Johnston, had lived here since 1924. They have four children, Doris, Alfred, Leo and Hughie going to school.

**1929** — Mr. J. O. Jones who is the Accountant and storekeeper for the Winnipeg Electric Company at Great Falls came here from Pinawa in 1929. He had been accountant for the company at Pinawa before coming here. Mr. Jones was born in Wales and received his education there. He is a veteran of the first Great War, having served on the Western Front from 1915 to April 1919. When the present war broke out he again volunteered his services and as a Corporal in the RCAF he served overseas for two years. He was then discharged on account of ill health, and resumed his duties in Great Falls. Besides his accounting and storekeeping Mr. J. O. Jones is the Official Trustee for the school here and secretary-treasurer for the Town Council and War Auxiliary. Previous to coming here in 1929 Mrs Jones was a school teacher at Lac du Bonnet and Pinawa. She has two daughters, Mrs. Sykes, whose husband is in service overseas, and Mrs. Turner whose husband is in the RCAF and has been stationed in Newfoundland.

**1937** — Mr. J. Daniel of Winnipeg served the company here as assistant storekeeper from 1937 to the fall of 1943 when he transferred to the power house as a floorman. At time of writing Mr. Daniels had to leave his work on account of ill health and he and his family left Great Falls on May 25, 1944. His wife had come from Lockport in 1939. They had one young son, Roger.

**1938** — The Misses Francis and Nellie Komisarzyk of Tyndall, Manitoba came to Great Falls in

1938 and have been assistants in the Staff House since that time.

**1939** — Mr. Harvey M. Battram, who is a Graduate of Manitoba University, is the Junior Engineer in the plant here. He came to Great Falls in 1939.

**1940** — Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith came to Great Falls in 1940 from St. Pierre, Manitoba. Mr. Smith is a laborer for the company.

**1941** — Mr. W. Warren came here in January 1941 from Lac du Bonnet and works with the company as a welder. His wife who was Miss Pearl Carlson, came in March of the same year. They have two small children. Mrs. Warren's sister, June lives with them and goes to school here.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Hennessey came to Great Falls in June 1941 from Bonheur, Ontario. Mr. Hennessey is the section foreman for the C.P.R. here. They have two children, Lorne who goes to school and young George.

Mr. and Mrs. P. Nault came here from St. Pierre in 1941. He is a worker at the plant.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Ross came to Great Falls in June 1941 and Mr. Ross is employed as an assistant operator in the plant. He had been previously employed with the company at Seven Sisters. They have one son, Alastair John David.

**1942** — Mrs. M. Thorbergson who was born in Morden, Manitoba, came to Great Falls from Winnipeg in April 1942, as the matron of the Staff House. Her daughter Betty-Jean goes to High School here.

Miss M. Busch of Shellmouth, Manitoba, came here in September 1942 and is the high school teacher.

Mr. S. Henderson came to Great Falls from Brandon, Manitoba in 1942 and is a laborer here.

Mr. P. Gladu is a laborer with the company too and came from Winnipeg in 1942.

**1943** — Mr. and Mrs. Sam Baker moved to Great Falls from Beresford Lake in 1943 when the mines then closed down. Mr. Baker is a contractor. They have two sons, Donald who is with the RCAF now stationed at Paulson, Manitoba, now, and Curtis who goes to school here.

Mr. and Mrs. P. Metzler arrived here from Winnipeg in June 1943. Mr. Metzler is a plumber. They have three children, Patsy and Larry, who go to school and Baby Lorne.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark McLennan of Winnipeg came here in the summer of 1943. Mr. McLennan has an honorable discharge from the Army and is employed with the company here as a floorman.

Miss M. Nevin of Brandon, Manitoba, has been the public school teacher here since September 1943.

Miss B. Baird of Winnipeg came here in October 1943 as assistant storekeeper.

**1944** — Mr. Lambert who was a Captain in the last Great War, is the agent for the C.P.R. here and came to Great Falls in the spring of 1944.

Mr. Raymond Turgel, a Manitoba University student came to Great Falls after the close of the spring term and is employed as a floorman by the company.

## THE BEAVER CLUB

### We Work to Win

The "Beaver Club" was organized in the Great Falls High School on September 18, 1943 and the following officers were elected: Director - Miss M. Busch, President - Stanley Oakes and secretary-treasurer - Thelma Lee. The purpose of the club was to raise sufficient money to carry on a weekly correspondence with all the men in the various services from Great Falls, and to donate any extra funds to needy war charities. With their motto of "We Work to Win" as their lead, the club members achieved their purpose in 1943 as can be seen from the following financial statement.

### Receipts for 1943

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| November. Proceeds from a concert . . .   | \$20.05  |
| December. Sale of Crafts . . . . .        | 24.40    |
| January. Proceeds from a dance . . . . .  | 25.35    |
| February. Proceeds from a dance . . . . . | 30.90    |
| April. Minstrel Show Proceeds . . . . .   | 22.41    |
| Total Proceeds . . . . .                  | \$123.11 |

### Expenditures

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| December. Donated to Red Cross . . . .     | \$25.00  |
| January. Donated to Aid to Russia . . . .  | 20.00    |
| February. Donated to Milk to Britain . . . | 15.00    |
| April. Donated to Red Cross . . . . .      | 20.00    |
| Miscellaneous, Postage, etc. . . . .       | 40.13    |
| Cash on Hand . . . . .                     | 2.98     |
| Total Expenditures . . . . .               | \$123.11 |

In September 1943, the club reorganized with Miss M. Busch as Director, Lawrence Lee as President, and Belle Fraser as secretary-treasurer.

To date the members have written 423 letters to the lads in the Services this year, sent Easter and Christmas cards to them all and sent parcels to those serving in Canada.

To date the following amounts have been raised and spent during the September to June term: in 1943-44:

### Receipts

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| September. Cash on Hand .....           | \$2.98 |
| October. Dance Proceeds .....           | 22.82  |
| December. Sale of Crafts .....          | 38.48  |
| Janaury. Received from Girl Guides .... | 28.00  |
| March. Dance Proceeds .....             | 20.05  |
| May. Total Quilt Proceeds .....         | 48.45  |
| June. Milk for Britain Tag Day .....    | 14.20  |

Total Receipts ..... \$174.98

### Expenditures

|                                       |         |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| January. Parcels to Service Men ..... | \$28.39 |
| February. Donated to Red Cross .....  | 25.00   |
| March. Donated to Red Cross .....     | 25.00   |
| May. Donated to War Auxiliary .....   | 20.00   |
| Donated 2 Milk for Britain .....      | 24.20   |
| Donated to Greek Relief .....         | 10.00   |
| Miscellaneous for year .....          | 40.23   |
| Cash on Hand June 3 .....             | 2.16    |

Total ..... \$174.98

The members of the club have made 75 copies of this "Story of Great Falls" and will donate the receipts from the sale of same to needy organizations.

### Former Beaver Club Members

Since the organization of the Club some of the members have gone from Great Falls.

A. B. Warren, G. Sinnock enlisted with the R.C.N.V.R. immediately after the close of the school term in June 1943. He received his initial training on H.M.S. Chippewa in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and then he volunteered for service with the Merchant Marine. He was posted to Esquimalt, B.C. for further training in September and in December, he was placed on the coastal run from Victoria to Vancouver and Seattle on the S.S. Princess Alice. Now Warren is serving on the high seas.

Another former "Beaver" is Sgt. Jack Jacques who enlisted in the R.C.A.F. immediately after school closed in June. Jack received his early training at Brandon, taking the Pilot's Course, posted to Regina, Saskatchewan, he remustered as an Air Gunner and was later a Graduate of the B.&G. School at McDonald, Manitoba. When last heard from, he was waiting to be sent overseas on active service.

A. C. Albert Bartley of the R.C.A.F. was a "Beaver" until he and his parents moved from Great Falls to Seven Sisters in December, 1942. He received his early training at Winnipeg, Bran-

don and Dauphin, Manitoba. This last spring he was posted to Toronto, Ontario.

The Beaver Club is proud of its first C.W.A.C. Mary Jeannette Fraser. Mary enlisted this last month and is now at the Basic Training Centre, in Kitchener, Ontario.

Stanley Oakes, our past President could not make the services but is doing essential work with a group of surveyors, who are working on the ground work for a post-war project of road construction.

Charlie McIntyre will be another man in the R.C.A.F. as soon as the school year is over. He wants to be a pilot.

Kenneth and Pat Jacques, former "Beavers" are now living in Pine Falls and going to school there. They are both active Cadets.

Thelma Lee, our former secretary-treasurer has been taking her Grade XII in Wesley College, Winnipeg, Manitoba. She intends to get into some essential war work as soon as classes and examinations are over.

Gladys Magnusson is now on the staff of the Royal Bank of Canada in a Branch in Winnipeg.

Among the "Beavers" who have left us this past year are: Sybil Bjorkman, who is working in Winnipeg now, Bob Oakes, who is now with the Pine Falls Paper Co., Paul Gauthier, who is working in the Pinawa Power Plant, Rita and Alida Osmars, who are working in Pine Falls, and Lawrence Osmars who is at home.

### THE JUNIOR RED CROSS

The Junior Red Cross Society was reorganized with Miss M. Nevin as director in the Junior room of the Great Falls School on September 14, 1943. The following were elected as the officers for the year: President - Helen Fergusson, Vice-President - Alfred Carriere, Secretary - Elsie Arnesson, Treasurer - Doris Carriere.

The members chose the name "Happy Hearts" for their group. They held a successful tea in the Anderson Hall and realized the sum of \$16.00 which was sent into the Junior Red Cross Headquarters in Winnipeg. The children also took part in the national "Copper Trail" and were able to send in another donation.

The children of Great Falls School purchased \$60.00 worth of War Savings stamps in a few months this last spring.

The members on the Town Council of Great Falls, Manitoba as a result of a recent election are: Mayor - Mr. K. C. Fergusson, Secretary-treasurer - Mr. J. O. Jones, Councillors - Mr. W. Doherty, Mr. J. Gauthier, Mrs. M. Thorbergson, and Mr. W. Fraser.

# WE

## Published by and for the Employees of Winnipeg Electric Company

The first "WE" magazine was edited in September, 1938. Its name was a prize winner selected from a large number of suggestions submitted by the company's employees. All articles printed in the magazines are written by the members of the Winnipeg Electric Company. To date, those concerning Great Falls have been written by Messrs. J. O. Jones and R. P. McHaffie.

The following are a few news items chosen at random from various editions of "WE" in the Great Falls news column:

September 1, 1938 — "Per moccasin telegraph. We have just received some secret information about a man who lives at Gordon Lake, 25 miles north of Great Falls. He stands six feet two inches and in girth is fifty-four inches. His billy goat was enjoying a meal of young potato greens, and Andy objected. The goat passed a few unseemly remarks between his teeth and in goat-like manner raised his front feet high in the air then shot forward like a thunderbolt. Andy stood his ground intending to grab the animal by the horns and with his tremendous strength, throw the animal over the hedge - but - something went wrong with his calculations and we are assured on good authority, that the horn marks are not on Andy's back. Consarn that animal anyway."

December 15, 1938 — "The period from the 23rd. to the 26th. of September was a sorry one for this district, due to a succession of accidents. A lad in the gravel pit, lost a leg on the 23rd., while on the 24th., a gravel truck upset resulting in a broken leg. Then came two accidents involving members of the staff. On the 24th. Glen Oakes started for Pine Falls to check meter installations. It was foggy and smoky. Visibility was bad, but seemed to be clearing when he started at 11 a.m. As he proceeded north however, conditions became worse and suddenly a truck loaded with cement loomed up on the wrong side of the road — a head-on collision occurred. The truck driver got away fairly easily. Glen suffered a bad cut on the forehead, some broken ribs, a crushed foot and was unconscious for quite a time. On the 26th., Dr. W. J. Wood, our medical officer, was driving into Great Falls at about 25 miles per hour when a horse tried to jump over his car. Poor horse — excellent judgment, or should we say bad judgment and excellent courage. We are glad to announce that the Doctor was not hurt at all, but please ask no questions about his pocket book for the car was a mess. I know that the doctor has picked up a deer by ramming, but I never dreamed that he

would try to take issue with a horse. Why not a moose, next time Doctor?

**March 15, 1939** — Our Junior Recreation Club is alive. Last week they challenged the ladies of the camp to meet the men in a "True or False Contest, so that the Juniors might meet the winners. A team of six ladies trounced the team of six men so thoroughly that it developed into a rout, but still the Juniors were keen for the fray. They did splendidly and only lagged behind the ladies by ten points when the final count came in. Then, of course, some kind wag had to suggest that for efficiency's sake, the ladies should operate the power house, the Juniors the homes, and the men go to school. The teacher objected to that for selfish reasons only.

**July 1942.** The school children are our official collectors, and among many other things have a pile of 30 scrap tires stacked up. The objective is a carload of salvage which they soon hope will be realized.

**December, 1942** — "The Beaver Club, organized by the High School group, for the purpose of corresponding with all the local boys in service, as well as doing other forms of war work, started a drive for funds with a concert on November 13. Included in the program were instrumental selections by Thelma Lee, crooning by the Harmony Trio, Albert Bartley, Stanley Oakes, and Lawrence Lee, with the main feature taking the form of a one-act play entitled, "Kidnapping Betty". Those taking part were: Gladys Magnusson, Mary and Belle Fraser, Patsy Johnson, Warren Sinnock, Albert Bartley and Lawrence Lee. The program made quite a hit, and the sum of \$20.00 was realized. Much credit goes to Miss Margaret Busch, our High School teacher and to Mrs. A. Ross for their coaching and directing."

**March, 1943** — The Home Nursing Course led by Dr. Reid at Lac du Bonnet has come to a successful conclusion - so the participants hope. A First Aid Course is to begin soon.

**January, February, 1944** — The War Auxiliary got their parcels made up and mailed. There were 10 to the Navy, 17 to the Air Force and 86 to the Army. Good work, Ladies.

Although the War Auxiliary is the official war relief endeavour, 51 residents of Great Falls have signed up in response to a call from the Pine Falls Blood Donor Clinic. The first group from here went on January 6th. and the clinics are to be held every Thursday.

**March, 1944** — Mrs. R. McIntyre (nee Jeanette Samwald) of Vancouver and son are visiting at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. Samwald.

The Beaver Club held another successful dance to raise more funds for their gifts and letters to the local boys overseas. By Lawrence Lee

## IN MEMORIAM

The late Mrs. Michael Samwald was born in Buckingham, Quebec, and was married to Mr. Sumwald in Ottawa, Ontario, in 1910. They lived in Ottawa until 1921, when they moved to Carruthers, Saskatchewan, where Mr. Samwald was in charge of the hotel and gasoline filling station. In 1923 he sold the hotel and came to Winnipeg where he was engaged as a welder by Major Brace, and sent to Great Falls in April of that year. In July, Mrs. Samwald and their children, Lee, Jeanette and John came to live here too.

In those days Great Falls was still in the throes of construction, and women of Mrs. Samwald's character were surely needed. Early in her life here, her help being offered freely to a poor Italian family, started her on a career of helpful, practical nursing. Many children of the Great Falls district owe their safe arrival in this world to the kindly ministrations of "Ma" Samwald. Spending a day at one bed-side and being called out in the middle of the same night to some other needy person, was all in the day's work to her. Drawing a small sled full of provisions to places where she had found the larder bare, was a familiar task to her. Her garden was not a showy one, but many a sickroom was made more cheery with a bouquet and a smile from her. Pace, age, wealth - none of these meant anything to her for "Ma Samwald went where she felt that she was needed, and pain of any kind seemed to be alleviated by the touch of her hand and words of kindly sympathy."

The Samwald home was a "Home away from home" for many a prospector in the district or part time workers. They could always be sure of a welcome there and a free meal.

Being a zealous church worker made their home a chapel too. The various Catholic fathers found her support and inspiration and help in their mission here, and most of the services were held in the Samwald home.

Mrs. Samwald will always be remembered by all who are interested in community work. Bazaars, rummage sales, auxiliaries, entertainments of all kinds, had her full support and cooperation, and no lunch committee seemed complete without her. She would assume full responsibility for costuming the children at a Christmas entertainment and even Santa sometimes needed her help of her willing fingers.

Her home was a centre for young people, while her children were growing up - the gang would always get a lunch there. She was a very devoted mother and everyone knew what strength of character she portrayed when her son Leo was drowned. She hid her sorrow and devoted herself to Leo's son Jimmy from the time that he was four-

teen months old. She was very proud of her son John, who is a Sergeant with the RCAF overseas, and her generous heart found an outlet in sending parcels to people in England who had shown hospitality to her son. She was made very happy this spring when her daughter Jeanette, (Mrs. R. McIntyre) and small grandchild, Michael came for an extended visit.

On April 8, 1944 the whole community of Great Falls experienced a great shock when word was passed around that "Auntie Sam", as the children called her, was gone. She left quietly and quickly as was her wont, but her memory will live with all those who knew her.

## 1939 - 1945 FOR KING AND COUNTRY HONOUR ROLL

Members of Great Falls District who volunteered for active service with Canada's fighting forces.

A. Anderson  
C. Anderson\*  
Ch. Anderson  
S. Anderson  
D. Baker  
A. Bartley  
E. Blank  
M. W. Bruce  
P. Bruneau  
C. A. Carlson  
F. Courchene  
G. Craig  
H. Fraser  
M. J. Fraser  
E. French  
L. French  
A. H. Gauthier  
M. A. Gauthier  
O. L. Gauthier\*  
P. Gauthier  
A. C. Hansen  
N. L. Hansen  
R. A. Hansen  
J. R. Henderson  
B. Jansson  
W. Jansson  
J. H. Jacques  
A. Johnston  
C. Johnston\*  
E. Johnston  
W. G. Johnston  
W. Johnston

J. O. Jones  
A. D. Langlois  
G. Lussier  
D. L. Lyon  
A. H. Magnusson  
H. F. Magnusson  
L. H. Magnusson  
C. McIntyre  
J. McIntyre  
R. McIntyre  
C. L. McLennan  
R. J. Oakes  
G. Orvis  
R. E. Parsey  
R. R. Parsey  
L. A. Randal  
M. Randal  
J. A. Ritchie  
W. Ramsay  
J. Samwald  
C. Schettler  
R. W. Sellers  
G. W. Sinnock  
H. Smith  
S. St. Croix  
L. Watson  
A. Weddon  
G. Wilkin  
C. Winnberg\*  
I. Winnberg  
A. Winzosky

\* Killed in Action.



## THE EARLY DAYS

With the completion of the station in 1928 came the relatively quiet post-construction era. The world was on the brink of a 10-year economic disaster, but power was needed in spite of hard times. Operators and maintenance staff were absolutely essential, and a generation of kids grew up in the remote power community - only to be faced with the even greater disaster of World War II. A total of 58 men and boys from the Great Falls community went into the armed forces. At home, a scene typical of the times, the ladies prepared overseas parcels for "the boys".



The real Santa: Lew Howes, 90, has played the Santa Claus role in Great Falls for 51 successive Christmases. On April 12, 1973 Lew was honored by Lieutenant Governor W. J. McKeag by being enrolled as a Scout in the Order of the Buffalo Hunt, an honor accorded to citizens who have enriched the quality of life in Manitoba.



Great Falls ladies' tennis club visit, Pointe du Bois, 1924.

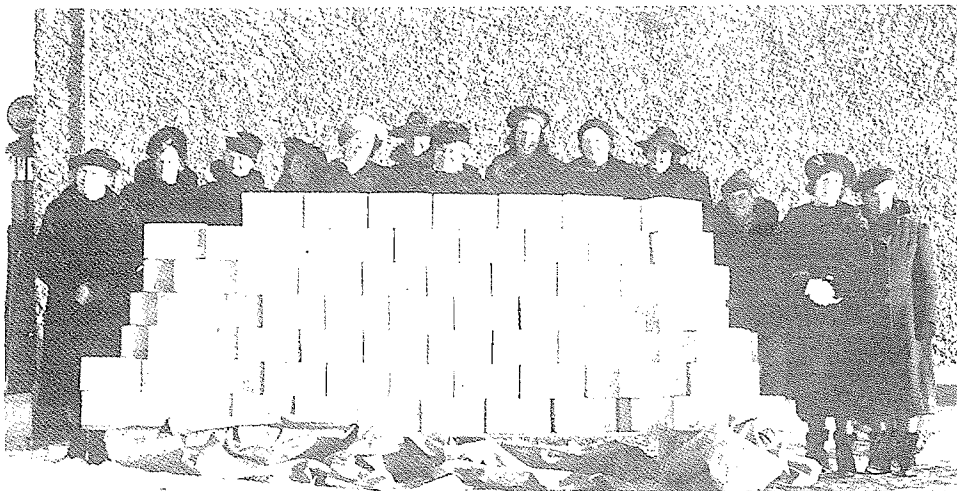


**Girl Guides and Brownies  
Great Falls**

Front row — Elsie Magnusson, Alice Letain, Anne Howes and May Monkman.

Middle row — Margaret McIntyre, Etta Ritchie, Louise Gauthier, Margery Burrige, Laura Johnston, Phyllis Bjorkman.

Back row — Hilda Anderson, Lennea Winberg, Thelma Lee, Violet Nelson, Bernice Bjorkman, Mary Fraser, Gladys Magnusson.



Left to right: Mrs. Lee, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Bartley, Mrs. Ortwein, Mrs. Doherty, Mrs. Fergusson, Mrs. Samwald, Mrs. Ross, Mrs. McHaffie, Mrs. Magnusson, Mrs. Gauthier, Mrs. Oakes, Mrs. Ridge.

## K.C. — KING OF THE WINNIPEG RIVER

by Nona Poten, courtesy Manitoba Hydro

Even those who knew him for a long time probably didn't know his first name. It was Kenneth. Kenneth William Campbell Fergusson. But during more than 40 years as king pin of the Winnipeg River power plants and mayor of Great Falls he was known simply as "K.C." by most everyone.

K.C. was a hardy, Scottish transplant who came to this country in 1912, just one week after the Titanic disaster. Born in Girvan, Ayrshire in 1894, he was educated in Girvan at the Woodside Academy, the James Watt Engineering Labs, and at the Royal Technical College in Glasgow.

Arriving in Canada at the age of 18, Kenneth William Campbell Fergusson wasted no time making his way in the world. During the next seven years he had employment with Starr Electric in Winnipeg, was manager of the Watrous Electric Light Company in Saskatchewan, served briefly with the Royal Flying Corps in World War I, and had employment with CNR's electrical department covering a territory from Thunder Bay to Vancouver.

His illustrious career on the Winnipeg River began at Winnipeg Electric's Pinawa power plant in 1919. He became superintendent of the newly constructed Great Falls generating station in 1922 (he was only 28) and by 1925 he was superintendent of all of WECO's hydro plants on the Winnipeg River. He retired from this position on October 31, 1960.

K.C., undisputed King of the Winnipeg River, had ruled over his domain for almost half a century with a strong hand and a firm conviction that his destiny was plotted by the stars.

Interviewed by the writer in early 1970 for a Manitoba Hydro staff magazine, K.C. summarized his life's work with simplicity:

"I was in charge of Pinawa first before the building of Great Falls, and then when they started to build Great Falls I was with the construction of the plant from the grass roots to production. The same thing applied at Seven Sisters, Pine Falls and McArthur. It looks like a big job, but really, after it's all finished there isn't very much to it. It's your helpers that do all the work."

However easy he made his job out to be, K.C.'s operating contributions were, in fact, enormous. He didn't simply fulfill his obligations as superintendent: he worked his fertile mind over-time inventing, perfecting, problem-solving. His methods, often quite unorthodox from an engineering point of view, usually worked.

"Well, I was lying in bed early one Sunday morning and suddenly it came to me that the trouble

was in the tailrace of the (Great Falls) plant, not in the intake, and that it was surging in the tailrace that was causing the swing on the frequency. So I thought to myself that if it was possible to . . .".

And once K.C. became thus inspired he was off to the races. According to some claims, K.C. would extract staff members out of bed at 3 a.m. if he felt that was the propitious time to put his plan into action.

"So I got up (out of bed) and I got the outside maintenance crew to come in and we looked the drawings over to find out if it was possible to admit air to the draft tubes. And it was, easily."

That particular exercise was probably one of K.C.'s most notable accomplishments: he helped solve a high head/frequency problem that even plagued some engineering experts from Philadelphia.

WECO did well to have a faithful and dedicated K.C. on their team. Actually, the company couldn't afford the white elephant plant in the first place.

"When Winnipeg Electric went out to build Great Falls they were like the fellow who went to buy a Cadillac and didn't have the price of a Ford."

The Ford turned out to be a Cadillac after all. Great Falls, through good management, went on to become the prize of All Winnipeg River hydro-electric sites with K.C. and his hat tricks keeping the plant operating efficiently, and at a profit.

Asked if the social life in the company townsites had changed much over the years, K.C. had this to say:

"Well, at one time there was no road transportation. Everyone had to combine to make their own amusement. The minute road transportation came in they bought cars and they were off on their own. And consequently the friendly spirit that developed during the closed period dissipated."

During the "closed period" the isolated communities of Pinawa and Great Falls had to be resourceful and self-sufficient in many ways.

"At Pinawa there, in the olden days, we ran a farm. And we used the men that cut ice in the winter time, we gave them employment in the summertime by running the farm. We had five acres of vegetables, and we had our own cows . . . sold milk at five cents a quart. We had horses for transportation and we had sheep there. We used to shear about 80 sheep every year. We cut the wool and we sold it.

"Then the unions came in and organized the employees, and the company figured it couldn't afford to run the farm at the rate they were demanding. So just as the ice season finished they let all the men go and hired a new crew in the fall."

The role of a power plant superintendent isn't

always an easy one, much less being responsible for the operation of four power plants and for the welfare of three company towns. To rule such a domain for over 40 years undoubtedly took a lot of ability and experience. And perhaps something more. Possibly it took K.C.'s firm belief in astrology which influenced his life and his decisions to a greater degree than many people knew or could understand.

"The subject was brought to my attention in 1917 and I began to investigate it then.

"It isn't horoscopes, or signs of the zodiac, or anything like that. That's only a method developed by individuals to make a study of astrology. Astrology is the possible effect which the heavenly bodies have on one another."

K.C.'s knowledge of the subject seemed inexhaustible, yet he never belonged to any organized group of astrologers.

"I've just studied it myself and I'd start after supper and I'd study right through to half past six in the morning, have a hot bath and go to work. That's how interesting it was. Well then, when I got married I had to cut that out!!"

(K.C.'s bride was Alma "Maude" McCulloch, who for several years before becoming Mrs. Fergusson, was postmistress at Lac du Bonnet. She was well known in the community.)

Among K.C.'s unusual interests was ancient Turkish archery. Oddly enough, K.C. discovered a remote relationship between Turkish archery and the Winnipeg River. The connective was sturgeon fish.

Interested in the subject for many years and a member of an exclusive U.S.-based archery club, K.C. explained that the Turks were the best archers in the world. They could outshoot the English archers by nearly three times the distance, holding a record 870 yards.

The art of building the Turkish bow came to light when one of the members of the club went to Turkey as U.S. ambassador and while there searched for and found an old manuscript on how to build the bow. His findings were published in limited quantities, and K.C. had one of the copies.

The incredible strength of the Turkish bow, it appears, was in the glue used to secure the sinews and horn together. The glue was made from the skin taken from the roof of sturgeon fish.

And one of the last great havens of sturgeon in Canada is the Winnipeg River. The sturgeon were once so plentiful, K.C. claimed that one fellow in a single afternoon at Pinawa, caught 50 by grabbing them by the tails.

K.C. also discovered that the Indians of the Winnipeg River also traditionally used sturgeon glue in their manufacture of the bow. A startling coincidence.



Mr. and Mrs. K. C. Ferguson.  
photo courtesy of Manitoba Hydro

The Winnipeg River provided K.C. with his life's work and a hardy environment for raising the family — sons Kenneth and Campbell, and daughter Helen. This was his home. He was deeply fond of it. In the early days he purchased several acres of land in the Great Falls area:

"I figured that when I'd retire I'd build a place there and stay there."

And that's precisely what he did. K.C. and Maude Fergusson lived quietly and graciously in a modest home he built on a peninsula commanding a beautiful view of the Winnipeg River and of the Great Falls plant.

K.C. passed away quietly on October 2, 1973 at the age of 79. A truly legendary figure of the Winnipeg River, Kenneth William Campbell Fergusson will be ever remembered as K.C. — King of the Winnipeg River.

#### ALEC AND JEAN LEE FAMILY formerly of Great Falls

Perhaps my husband Alec Lee and I cannot call ourselves pioneers, compared to the settlers of the Lac du Bonnet area of 80 years ago. However we sort of felt we were pioneers when we went there to live.

My husband went to Great Falls the summer of 1922 and worked on construction of the Power Plant with Fraser Brace, with the object in mind of getting on the operating staff of the Power House when it opened. He was the first operator and put the first machine on the line, Christmas Day 1922. R. P. McHaffie became the second operator very shortly afterwards. At that time the Plant shut down at night and one floorman was on 'watch' for the night.



Mr. and Mrs. A. W. H. Lee.

I went to Great Falls as a bride August 2nd, 1923 and lived there until May 2nd, 1956. My husband had been moved into the main office of the Manitoba Hydro in Winnipeg a couple of months earlier, where he worked until his retirement in October 1962.

Two children were born to us at Great Falls, Thelma and Lawrence. They lived there until they started to Manitoba University in Winnipeg in 1945.

Thelma graduated in Interior Design in 1949 and worked for a year as Eaton's Mail Order Interior Designer. She then went to Montreal where she worked for a number of years and acquired her B.A. Degree. She returned to Winnipeg and took her Master of Social Work Degree and was married shortly afterwards in 1968 to Duncan McIntyre of Ottawa. They lived in Ottawa until Duncan retired in 1973 and they moved to Abbotsford, B.C. where they are both active community workers.

Lawrence received his B.Sc. Degree from Manitoba University in 1949, moved to Montreal, and was married to Alison Young. They lived in Montreal for many years where he specialized in Electronic Engineering. He spent a few years in Toronto and in 1977 moved to Ottawa to join a

group of consulting engineers involved in a Canadian-wide project in communications.

Shortly afterwards he formed a business partnership with a small group of men. His company is known as Condat Telecommunications and one of the contracts he received from Westech in Edmonton last year took him on a 'round the world' trip.

Lawrence has four of a family, Kevin working for M. M. Dillon and Son in Toronto and working on his Master's Degree in Environmental Science; Nora completing her Master's in Agriculture at Guelph in May 1980; Heather married and living in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia; and Vivian who is entering the University of Ottawa in September 1980 to study music. There are three grandsons, Alex Crosby (Heather's son), and twin boys Ryan and Jamie, sons of Kevin and Susan Lee.

J. S. Lee

## LIFE IN A COMPANY TOWN

Thelma and Lawrence

Our life had by no means remained at a standstill during these first years for it was during this time that we acquired a family.

Our daughter Thelma was born at the Winnipeg General Hospital June 2nd, 1925. The reason for the Norwegian name was due to the fact that we had both read Marie Corelli's "Thelma" and were enamoured by it. If there was a second reason it was that we both liked the name. Anyway, our little girl became Thelma Marguerite.

On November 1926 our son Lawrence was born. He was a strong healthy lad from the first who made his presence known to us by way of his lungs and vocal cords, waking us up many times in the night when we would have much rather slept. We named him Lawrence Howard, mainly because we liked both names. Howard happened to be my third name.

Lawrence was born at Great Falls in our first home. The only reason Jean wanted it this way was because she did not want to leave Thelma completely with anyone. I, blissfully unaware of the many things that could go wrong at such a time, gave in to her. I suppose we were lucky things turned out the way they did.

The birth of our son Lawrence was amusing but almost tragic. I was on night shift when quite early in the morning. Art Williams called me to say Jean was sick. We had a girl working for us by the name of Ethel whom Jean had sent to Williams to have Art phone me. When Art told me Jean was sick I said, "What's wrong with her?" Art replied, "I don't know." Of course we both knew perfectly

well and I lost no time calling the doctor who was at Lac du Bonnet. I remember I arranged to have someone relieve me and went home.

It was pre-arranged that Dr. Wood was to take the case and would bring Mrs. Emmett, the bank manager's wife, who was a nurse, with him. We had also alerted a nurse from Winnipeg who was to take over as soon as she arrived, which was that evening, by train.

But things didn't turn out quite the way they were supposed to. Lawrence arrived and after being assured by Dr. Wood that things were under control, I decided to return to Lac du Bonnet with him and Mrs. Emmett that evening and pick up the nurse. (The smaller gasoline bus PM3 was used for transportation that day, pushing a snowplow ahead of it.)

I am sure the superintendent would have said the stars weren't in my favor. Anyway it wasn't my day and that's for sure for as I waited for the Winnipeg train I was told there had been a wreck, jimmy cars were all over the track and there was no chance of getting back to Great Falls. I was in a quandary. It was suggested by someone that I see a Mr. Carlson who had a team and a bob sleigh. At this point I was willing to try anything but as far as I knew there was no other road than the railroad. Mr. Carlson knew of a road through the bush and there was nothing to do but take his word for it.

I felt sorry for the nurse. She certainly was not dressed for 32 degrees below zero weather but Dr. Wood provided her with a heavy fur coat and Mr. Carlson covered the bottom of the sleigh with straw. I still had reservations as we started off along a bush road which I felt sure was known only to Mr. Carlson. But the team moved at a quick and brisk pace so that we made amazingly good time. Nevertheless, when we pulled up in front of our house at Great Falls I almost had to carry the nurse up the walk and into the house she was so cold. I had visions of her not being able to do anything but I was amazed at her recovery once she got inside where it was warm. In no time she was attending to Jean in a very professional way. Mr. Carlson charged ten dollars, it was well worth it.

Later I heard that the engine which was pulling the train that was wrecked, was a big engine we had bought from the CPR. It was known only as 1000 but it never ran again. What they did with her I'll never know but I've been told that the superintendent salvaged the bell. In fact I believe it is in the hands of the Historical Interest Committee of which I am a member.

The story of how Lawrence came into this world did not end here. I remember Mrs. Williams took Thelma off our hands for awhile. But in our house

there was still a new baby, Jean and I, the nurse and Ethel. The one thing I remember is that there seemed to be no end of expenses. I seemed to be everlastingly writing checks. We had an account at the store and Ethel got what she thought was necessary and was a most efficient girl and housekeeper.

In due time our family returned to normal. Now we had a boy and a girl and any trouble they had given us or were to give us was more than made up for in later years and we had every reason to be proud of them.

A. W. H. Lee  
from his memoirs

## AFTERTHOUGHTS 1980

My wife Jean always maintained that Great Falls was an ideal place to bring up a family. It is quite obvious that she was not disappointed when one considers the number of professional people which emerged from this little community, certainly out of all proportion to its size. .

One could say that Jean and I spent our honeymoon in our new home at Great Falls for we were married in the afternoon, took the five o'clock train to Lac du Bonnet where we were met by Tommy Stretton, then my Floorman at the Plant, and taken by the Company bus to Great Falls and to our new home.

In later years I thought more than once of the number of "firsts" which came our way in the little town. I was the first Operator of what the newspapers claimed was the largest power plant in Western Canada. We were the first members of the permanent staff to have a home on the Crescent and we were the proud owners of the first electric range in Great Falls and probably for many miles around. However, we were in no sense of the word "Pioneers". As mentioned in this history many others had gone before us to prepare the way. We were by no means original settlers in this frontier land.

It was on the verge of such a country that I took my wife. But to modern surroundings among nicely furnished homes. She was treated kindly by the wives of the Fraser Brace Company at our home and theirs. On the afternoon of the 9th of August a lovely coffee percolator arrived - a gift from the community.

For quite some time we were almost deluged with visitors, most from Winnipeg. It would surprise me if some did not expect to find us lodged in a log shack. Few were our friends who did not express their delight at our nice little home. As time went on we began to take our part in helping build a new community.

Signed: A. W. H. Lee



## ROY P. McHAFFIE

Roy P. McHaffie was a resident of this area from the first day that the Great Falls plant turned out power for Winnipeg on December 26, 1922 until his death on November 16, 1951. He was born in Emerson, Manitoba the son of a minister, so his early childhood was spent in many different towns, mainly in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. He graduated from the University of Toronto, then enlisted in the R.A.F. in the First World War and served overseas as a Second Lieutenant. On his return he worked for a time in Stay Falls, B.C. before moving to Great Falls in 1922. He was one of the first operators of the power plant and later became Chief Operator.

He took an active interest in all community affairs. He was President of the Recreation Club for many consecutive years. This club was formed to provide and promote recreational activities for the employees of the Winnipeg Electric and their families. Among these were the picture shows every Saturday night. Roy was the operator of these for many years. Another of the clubs sponsored programs was the annual Christmas concert for the children of the community, at which each child received a gift and a lunch was served to all. There also was a committee formed to put on some sort of entertainment twice a month. This was usually in the form of a whist drive, cribbage tournament or dance.

It was Roy who wrote the news column for Great Falls in the montly "WE" magazine published monthly (in Winnipeg) by and for the employees of the Winnipeg Electric Company.

Among his hobbies, he liked amateur photography for which he had his own dark room for developing his films. He also liked skiing and did considerable reading. He would never miss his weekly trip to the Shaws Drug Store in Lac du Bonnet for his supply of reading material.

He married Ina Magnusson of Great Falls and they had one son, Grant. After Roy's passing, Ina and Grant moved to Vancouver, B.C. where they still reside.

Submitted by  
Gladys A. Eade

## FRED AND IDA MAGNUSSON

This, as I recall, is the story of my parents, Fred and Ida Magnusson.

My father, Frederick Johan Magnusson, arrived in Canada with his brother, Gustav Erik and his parents, Erik Magnus and Johanna Regina Magnusson, on September 15, 1905. They left their home in Sundsval, Sweden to emigrate to



Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Magnusson with three of their nine children, taken in Riverland (around 1924).

Canada and a better standard of life. They settled temporarily in Winnipeg while waiting for a land grant in Riverland. My father's sister, Mrs. Augusta Petterson and her family, had settled in Riverland three years previous. The first few years in clearing and breaking the land was a hardship they hadn't known. This transition from the old country to a new unbroken land proved to be too great for my Grandfather and he passed away shortly after. My father's land was about half a mile down what we knew as the Newcombe road and was very swampy and rocky. He cleared enough to build a little house but then found it necessary to find work elsewhere. Everywhere there seemed to be construction going on and my father got involved in this line of work. He was with the Greater Winnipeg Water district when they put in the pipeline from Shoal Lake to Winnipeg; the Canadian Northern railway in Prince Rupert, B.C.; the Pacific Great Eastern Railway and the Canadian Government Railway. In Winnipeg he helped build the Amphitheatre on Whitehall Avenue and was a caretaker for awhile after it was finished.

When my father was employed in Winnipeg, a young lady, Ida Kristina Hansson-Stake arrived from Bansbro, Sweden on April 29, 1912 with members of her family. As fortune would have it, they met, fell in love and were married. This was the start of the Magnusson family in Canada.

As the great need for electric power began around the Lac du Bonnet area my father and mother moved back to the little house my father had built in Riverland. He got work in these early construction projects. He was at Pinawa and the opening of the Pinawa channel, then the Point du Bois power plant and finally the Great Falls power plant in 1921.

They never became productive farmers in Riverland. However they did have a couple of cows and some chickens which were a necessity



Magnusson Family - 25th anniversary.

for a healthy young family. Their vegetable garden and berry picking each summer filled many sealers for winter use. There was a family of six by the time they moved permanently to Great Falls. This was certainly a great change, mostly for my sisters and brother who had to walk over four miles to the little school in Riverland. My mother too must have been delighted to have the great convenience of electricity. Needless to say, running water and indoor plumbing must have been an extra bonus enjoyed by all the family. This also must have made bathing small children and laundry day easier on my mother. I still bear two disfigured fingertips caused by my curiosity of the uncovered motor on the bottom of our first electric washing machine. In a home where electricity was plentiful and cheap, it was easy to only turn the lights off if you were going out or to sleep. This is a habit, I'm sorry to say, that has remained with me to this day.

My mother's hands were never idle, even as she sat down in the quiet of the evening. If she wasn't patching trousers, mending socks or sewing on missing buttons, she was knitting. Knitting seemed to be on the go in July as well as in January as she supplied all our socks, mitts, scarves and sweaters. Her days were spent in an endless chore of baking, cooking and sewing. There was usually a patchwork quilt set up on a frame and for this she often did her own carding of virgin wool. As mother sewed all our clothes there were always remnants left which were used for the quilt patterns. A dress pattern was seldom needed or one pattern would be used to make several styles of dresses, blouses, jackets or even nighties. I loved the smell of our house on Fridays, as the air was permeated with the aroma of fresh baked bread and cinnamon buns and sometimes berry pies and

oatmeal cookies. As busy as my mother was she found time to pick a bouquet of flowers for the table. If they weren't flowers from our garden, she would pick wild ones such as the wild rose or columbine or tree blossoms.

Many Sundays were spent going to visit my Grandmother who lived in Riverland with my Aunt and Uncle Petterson. She never learned to speak English so my conversations with her were somewhat limited, but she did like to sit and hold my hand and expound on how young girls should dress and behave. It seemed she was always dressed in black angle-length dresses and her white hair in a neat bun on top of her head. After sitting awhile with "Farmor" she would always bring out her covered candy jar which was always filled with hard candy; one or two was the usual treat for visiting with her. Once in awhile we were given permission to sit at a desk and look through a drawer of pictures through a stereoscope. If one of these Sundays happened to be a Riverland picnic day, we got to go to that too, which was at the school point. Everyone would be dressed up and there would be Swedish chatter everywhere. There would also be a gathering of children waiting for the next batch of homemade ice cream to be dished out. The food table seemed endless.

My Dad was an active man and after a days work he would often go for a walk or in winter he liked to ski or skate. He often told me how he used to ski long distances in Sweden. Most of all he used to love listening to the hockey games on radio on Saturday nights. I often think of how it would have thrilled him to be able to see it on television. After the evening news on radio, he had his coffee and snack and went to bed. If it was winter his last routine was to fill the large camp heater with cord lengths of wood before retiring. He could be heard

in the middle of the night, checking it and adding another log so the house wouldn't get too cold before morning. There usually was a row of socks and mitts in front of the heater, all dry and ready for another day.

As years passed, my Father and Mother hoped to build themselves a retirement home so they once again bought a piece of property. It was again in Riverland; a beautiful spot on the Winnipeg River. This dream was never to be fulfilled, as shortly after the land purchase my Father became ill and passed away on February 26, 1948. A short while after Mother took a trip back to Sweden to visit her childhood home and the remaining members of her family. On her return she moved to Vancouver, B.C. where five of her children lived. She enjoyed the climate there and as she said "one can pick flowers all year round". She died on July 4, 1957.

Of our family of nine sisters and brothers, we are spread around the country. In order of age, we are: Ina, who lives with her husband Sid Sears in Vancouver, B.C. Her son Grant is also in Vancouver. Allan and his wife Sybil live in Montreal, Quebec. Arne and his wife Rene reside in Vancouver as does Lennart and his wife Hazel. They have a son David who lives in Surrey, B.C. with his wife Janette and their two young sons, Graham and Christopher. Elsie and her husband Robert Fargey lived in Santa Barbara, California. They have a daughter and son, Carolynne who has two children, Coby and Crea in Santa Barbara, and Bob who, with his wife Susan, lives in Anchorage, Alaska. Holger and his wife Anice live in Los Angeles, California and they have a daughter Anice and son Allan. Gladys and husband Roland Eade live in Winnipeg and have two sons, Rolly in Vancouver and Ryan and his wife Donna live in Edmonton, Alberta. Ruth (June) and her husband Bob Aitken live in North Delta, B.C. and finally Tom who lives in Vancouver.

Submitted by  
Gladys A. Eade

### THE GLEN OAKES STORY

I was born September 8th, 1897 in Norfolk County in Ontario, north shore of Lake Erie. I went to Gleichen, Alberta in 1915 and stayed until 1917 and arrived in Beausejour in December that year. Worked in the first garage in that town. Moved to Great Falls the 6th of June, 1919 and started working for the Northern Construction Company who had the contract to build the Dam and Power House. It closed down January 12th, 1920 so went to work for the J. D. McArthur Company, braking on the dog train between Lac du Bonnet and Mile 10 on the old Great Falls railway. Later I spent a year working for the Winnipeg Hydro on their

power lines. The Fraser Brace Company took over in June 1921 and I held a job with the Winnipeg Electric and Manitoba Hydro until March 6th, 1972 when I was pensioned off.

In June 1924 I married Irene Casey of Belleville, Ontario and raised two boys. Mrs. Oakes died November 5th, 1971.

My son Stanley is employed by Pine Falls Paper. He married Irene Fisher from Sioux Lookout and she is matron of Pine Falls Hospital. They have two boys.

My second son Robert James was employed by Manitoba Hydro. He and wife, the former Margaret Johnson who is manager of the Great Falls Guest House, raised two boys. Robert deceased April 23rd, 1973.

I built a house in 1961, Lot 3, Riverside Drive, Great Falls and continue to live there.

Submitted by  
S. Glen Oakes

### GEORGE ORTWEIN

George hails from Ontario, although he was born in Michigan, U.S.A., where he spent the first six years of his life.

His parents, Henry William and Mary-Ann Coleman, journeyed from Ontario to Michigan shortly after their marriage, to a farm his father had previously bought, and on which they lived until eight years later when Mr. Ortwein died, just four months after the birth of George's brother Bill.

They lived in a two storey log and frame home travelling by horse-drawn wagon and buggy.

Work was hard as the land had to be cleared and drained before farming commenced. For recreation they travelled ten miles to enjoy concerts and other social activities.

George's paternal grandparents came from Ontario, as did his maternal grandmother. His maternal grandfather came from England.

At the death of his father, the family returned to Ontario, settling in Exeter, where George went to public and high schools until he came to Winnipeg in 1915. He took a business course and worked with the Ford Motor Co., Ashdown's and the C.N.R. before locating with the Winnipeg Electric Co. in 1917, working in the substations in Winnipeg until 1923.

In March 1923 he came to Great Falls as an operator, later becoming 'chief operator', first at the McArthur Falls plant, followed by Great Falls, until his retirement in 1964.

George married Helen Keating of Winnipeg in 1934. Helen came from Gananoque, Ontario at the age of six and lived in St. James until her marriage.

She attended public and high schools in St. James, attended United College, now University of Winnipeg, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree. She taught school in Treherne, Oak Bank, Wawanesa before returning to St. James to teach in Assiniboine and Britannia schools.

George and Helen have no family. After retirement they built a home on the Winnipeg River, a mile from Great Falls, which they are still enjoying.

Five years after George came to Winnipeg, his mother and brother moved out. His Mother lived with George until he married.

His brother went into the Bank of Toronto where he remained until his retirement. He married Dorothy Hopkins of Steenen, Saskatchewan, they had two children, both are married. Dorothy died in 1974.

Submitted by  
Helen and George Ortwein

## TED PETTERSON FAMILY

I came from Balsam Bay, Manitoba to Lac du Bonnet in 1929 and I worked for Mr. and Mrs. Alex McIntosh for six months. My name then was Gladys Monkman.

I married Ted Petterson from Riverland in 1931 in the Anglican Church in Lac du Bonnet. We settled in Great Falls. We lived there for 26 years until Ted passed on in 1956.

We had a family of four — one son, twin daughters and another daughter. Their names are Carl Petterson, who works for Hydro in Brandon.

Eileen lives in Edmonton, Alberta and her twin sister Shirley lives in Grand Rapids, Manitoba. Beverley lives in Tsawwassen, B.C. Delta.

The girls and I moved to Winnipeg in 1957 and I remarried in 1958 and now my name is Mrs. Fred Wolence.

I am very pleased to have 12 grandchildren, eight grandsons and four granddaughters.

# Aviation

## PIIONEER PILOT RETIRES

Pioneer pilot Hugh P. Smith retired August 16, 1974 after 35 years service with the Manitoba Government.

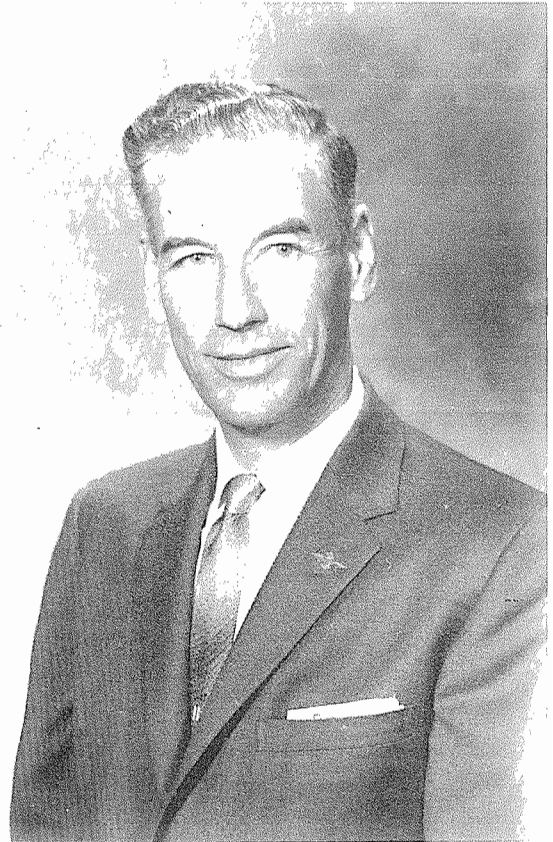
"H.P." as he is commonly known began his flying career in 1928, at the age of 16 under the tutelage of the late Tom Blakely, an "Early Bird" pioneer aviator. He later joined the Winnipeg Flying Club where he obtained a Private and then Commercial Pilot Certificate under the guidance of the late Konnie Johannesson, well known instructor and pilot.

During the early and mid thirties he took part in several touring Air Shows and "barnstormed" throughout Manitoba giving aeroplane rides for two and three dollars a trip. For many of the small communities it was probably the first aeroplane that had landed in the district. This usually brought out most of the townspeople to look at the aeroplane and ask, "Why did you have to land?"

As H.P. said, "We didn't make much money but we learned a lot about people and what the depression was all about. Money was a scarce commodity; rural teachers in many communities were months behind in salary payments. However, everyone seemed to be quite cheerful, friendly and helpful." He remembers arriving back in Winnipeg during the fall of 1935, after two months of barnstorming, with the princely sum of \$1.35 net profit. It would have been \$3.35 if he had not had to land and buy a couple of dollars worth of gas at Plumas, to get to Winnipeg. "They were hard times but we had a lot of fun and certainly got an education."

He remembers well his first flight to Lac du Bonnet in 1932 with a Cirrus Moth aeroplane. He landed at the then R.C.A.F. station, at dusk, and remained overnight. Next morning he was hauled up before the Commanding Officer and fined one dollar for landing at an Air Force station without permission.

He later went to work for Arrow Airways at The Pas. He obtained an Aircraft Engineer's Certificate and worked out of The Pas, Flin Flon and Sherridon for a number of years as a pilot-



Hugh P. Smith

engineer.

Before leaving The Pas to join T.C.A. as a First Officer he had the good fortune to meet and marry his wife Helen.

H.P. and Helen moved to Lac du Bonnet early in 1940, after joining the Manitoba Government Air Service but for the next three years they spent their summers at Cormorant Lake, on the Hudson's Bay Line, where H.P. was the pilot in charge of the northern area. In 1946 he again went north with the late Larry Martin, engineer, to open a year round base of operations for the M.G.A.S. in northern Manitoba. He was promoted to Base Superintendent and the following year his wife and family moved to The Pas to join him. However, it was a short lived stay for in 1948, he was transferred back to Lac du Bonnet as Senior



Superintendent and Chief Pilot for the M.G.A.S.

On the retirement of Director J. C. Uhlman in May 1962 he was promoted to Director of the M.G.A.S., the position he held until transferred to Winnipeg in 1971 as Director of Administration and Communications in the newly formed Air, Radio and Technical Services Division.

If it were possible would he do it all over again? "Yes," says Hugh without any hesitation. "It has been an interesting and adventurous life."

Does he intend to take it easy now? "Not so," he says, "I am still a few years away from going to pasture and for the shape I'm in - I'm in pretty good shape." I have so many things I want to do, but first, I want to get resettled back in my home at Lac du Bonnet."

"There are a couple of community projects I would like to become involved in and do a little flying, just to keep my hand in. Still have my pilot license. One thing I want to do is devote some time to writing a series of articles on the early days of flying in the north and possibly a book, for which I have been gathering material for many years. It would tell some of the story of the early pilots and engineers, the prospectors and trappers and all those people who, 30 and 40 years ago, played a large part in opening up the northland. Lac du Bonnet is part of that story.

In any event there is lots to do. Can't quit working now. It's been a habit for too long."

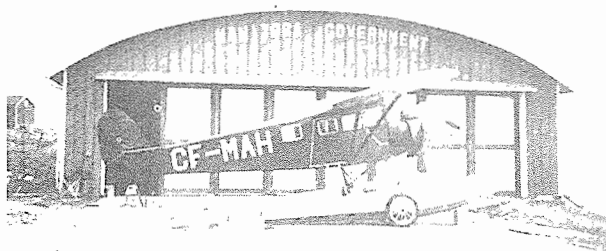
**May, 1932**

### **THE M.G.A.S. IS BORN** by H. P. Smith

Prior to 1932, five detection patrols for the Manitoba Forest Service, which was headed by Colonel H. I. Stevenson, Provincial Forester, had been carried out by the Royal Canadian Air Force by arrangement with the Dominion Government. Since 1930, the Forest Service had planned and worked to establish its own air arm. However, aircraft and facilities cost money. The great depression blanketed the nation and the Provincial Government, like everyone else, had to retrench. Certainly there was no money for an air service.

At the same time, and for the same reason, the Dominion Government was reducing its expenditures whenever possible and this included the military services. Negotiations between the two governments eventually resulted in the R.C.A.F. turning over to the Province five Vickers Vedette flying boats for the sum of one dollar each provided that the Manitoba Government also employ five R.C.A.F. officers, who would be released from the service, to operate them.

On May 3, 1932 the Manitoba Government Air



Original M.G.A.S. hanger, constructed 1934. Fairchild 51 in foreground. First cabin aircraft owned by M.G.A.S.

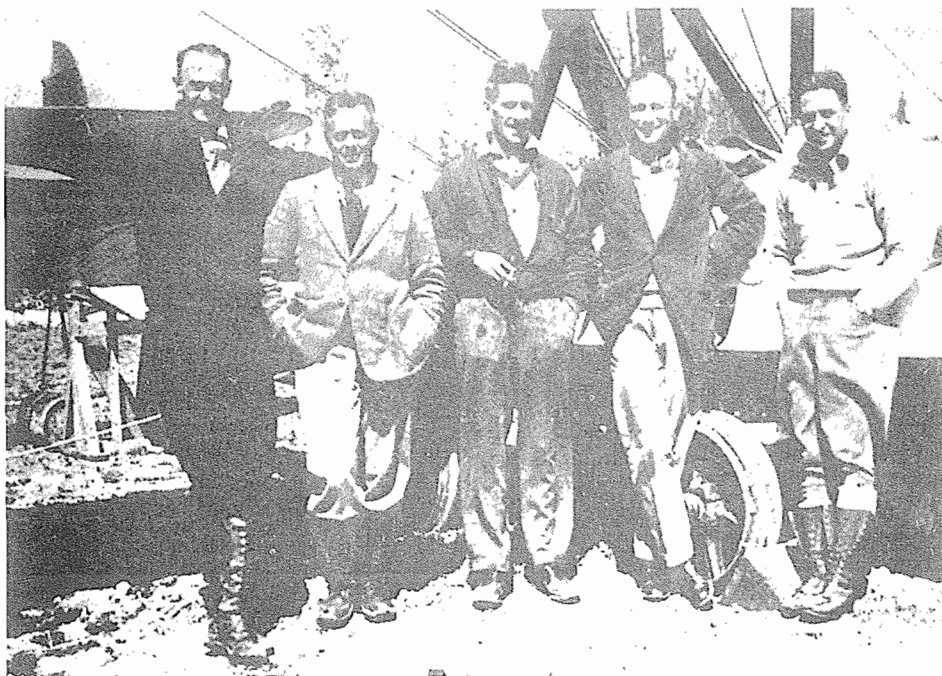


Original Forest Service and M.G.A.S. Staff House 1933. Frame buildings in background erected many years later.

Service was officially born when the first patrol flight for the Forest Service was carried out. Lac du Bonnet was chosen as the headquarters and main base of operations for the fledgling service. Cormorant Lake, an R.C.A.F. Station at mile 42 on the Hudson Bay Railroad, was chosen as the summer base of operations for the northern area.

As the M.G.A.S. had no ground facilities of its own the R.C.A.F. allowed them to share the use of theirs which were located just below the Winnipeg River Bridge, the site of the present airstrip. This arrangement proved unsatisfactory for both organizations but continued until December 1933 when a 45 by 50 foot wooden workshop was erected at the site of the present Air Service building in Lac du Bonnet. By 1934, a 60 by 70 foot wooden storage hangar was erected to house the aircraft. Both buildings were demolished in 1949 upon completion of the present building.

The Vedette was a biplane flying boat, of wooden construction, with open cockpits and powered with a 165 H.P. Armstrong Siddley Lynx engine. Pilots of the day jokingly referred to it as having only one speed. Take off 60 M.P.H., cruise at 60 M.P.H. and land at 60 M.P.H. However, the Vedette, despite its' limited payload and fast approaching obsolescence, had performed yeoman service, from coast to coast, during the 1920's and early 30's. In 1934, two more were acquired, at a nominal price, to replace two which had been retired as uneconomical to rebuild. The latest two were registered CF-MAF and CF-MAG in alphabetical sequence to the first five. All seven



The original 5 man staff of the M.G.A.S. reading from L to R: J. C. Uhlman, L. H. Phinney, M. B. Barclay, C. H. Travers, M. H. Kennedy. Vickers Vedette in background.

had finally disappeared from the skies of Manitoba when MAG was forced, by engine failure, to land on a shallow lake, near Cormorant, August 1937. As it was due to be written off at the end of the flying season, it was decided to strip it and burn it where it landed.

The Vedette was not an amphibious aircraft. It could only be flown during the open water season. The pilots who flew them during the summer were employed in overhauling them during the winter. This meant that any winter flying still had to be purchased from a commercial operator. In February 1934, a second hand Fairchild 51 cabin airplane, CF-MAH, was purchased for 1500 dollars, overhauled and placed in service in time for the summer operations. Using this machine, on skis, the M.G.A.S. were now able to provide a limited amount of flying during the winter of 1934-35. However, the increasing demand for more winter flying and the need to transport larger cargos, all year round, could only be resolved by more modern and larger aircraft. In August 1935, the M.G.A.S. acquired its first new aircraft, a 12 passenger Fairchild 82B, CF-MA1, powered with a 550 H.P. P.&W. engine and equipped for all year round operation. A new era had begun.

The five R.C.A.F. pilots who formed the original staff of the M.G.A.S. were - J. C. Uhlman, L. H. Phinney, C. H. Travers, M. H. Kennedy and M. B. Barclay. A former R.C.A.F. mechanic "Pat" Patterson was hired as Chief Engineer and the first civilian pilot, P. E. Jensen, was also hired in 1932. In 1933, M. W. Torrance, also formerly with the R.C.A.F., was hired as Chief of engine overhaul and maintenance.

Jim Uhlman was appointed the Chief pilot and

Assistant Director. In 1946, by an Act of the Legislature the M.G.A.S. was divorced from the Forest Service and became a branch of the Department of Mines and Natural Resources. Jim Uhlman was appointed Director and continued in this capacity until his retirement in May 1962. He now resides in Victoria, B.C.

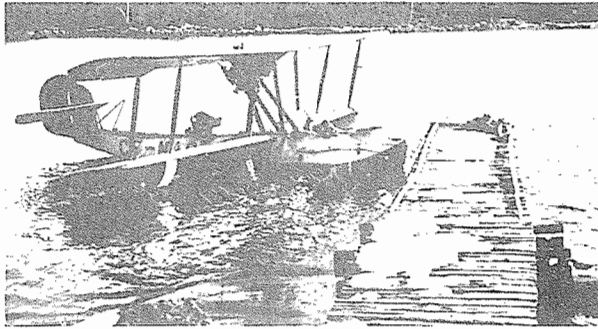
Laurie Phinney, who also had a law degree, was Chief pilot of the northern region. He resigned this position in the late 30's, to become Supervisor of the Game and Fisheries Branch, at The Pas. He resigned this position in 1941 to become Magistrate for the Northwest Territories, a position he held until his retirement to B.C. He passed away several years ago.

Charlie Travers left the service in 1937 to join the Department of Transport, Ottawa. He later became Chief of the Accident Investigation Branch and continued in this post until his retirement. He has since passed on.

Marlowe Kennedy resigned in 1934 to join



CF-MA1 - Fairchild 82. First aircraft purchased new, August 1935.



Last Vickers Vedette operated by M.G.A.S. Also last Vedette in Manitoba.



CF-MAA - minus wings. One of the 5 Vedettes obtained from the R.C.A.F.

Canadian Airway Ltd. Later, he flew in northern Canada for MacKenzie Air Services before joining the R.C.A.F. to serve on the Air Transport Command. After the war, he was posted to Senior Air Staff duties until 1956 when he retired with the rank of Group Captain. He now resides in Victoria, B.C.

"Jock" Barclay resigned to join Canadian Airways Ltd. in 1934. He joined Trans Canada Airlines in 1937 and in 1944 became Superintendent of Trans Atlantic operations. He retired in 1968 and lives in Oakville, Ontario.

"Pat" Patterson joined T.C.A. as a senior engineer in 1938 or 1939. He was later transferred to Dorval, Quebec where he remained until his retirement some years ago.

Paul Jensen resigned in 1940 to join T.C.A. He retired as a senior captain in 1971 and resides in Winnipeg.

"Mort" Torrance became the Chief Engineer after the resignation of Patterson. During the war he rejoined the R.C.A.F. After his return to the M.G.A.S., he was appointed Superintendent of Maintenance until his retirement in 1970. He now resides in Victoria, B.C.

Colonel Stevenson, who could rightfully be called the father of the M.G.A.S. died in 1943 while still in office.

Those first men of the M.G.A.S. had to operate as a team if the infant organization were to survive but, they were also individualists. It was probably this combination that enabled them to endure the hardships they were faced with. Lack of funds,

equipment and the primitive facilities compared to those of today. It is to their credit that they were able to nurse the fledgling organization through those formative years.

Between 1934 and 1938, the fleet had grown to a total of four cabin aircraft. Two Fairchild 82's, one Stinson Reliant and the Fairchild 51. These years had seen the retirement of the last Vedette and although smaller in total, the beginning of a more efficient, modern fleet of aircraft but, it was not to last. By 1939, the impending war had forced a halt to any further growth. The trials and tribulations of the war years had begun. For instance, by mid summer of 1940 the staff had been so decimated that the flight staff were down to two pilots for the balance of the year, the Director and the author, during one of the worst fire seasons up to that time.

Now, 45 years later, as one sees the province-wide, modern facilities of the M.G.A.S. and the fleet of red and yellow aircraft plying the skies of Manitoba, it is amazing, when one realizes that this is the same organization that, in the beginning, did not even have a home of its' own for almost two years.

It would fill a book to tell the whole story of that first decade in the life of the M.G.A.S. let alone its history to date.

Hence, it is sufficient to say that those early pioneers of the M.G.A.S. were — a very remarkable breed.

## OUR YESTERDAYS

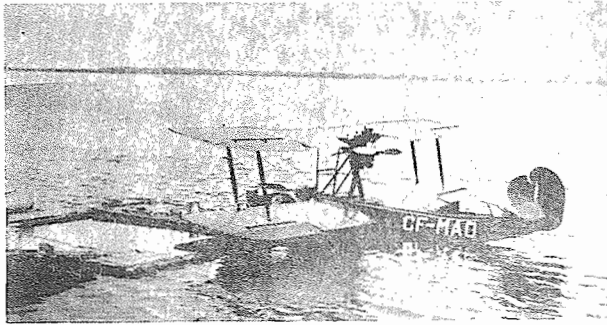
by Helen Smith

Those standing on the town dock at Lac du Bonnet on a fair June day in 1927, watching a plane take off for the mining areas to the north and east, were unaware that they were seeing the first sentence written in the story of commercial aviation in Manitoba.

The beginnings of great enterprises are usually lacking in drama. The awareness of their



The original Government Air Service hangar is a far cry to the now brick building. In front is a Fairchild 51 taken in 1935.



Here is one of the original Vickers Vedette flying boats at the Air Service dock on October 15, 1934.

possibilities exists only in the imagination of their inaugurators, as a rule.

The plane being watched this day was carrying the first air mail to be flown in Manitoba. The prairie air mail run was three years or so away, the success of which prompted the beginning of Trans Canada Airlines in 1937.

We were reminded last summer by the Centennial Voyageurs that the great Winnipeg River was once a very important artery in the days of the fur traders when the freight canoes plied up and down the hazardous route which was laced with rapids, and the banks echoed the sounds of the paddlers' songs. It seems somehow fitting that the age of the new voyageurs should have begun on the same waters.

The Village of Lac du Bonnet, sprawling along the western bank of the river, facing the trailing edge of the pre-Cambrian Shield, possesses one of the finest seaplane bases in western Canada. Here the Winnipeg River is a mile wide.

The first mention of aircraft using Lac du Bonnet as a base of operations is found in the Lac du Bonnet Times of July 1922, which mentions a plane on survey work being based here. Aircraft were an exciting novelty in those days. Mr. W. Hammerstedt remembers well the early morning arrival when everyone rushed to the dock to view the flying boat and the men who flew it. Some stumbled from their homes half-awake and half-clad. The airplane then was something which people read about but rarely saw.

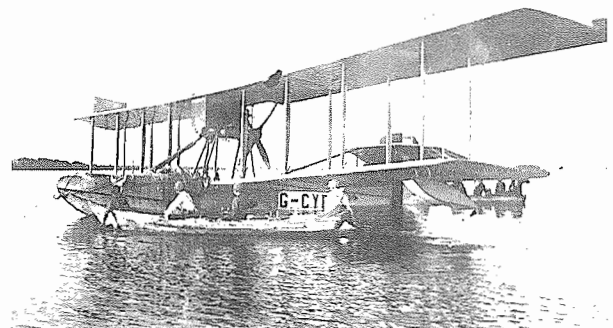
Lac du Bonnet was to become very familiar with aircraft and with the pioneers who piloted them. By 1927, the R.C.A.F. had moved its base from Victoria Beach to a point two miles down river from the village. In 1932, The Manitoba Government Air Service was established with permanent headquarters at Lac du Bonnet — but that is another story.

The initial impetus to commercial bush flying in Manitoba came with the establishment of a base here by Western Canada Airways in 1927. This was for the purpose of servicing the new mining developments of central Manitoba.

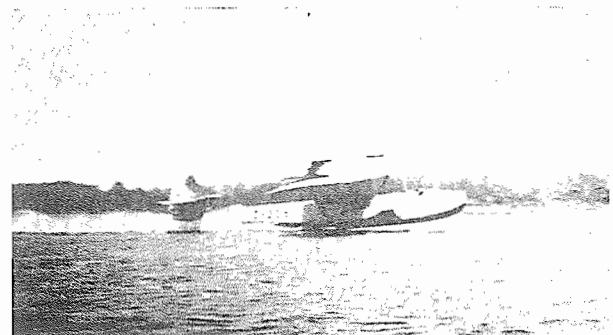
Prior to 1927, the mail and supplies for all the surrounding districts from the Lowlands to Fort Alexander to the eastern regions were delivered in various ways, resulting in considerable delay.

Mrs. K. C. Fergusson of Great Falls was, before her marriage, the Postmistress at Lac du Bonnet. The post office was in the building which, for many years now, has been Shaw's Drugstore. At this time, 1927, ox-drawn carts were still coming in from the farming district to pick up mail and supplies, Mrs. Fergusson recalls, and a canoeist came regularly from Fort Alexander, a journey which necessitated several portages. In winter teams of horses and sleighs carried the freight and mail half way to the mining areas, and at the half way point were met by fresh teams which relieved them of a further journey. A picture of the oxen, canoe and plane, converging toward the same small spot, the most ancient beside the newest mode of transportation, would be an invaluable item.

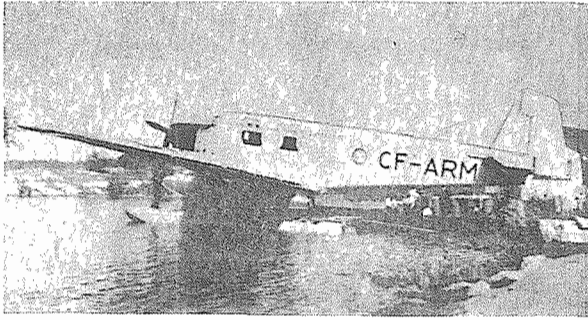
One of the first pilots on the bush run out of Lac du Bonnet was Fred Stevenson who was to lose his life a year later in a crash at The Pas. Stevenson Field, now the Winnipeg International Airport, was named in his honour. He was the first commercial pilot killed flying in Manitoba. A bronze bust of the pilot was unveiled at the official opening of the Winnipeg Air Terminal.



One of the early Hydro planes to visit Lac du Bonnet.



Wolfgang Von Groneou takes off from Lac du Bonnet Air Base on the next leg of his round the world flight in August 1932.



Here a Junkers JW 52 Box Car is readied for take-off by Canadian Airways Limited.

Following the success of operations in this area, bases were soon established at Ilford and God's Lake, The Pas, Cranberry Portage and Flin Flon. The Fairchild 71's and 82's, Fokkers, Junkers, Wacos, and later the Norseman aircraft, were the workhorses of this period.

Everyone is accustomed to air transport today. It will be difficult for many to imagine the enormous benefit the bush runs gave to those living in isolated areas, previously separated by journeys of weeks duration from the 'outside'. The role of aviation in the development of Manitoba can hardly be over-estimated, for it was the aircraft which pushed back the northern frontier. Begun by James A. Richardson to service remote mining areas, it has in 40 years, changed the face of our province — and it all began at the Lac du Bonnet town dock.

Some of our citizens hope to see a commemorative cairn erected close to the dock, marking the beginning here of some great importance, in remembrance of the service given by those early couriers d'avion and honouring the man who made that beginning possible. Manitoba, and indeed the nation, owes much to James A. Richardson, who had the courage to put his money where his faith was.

## THE MAIL TAKES WINGS

by H. P. Smith

Those few spectators standing on the town dock at Lac du Bonnet on June 1st, 1927, watching a plane taking off for the mining areas to the north and east, were unaware that they were witnessing the first sentence being written in the story of commercial aviation in Manitoba.

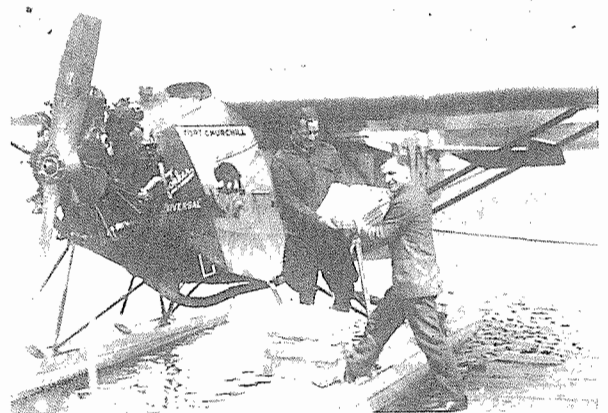
The beginnings of most great enterprises are usually lacking in drama. The awareness of their possibilities exists only in the imagination of their inaugurators as a rule.

The plane being watched that day was a Western Canada Airways Fokker Universal, registration G-CAGE, with Captain F. J. Stevenson at the Controls and it was carrying the first airmail to be

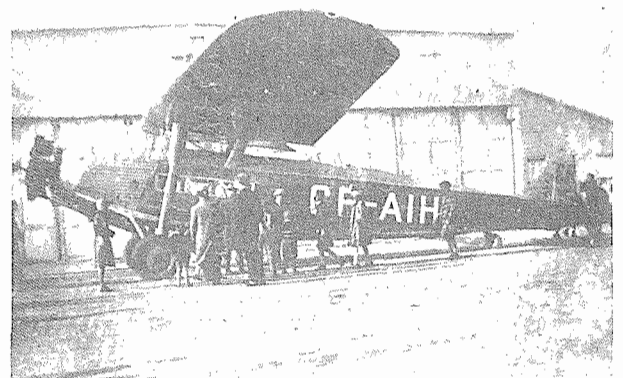
low in Manitoba. The Prairie airmail and passenger service began scheduled operations out of Winnipeg, March 3, 1930. The prairie service between Winnipeg and Calgary eventually led to the formation of Trans Canada Airlines (now Air Canada) by the federal government in 1937. By the early forties, the Canadian Pacific Railway had purchased Canadian Airways, successor to Western Canada Airways, and a number of other aviation companies to form what we now know as C.P. Air.

In January, 1928, Fred Stevenson lost his life while making a test flight of G-CAGE at The Pas. Because of his many noteworthy exploits, the Winnipeg Flying Club, in May 1928, named it's newly acquired airport 'Stevenson Field', now the Winnipeg International Airport, in his memory. A bronze bust of Stevenson and a plaque were unveiled at the official opening of the present Winnipeg Air Terminal in 1964.

The great Winnipeg River was once a very important artery in the days of the fur trade when the voyageurs with their large freight canoes plied up and down this river which was laced with rapids



The late Capt. Fred Stevenson accepting the first newspapers to be flown to Red Lake, June 1927.



One of six Fokker F-14 mail planes used on the Prairie Air Mail Service, 1930. Note pilot's open cockpit aft of wing. Mail was stored in compartment under cockpit and up to 8 passengers carried in cabin.



and the banks echoed the refrain of the paddlers' songs. It is singularly fitting that the new breed of voyageurs should begin on the same waters.

The village of Lac du Bonnet, spread along the western bank of the river and facing the trailing edge of the pre-Cambrian Shield, possesses out of the finest seaplane bases in western Canada. Because of this, Lac du Bonnet was chosen by Western Canada Airways for its first flying base in Manitoba. Also, in 1927, the R.C.A.F. moved its base from Victoria Beach to a point two miles downstream from the Village. Later, in May 1932, the Manitoba Government Air Service was established with headquarters at Lac du Bonnet followed by other flying companies such as Wings Ltd. and Starrat Airways.

When Western Canada Airways began operations, the postal authorities had not yet authorized the use of airmail stamps. Approval was given to the Company to issue their own. These were not to resemble existing postage stamps and were to sell for ten cents each. They were referred to as 'sticker stamps' at the time, but philatelists today refer to them as 'semi-official airmail stamps'.

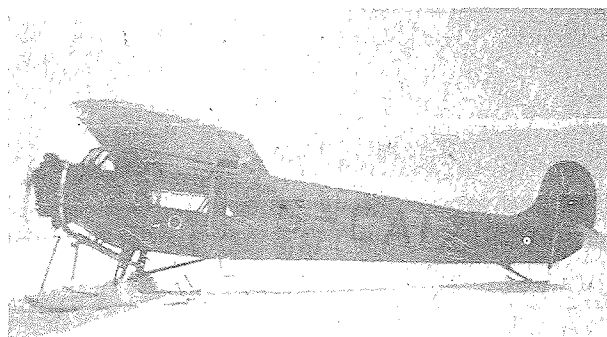
The first official contract airmail service undertaken by the company for the Postal Department was carried between Lac du Bonnet, Long Lake (Wadhope) and Bissett, October 4th, 1927. The pilot on this flight was W. L. Britnell who later became Assistant General Manager of Canadian Airways.

Since that first day of June, fifty years ago, men whose names were to become notable in Canadian aviation worked out of Lac du Bonnet over the years: C. H. 'Punch' Dickens, Roy Brown, H. Holick-Kenyon, who later took leave of absence to fly with the third Ellesworth expedition to the Antarctic and South Pole, Bill Catton, J. C. 'Jim' Uhlman, 'Stu' McRorie, Herb Seagrim, who later became vice-president of Air Canada, among a host of others. The list is long.

Equally long is the list of pioneer air engineers who worked out of Lac du Bonnet. Space will not permit listing all the names but two well known names epitomizes them all, the redoubtable Sammy Tomlinson and M. W. 'Mort' Torrance.

Following the success of air operations in this area, Western Canada Airways soon established bases at The Pas, Cranberry, Portage, Flin Flon, Illford and Gods Lake. The Fairchild 71's and 82's, Fokkers, Junkers, Wacos and later the Norseman aircraft were the work horses of this period.

Air transport is a way of life today. It will be difficult for most to imagine the enormous benefits the 'bush' runs gave to those living in the remote and isolated areas which were previously reached



Last Fokker aircraft in Manitoba. Destroyed in hangar fire, The Pas, 1941.

only by a journey of days or weeks duration, by canoe or dog team to or from the outside world.

The role that aviation has played in the development of Manitoba cannot be overestimated. For it was the aircraft which pushed back the frontiers from the then-existing railroads. Western Canada Airways and its successor Canadian Airways Ltd., was conceived and developed by the late James A. Richardson primarily to service the remote mining areas. From that beginning it has in fifty years changed the face of the province, and it began at the Lac du Bonnet town dock.

It is hoped that one day a commemorative cairn will be erected close to the present dock marking the beginning of a great era in our history, in remembrance of the remarkable service given by those early 'couriers d'avion', and honouring the memory of the man who made that beginning possible. Manitoba, and in fact Canada, owes much to James A. Richardson who had the courage to put his money where his faith was.

As he was once quoted as saying, 'You write the vision and make it plain.'

## THE CATCH-POST

### **It Began 50 Years Ago in the Village of Lac du Bonnet Canada's First Airmail Service**

Lac du Bonnet Postmaster Bert Wood has never flown a plane in his life, but the pressure is mounting.

Bert runs a Post Office that's just plain soaking in aviation history. It began 50 years ago this month when the first official air stage service in Canada was inaugurated between Lac du Bonnet, Long Lake, Bissett and return.

The date was October 4th, 1927, and the pilot was W. L. Britnell who later became an executive of Canadian Airways (which merged with CP Air in the 1940's). Britnell flew a Fokker Universal on that first official trip, and the service operated until

November 12 when it was discontinued for the winter in favor of an alternative land operation.

No records have been found telling what mail was carried on the first flight but copies of the Winnipeg Tribune were likely included. These were for distribution to the mining camps that dotted the Red Lake area.

In researching this article, Bert introduced us to Mr. H. P. Smith, retired director of the Manitoba Government Air Service, and long time resident of Lac du Bonnet. Mr. Smith is a gracious host and chatted amiably to us in his living room about the way the mail moved by air in those early days. Mr. Smith remembers that Moore's Taxi carried the mail between Winnipeg and Lac du Bonnet and that unusual stamps were used.

"They were called 'sticker stamps' ", he recalled. "They were not issued by the Post Office, but by the airline, Western Canada Airways. The stamps carried no denomination and they didn't look like a regular postage stamp. As I recall they sold for 10 cents each."

Philatelists today refer to these as 'semi-official airmail stamps'.

"Of course, air mail transport is a way of life today", explained Mr. Smith, "but in the 1920's those air mail deliveries into remote areas gave people enormous benefits. Previously news of the outside world came only after a journey of several days or weeks, mostly by canoe or dog team."

Although the population of Lac du Bonnet is 1100 people, the Post Office there serves about 2400 customers who live within about a 10 mile radius of the village.

"Our population doubles in the summer," said Bert.

More about the Lac du Bonnet Post Office: the Assistant Postmaster is Ralph Schmitke who arrived last February. Bert's four part-time postal clerks are Ruth Sarapu, Blythe Hirst, Ruth Monych and Rachel Arseniuk. The office averages about \$40,000 in revenue annually and was established in 1900.

## PIGEON POST

Two men are sitting playing cards in an old frame building. It is evening. A tiny bell rings over their heads and one gets up and leaves the room. He returns in a moment with a pigeon tucked under his arm, and removes a small container from the bird's leg. In the container is a message - a forest fire report from Berens River. It is the signal for Manitoba's forest fire fighting team, 1930's vintage, to go into action.

This scene was a regular part of evening at Lac du Bonnet in the thirties. It was an integral part of

the Manitoba government forest protection service. That pigeon and dozens of others like it, were our first communication network. The man who looked after the birds was our first pigeonier, and as far as can be determined our only pigeonier.

The pigeons and the pigeonier are now long gone. So, too, is the tiny bell that signalled the return of a homing pigeon to the pigeon house at Lac du Bonnet. But they once played an important role in our early days of forest protection. They were part of the bargain that saw Manitoba take over the administration of her own resources in 1930.

Prior to that time the federal government had used the aircraft of the R.C.A.F. for forest reconnaissance. With the change of administration an agreement was signed that saw five Vickers Vedette aircraft, their crews and their pigeon communication system, all transferred to the Province. All for the lordly sum of \$5 - a sum which, there is reason to believe, is still unpaid.

For nearly seven years the pigeons were one of our main lines of communication, particularly between points within 150 miles of Lac du Bonnet. Each year when the tower men moved out to their towers in the area, they took their complement of pigeons with them.

It was an unpredictable communication system, one that depended on certain important rules being followed for any degree of success.

For example, it was deemed advisable that two birds be dispatched with each message to increase the odds of the message getting through. Towermen were also advised to send their messages well before dusk. The pigeons had to have sufficient daylight for the hazardous trip back to base.

Above all, the pigeons had to be brought back to Lac du Bonnet periodically during the season for reindoctrination. They had to have their homing instincts adjusted.

Despite these precautions the system eventually broke down. Rumour has it that too many of the pigeons were finding their way into homemade pigeon pie - a staple of isolated towermen in those days.

By 1937 the ravages of time and pot pies had brought the pigeon post to its knees and consideration was being given to a comparatively new revolutionary idea - radio. In that year the first sets were put into use between Lac du Bonnet and Cormorant Lake near The Pas, thus writing an end to an interesting chapter in the Department's history.

Speak of those days to some of our old timers and a gleam of sadness comes into their eyes, when they think of those pigeons. After all you can't eat a radio set.



View of R.C.A.F. Base, Lac du Bonnet. Four Fairchild "71's", Bellanca Pacemaker, Vickers "Vedette", Gypsy Moth, Junkers "34" - Allan Hunt.

### ALLAN HUNT

**Allan Hunt's recollections of his association with Canadian Airways (and numerous other operators) at Lac du Bonnet.**

My first impressions of Lac du Bonnet were gained through brief visits there during the summers of 1930 and 1931. These were of a pleasant lakeside town which was a combination of a supply centre and route to the various hydro communities such as Pointe du Bois — Pinawa, and Great Falls — coupled with this was its centre for flights into the Central Manitoba mining district, and the Red Lake area. This was combined with the activities in the area of mixed farming — some lumbering — the cutting and shipping of cordwood, and the activities of the summer residents in the area.

All of this was super-imposed on the year-round residents of the municipality of Lac du Bonnet.

This seemed to me to be a pretty well balanced and industrious community.

My first contacts were in connection with the goings and comings, and sometimes the repairs of aircraft belonging to Canadian Airways. I spent the summer of 1931 based at Gull Harbour on the north end of Hecla Island in Lake Winnipeg on forest fire patrol operations. At this time I was an apprentice mechanic working under the guidance of Tommy Gilmour. The pilots were Art Schade and John Bythell. The former is of course now retired from flying and is, I believe, now living in Swan River, Manitoba. John Bythell died about 10 years ago in Montreal, after finishing his flying career in the RCAF.

Upon obtaining my Air Engineers Certificate in 1932, I was assigned the responsibility of looking after a Fairchild aircraft (CF-AAN) which was to

be operated from Lac du Bonnet by Roy Brown. This was the beginning of my immersion in Lac du Bonnet as it thus became my happy home for 2½ years, for both summer and winter operations.

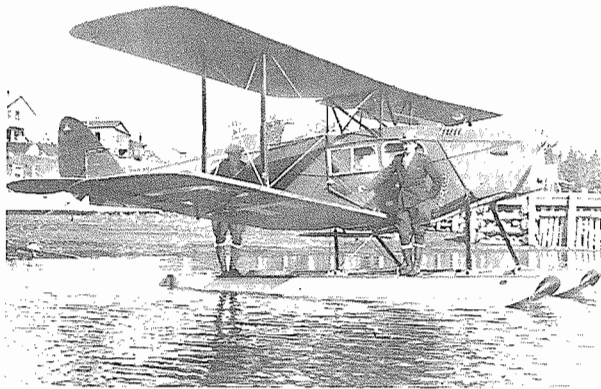
Having purchased a used Model "A" Ford car in 1932, I used it for various small jobs in connection with meeting buses — sometimes a train — and of course to make pick-ups of small grocery orders, mail, etc. Some of the Canadian Airways personnel that I was associated with at Lac du Bonnet were "Buck" Buchanan, Jock Jarvis, Tommy Thompson, Jack Moar, A. N. "Westy" Westergaard, Ted Stull, Milt Ashton, Frank Baragar, Stu MacRorie, John Bythell, Art Schade, "Jock" Barclay, Harold Farrington, Norm Forrester, Val Patriarche, Marlowe Kennedy, Jack Crosby, Hollick-Kenyon (all the foregoing were pilots).

Some of the maintenance engineers were: Tommy Gilmour, "Jock" McGeorge, Neville (Slim) Forrest, Bill Nadin, Bert Fields, Alton (Andy) Anderson, Frank Hartley, "Buzz" Bancroft, "Pat" Patterson, Sammy Tomlinson, Bob MacInnes, Bert Philpott.

Unfortunately the majority of these pilots are now dead. The last word I have of those who still survive is: Stu MacRorie now lives in Calgary, Art Schade in Swan River, Manitoba, Harold Farrington in Red Lake, Ontario, Marlowe Kennedy in Victoria, B.C., and Val Patriarche also in Victoria.

Tommy Gilmour and Bert Fields live in Richmond, B.C., Jock McGeorge and Buzz Bancroft in the Vancouver area, Bob MacInnes at Hope, B.C., Pat Patterson in Beaconsfield, Quebec, and if Alton Anderson is still alive he is likely in New Jersey, U.S.A.

The flying activity that I was involved with at Lac du Bonnet was largely associated with a scheduled mail and passenger service which served



DeHavilland Fox Moth on right. In picture, George Russel, brother of Horace - Allan Hunt.

Long Lake (Central Manitoba Mines), Rice Lake (San Antonio Mines) and Gunnar Gold Mines (at Wallace Lake). The bulk of our other flying was the movement of prospectors, geologists, and in some cases mining promoters and officials. We also did a fair amount of flying of supplies, and some baled furs for the Hudson Bay Company, and a few free traders. The movement of diamond drill crews and their drilling equipment was fairly frequent. Occasionally we handled fairly large parties of fishermen into some rather inaccessible lakes.

The flourishing flying business radiating from Lac du Bonnet convinced four senior pilots of Canadian Airways that they should form their own company. These four were Roy Brown, Milt Ashton, Ted Stull and Jack Moar. Thus was formed "Wings Limited" most of whose pilots were well known to me as was the most of the air engineers whom they employed. Among the latter were Tommy Gilmour, Alton (Andy) Anderson, Bob MacInnis, Herb Seagrim, Eddie Richards, Ralph Perras. Other pilots with Wings Ltd. were Doug Cameron, Mert Wales, and after a short time Herb Seagrim became one of their pilots, rather than an engineer.

With the departure of Roy Brown from Canadian Airways, Bill Catton took over as pilot in charge at Lac du Bonnet.

The third active flying operator out of Lac du Bonnet at this time was Konnie Johanneson, who had Carl Clark as his air engineer, and Wally Carrlon as agent. Wally later was employed as a pilot by Canadian Airways.

Although there was considerable business rivalry between Wings Ltd., Canadian Airways, and Konnie Johanneson, there was also excellent rapport and friendly relations on the job, and socially.

Many of those involved in the commercial (as opposed to RCAF and Manitoba Government Air Services) used to take their meals with the Wes

Mathews family. His wife Nell was an excellent cook and had developed a reputation in this field with some of the other single workers in the town.

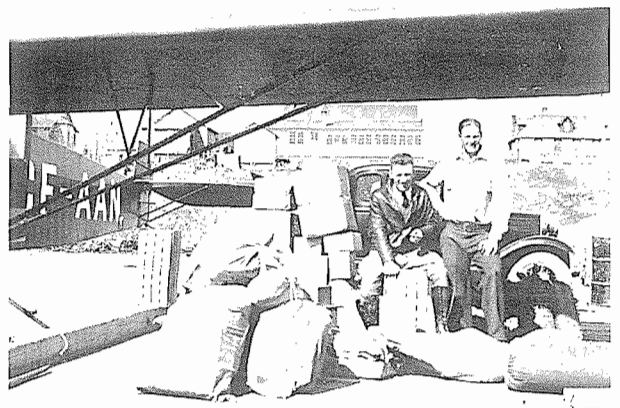
Others who boarded with Mathews were Lorne McAllister, the high school principal, Alden King, accountant in the Royal Bank, Jean Reid and Margaret Scarfe, teachers in the Junior High School and elementary rooms. Herb Seagrim, who initially worked for Konnie Johanneson, also boarded with Mathews, as did Eddie Richards, and Bob MacInnes. The regional public health nurse, Eve Chittick, also stayed with Mathews.

One of my fondest memories of these days was the good food, lively conversation, and the happy associations among the group that ate their meals at Wes Mathews home. His home was rather ideally situated in relation to the town dock, where almost all of our flying activities seemed to centre.

The periods between servicing and loading of ones aircraft provided numerous opportunities for short visits to various business places in the town. The most conveniently located of these since it also provided a view of the town dock area, was Shaw's Drug Store. This enabled one to keep a watch for



Large shipment of gold bullion from two or three mines. First flight after freeze-up - Eddie Richards, Roy Brown facing camera - Allan Hunt.



Pilot Roy Brown and Mechanic Allan Hunt with load of mail for Central Manitoba Mining Area - Allan Hunt.



Left to right: Junkers W-34, Fairchild 71, Fokker Universal, 3 Waco's - Wings Ltd. Background: 3 Vickers Vedettes - Allan Hunt.

your aircraft as it returned to its base.

The two Shaw brothers were very friendly and since Rem Shaw was the local telephone exchange operator, we had frequent contacts in connection with passenger calls re their flying arrangements. Jack Shaw, although inclined to be rather quiet and retiring by nature, was a pretty good conversationalist and had a very dry sense of humour.

Those I well remember as enjoying their chats with the Shaw brothers were Frank Waters, Alec MacIntosh, Harry Nystedt (Sr.), Joe Sparman, and Frank Teare. There was very little took place around that corner (and the town dock) that they didn't observe. The thing that I like to remember

about Rem and Jack Shaw was that they were each convinced that he was in fact taking care of the other.

Some of the things that I well recall were social events, and occasional dances at Lac du Bonnet. One that I especially enjoyed was an evening in the hall, belonging to Alex Dancyt. This evening was devoted to an account of the search for the McAlpine Party, and their successful rescue by plane. This was recounted by Roy Brown, who was one of the pilots in the search and rescue, which had gone on for many weeks in Northern Canada. Since the party was known to be north and west of Chesterfield Inlet on the west side of Hudson Bay, the searching was all centred in the high arctic, and therefore in barren and inhospitable country.

The telling of the story of this ultimately successful search and rescue, with many of the otherwise unheard of details of hardship and frustration, was far better than a good book. Roy had a very free flowing way of recounting events, and with his faculty for injecting some humor into many of the incidents experienced and witnessed, it made a very remarkable evening. He gladly answered a number of questions about various details of the operation that were asked by his friends in the audience. Although I have read a number of accounts of the MacAlpine Search, I feel that Roy Brown's recounting of it was the most interesting and accurate, and certainly the most entertaining.

I fully admit that I am both an admirer and booster of Roy Brown. During my years of working with him and knowing him, I came to appreciate his flying skill and his capacity for making lasting friendships. While flying with him on many occasions I practically always had a feeling of

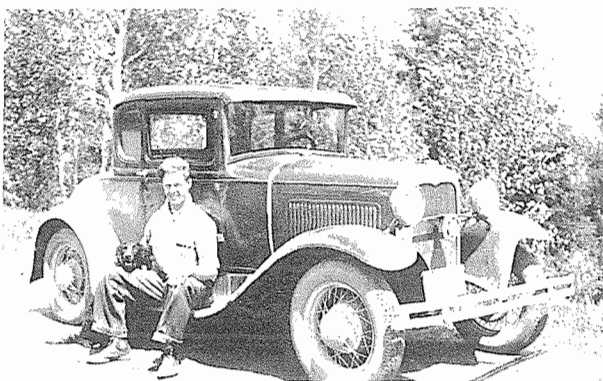


Mr. and Mrs. Wes Mathews at their gate, Lac du Bonnet, 1933 - Allan Hunt.





Canadian Airways Nose Hanger being hauled ashore for Spring Ice break-up - Allan Hunt.



The trusty 1930 Model "A" Ford - Allan Hunt.

complete safety and control. I confess to experiencing some minor scares with him — but never the result of his flying ability. He was very fond of flying. A comment I remember him making after a long arduous day of flying, "I don't care if I don't see that darned airplane again — until 4:30 tomorrow morning."

One of the pleasant social activities that was enjoyed by about twenty of the local and (transient residents like myself) was a weekly steambath at the Wood's farmstead, about two miles south of town, bordering on the river. This activity was continued during both the fine summer weather, and in the winter when for a time the road was snow blocked, by means of Joe Sparman's snowmobile.

The party consisted of about 10 or 12 wives (and some single girls too), first having their steam baths (and occasionally a swim). Then they would repair to Wood's home where they would prepare delicious sandwiches which usually contained cooked chicken meat (in natural gelatin).

The husbands and single males would later have their turn at the steam bath (and swim) and they too would repair to Wood's home for the food and a very pleasant sing song around the piano. The food was rendered even better by some homemade ginger beer.

Some of those who were pretty regular participants were: the Joe Sparmans, Bill

Hammerstedts, Wes Mathews, Roy Browns, Alex MacIntoshs, and a smattering of singles like Herb Seagrim, Eddie Richards, myself, Edythe Waters, Astrid Olsen, Ted and Tom Woods, Alden King, Frances Molloy, and Margaret Scarfe.

Roy and Di Brown were very kind to me, and during the fine summer months, would occasionally invite my girlfriend (later my wife), Nessie Kirk, to spend weekends visiting with them. This was at a time when Nola Brown was about four years old. Ness and Nola were quite fond of each other.

Roy's home was the centre of after hours activities for many of Canadian Airways customers. He was an excellent public relations man (as was his wife) and their friendly hospitality contributed greatly to the steady growth of Canadian Airways business in the Lac du Bonnet area.

One of the unfortunate accidents that took place on the lake at Lac du Bonnet while I was there was the crash of a Bellanca aircraft piloted by Marlowe Kennedy. The lone passenger with him at the time was Merlin "Mac" McLeod, an air engineer with Canadian Airways. Although the aircraft was a total loss, both men, although rather badly injured, made rapid recoveries and remained active in aviation until their retirements. "Mac" McLeod died (of natural causes) in Montreal about 1960, shortly after retiring from Air Canada. Marlowe Kennedy now resides in Victoria, B.C.



Roy, Diana and Nola Brown - Allan Hunt.

The crash took place about a half mile off shore from the Neily home (he was a hydro line man I believe) in a heavy snowstorm. Dr. Woods attended both injured men in the Neily home, having reached it via Joe Sparman's snowmobile. I later worked for years with both of these men and enjoyed their friendship.

I am glad to say that I still see some of the people "I knew in my Lac du Bonnet days" and I find it very pleasant to recall the happy associations that I enjoyed there.

I was just speaking, a few days ago, to Bob Williamson who I first met at Lac du Bonnet, when he worked as a cargo agent for Canadian Airways, about 1936. He now lives in Dorval, Quebec having retired from Air Canada a few years ago. Some of the townsfolk that I got to know were not much involved with the flying activities. Some like a tailor who had a small shop built between Le Vasseurs and Hans Johnson Garage, were just getting established, and like myself were glad of a visit and chat on a winter's evening. Another was a blacksmith (or welder) who had a thriving business in repairing damaged and worn farm machinery. I believe his name was Romanyszyn. He did some good welding repair work for me and we used to enjoy chatting about machines.

Other flying fraternity people that I knew around Lac du Bonnet were: Jim Uhlman and Charlie Travers, Rube Hadfield and Pickles Meagher, of the Manitoba Government Air Service. Paul Jensen, Mort Torrence, and Eddie Chapman should be in this group too. We also had occasion to do some flying from the Air Force Bay (just beyond the bridge) and Roy Brown was good friends with some of the RCAF pilots based there.

During my stay at Lac du Bonnet, and while working with Roy Brown, I was fortunate to accompany Roy into practically all of the various mine sites, prospecting camps, fishing lodges, etc. in the area that was served from Lac du Bonnet. This included such bustling centres at Red Lake, Beren's River, Norway House, and even as far north as God's Lake and Ilford.

We made fairly frequent flights into Lake George (with sport fishermen) and some of the less accessible lakes along the Manitoba/Ontario border, northeast of Gem Lake.

I was privileged to be with Roy on a flight into Rice Lake (scene of the San Antonio Gold Mine) at the time they achieved production of their first gold bullion. The handling of same was of course kept very confidential, until it was safely delivered to the mint. On our first flight, after an extended period of inactivity while ice formed on the lakes at freeze-up time, we flew out quite an accumulation of bullion from the three producing mines in the area. I never expect to see a similar amount of gold

at one time. Fortunately there was no publicity in connection with these gold movements and there was no need for armed guards, or massive security measures.

My recollections of Lac du Bonnet are mainly of the summer flying and other summer activities, such as swimming, boating, etc. The less pleasant winter operations was often carried out in pretty extreme cold, and of course there were no "summer residents" or even many local residents who showed much interest in the activities on the windswept lake in front of the town.

In retrospect it all added up to a very happy period in my life, and I cherish some very pleasant memories of the people I knew, and worked with, and the good friends I came to know while based at Lac du Bonnet.

Allan Hunt

## **EARLY MANITOBA FLIER NAMED TO AVIATION'S HALL OF FAME**

by John McManus

Free Press Aviation Reporter

September 29, 1975

F. Roy Brown, who is remembered in legends of Manitoba's aviation history, will be posthumously inducted into Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame Thursday in Edmonton.

The famous flier will also be honored with the City of Edmonton Order of Flight medal. His family will be represented by his daughter Nola (Mrs. A. J. Halter) of Winnipeg and his nephew, Hart Brown, son of the late Frank Brown, a younger brother of Roy who led a fighter squadron of the RCAF when the allies invaded Normandy.

The Aviation Hall of Fame was opened last year and will have a total of only 11 members when Roy Brown and Wilfred Leigh Brintnell, of Belleville, Ontario, are officially elevated to the select group.

Hall of fame president H. (Punch) Dickens, one of the last surviving pilots from the storybook era of Canadian aviation, will preside at the ceremony. Mayor William Hawryluk of Edmonton will present the flight medal from the city.

F. Roy Brown, born in Stockton, Manitoba, on September 13, 1896, started his career as a soldier in the Canadian Infantry in the muck and mire of the First World War battles at Ypres and Paschendale.

In 1917 he left the horrors of the surface war to join the gallant and admired men known as the Royal Flying Corps. Flying with No. 2 Squadron not long before the armistice, he was shot down over Belgium.

F. Roy, was often confused in retold war stories with A. Roy Brown, an eastern Canadian credited



Roy Brown, one of "Wings" Waco's - Allan Hunt.

with ending the epic career of Germany's Baron Von Richtofen — the Red Baron.

Manitoba's Roy Brown found his place in aviation history after the mass annihilation that was to be the war to end all wars.

He came back to this province in 1923 then flew with Western Canadian Airways, based in The Pas and Cranberry Portage.

In 1929 he was one of nine pilots from WCA who flew Canada's first great air search over the Northwest Territories, near Baker Lake and Bathurst Inlet trying to find the ill-fated McAlpine Expedition.

In the first two years of the 1930s he was superintendent of the prairie air mail route based at Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, where the fliers gathered nightly in the Grant Hall Hotel and told stories larger than their own incomparable adventures.

When the federal government cancelled the mail contract, the Manitoba flier became chief pilot of the Lac du Bonnet region for Canadian Airways Ltd.

In 1934, Roy Brown, Milt Ashton, Ted Stull and John Moar formed Wings Ltd. He was president and operations manager.

The Canadian Pacific Railway, which spawned CP Air, bought Wings and Mr. Brown joined them in 1941.

He left to be a test pilot for MacDonald Bros. Aircraft and by 1945, he had flown 2,500 airplanes. The aircraft company formed the roots of Bristol Aerospace.

The First World War pilot never liked to get too far from active flying. After the war he organized the airlifting of the mining town of Sherridan to what has grown to be the town of Lynn Lake.

In 1947, he and Milt Ashton bought back the "bush" operation from CP Air and called it Northern Airways, which went into the formation of Transair Ltd.

Between the test flying job and the townlift he was back with CP Air for a period as chief pilot of the central region.

He was a Liberal member of the legislature from 1953 to 1958; the voice of Rupertsland, where he had flown the bush flights and knew every wind and wave of the lakes and rock land.

The Manitoba government has placed his name on the map forever as Brown Lake.

Francis Roy Brown died November 30, 1960.

When he was named to Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame earlier this year the citation said "his contribution to aviation as a pilot, as an airmail pilot and World War 2 test pilot, coupled with his total commitment to encourage a younger generation of airmen to make a substantial contribution to Northern flying, has been of outstanding benefit to Canadian aviation."

# Mining

## FORMER LAC DU BONNET MAN HONORED BY MINING INDUSTRY

This year, the Winnipeg Branch is pleased to acknowledge the contributions to Mr. Albert O. Zeemel to the mineral industry of Manitoba and Central Canada. Albert has devoted most of his life to prospecting for mineral deposits, his most notable success being the discovery of the Gunnar uranium mine in the Lake Athabasca area of Saskatchewan. Other activities resulted in the discovery of chromite in the Bird River area of Manitoba. For his lifelong dedication to the task of expanding the knowledge of our mineral resources we in Winnipeg are pleased to honour Albert Zeemel as a founder of geology.

Albert Zeemel was born in Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba, in 1911 and moved to Winnipeg when he was in grade three. A few years later the family moved back to Lac du Bonnet but not long afterwards came back to Winnipeg where Albert finished his schooling.

Albert's father was a prospector, so about 1930 when the mineral industry of Manitoba was beginning to open up Albert joined his father in prospecting. Later, he attended the prospectors' school operated by the Province of Manitoba and obtained a diploma. His instructor at this school was J. S. DeLury, then head of the Department of Geology at the University of Manitoba.

Mr. Zeemel's prospecting activities took him to various places in Canada, but by far his greatest efforts were devoted to western Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. He worked mainly for mining companies among which was God's Lake Gold Mines Limited for whom he prospected in the thirties in the God's Lake, Sandy Lake and Island Lake areas of eastern Manitoba and north-western Ontario. In the late thirties, he worked for awhile underground at the Gunnar gold mine in the Beresford Lake area of southeastern Manitoba, and when this mine closed in 1942 Albert went prospecting for Gunnar Mines Limited. In 1942, he found chromite for Gunnar in the Bird River area of Manitoba. In the forties he also spent some



Albert Zeemel

time in the Munro township asbestos area of Ontario.

When uranium mining came into prominence, Gunnar sent Albert to the Beaverlodge area of Saskatchewan. Here, in July, 1952, he found the surface showing of what became the Gunnar Uranium Mine. The actual discovery was made at night because Albert insisted on returning to examine an area he had come upon during the day that he thought was interesting.

Albert Zeemel continued working for Gunnar until 1972, but since then he has maintained a lively interest in the mining business. During his active prospecting career, he maintained a home in Winnipeg where he still lives. A visit to his basement office reveals rows of filing cases containing records of his years of prospecting. Shelves galore contain mining publications of many years. In another area of his property, Albert has innumerable boxes of samples, all labelled and catalogued, which he had picked up over the years.

Albert takes life a little more easily nowadays, but in recent years has managed to find time to stake a jade deposit in northern British Columbia and more recently was prominent in a tour of

uranium developments in the Athabasca basin of Saskatchewan. He remains on the board of directors of the Prospectors and Developers Association. One of his sidelines in recent years has been to conduct prospecting demonstrations at the Winnipeg rock and mineral show. Included in these is a demonstration of how to pan for gold using gold specimens from Albert's considerable collection.

Albert Zeemel's life work and his continuing activities are an outstanding example of the dedication and hard work that have characterized our pioneer prospectors and have contributed so much to the development of our mineral industry.

Winnipeg Branch  
Manitoba Geological Society

### **HOW SURVEYORS HELPED TO TAME WILD, WILD WEST:**

Taken from Focus/Manitoba,  
Saturday, April 28, 1975

#### **H. E. BERESFORD**

Pioneer surveyors played a major role in settling western Canada. Former Manitoban H. E. Beresford, who co-discovered Bernic Lake, was one of those pioneers. During his long career, he was Manitoba boundary commissioner and president of the Canadian Institute of Surveying. Mr. Beresford, now living in Camrose, Alberta, had some interesting experiences in the early days of the West. This is his story.

Without land surveys, Western Canada could not have been developed in an orderly manner.

Surveys in 1913 and 1914 were in the home province of Manitoba and comprised township subdivision surveys which included northeast of Lac du Bonnet in the Bird River region. A few incidents stand out clearly.

The surveys in the Lac du Bonnet country were made during the winter and involved living in tents from October to April and walking on snowshoes for a good part of the winter.

The party comprised about fourteen men of whom, five axemen and the picket men were Letts, members of a people who lived above the Baltic Sea and who had emigrated to Canada and were living around the shore of Lac du Bonnet.

They were excellent axemen and all good fellows except one who was reputed to be a nihilist - a one time member of an organization in Russia which opposed constituted authority. The influence of the nihilist came to the fore about half way through the job when we were out on a fly-camp . . . a camp set up a number of miles away from the main camp.

The Letts stated they would quit unless they got higher wages. They were being paid \$40.00 per

month and board and wanted \$50.00 plus board. This ultimatum was a great surprise to us. Mr. Francis had taken me into partnership, and we agreed to give our answer in the morning.

This survey was being done on contract. With no axemen to cut the lines, a considerable loss might be incurred before new axemen could be secured. After discussion and considerable thought, Mr. Francis came up with a solution. In the morning he offered the six Letts one dollar a mile each to cut the lines. This offer was accepted and these men worked much harder . . . making two, three and sometimes four dollars a day. The survey was completed almost three weeks ahead of schedule, thereby saving wages for cook, bull-cook, chainman, mounders, teamster and food for all.

Another incident, however, did cost us money. Mr. Francis went to Lac du Bonnet for two sleigh loads of supplies. On the way back to camp, while crossing the lake, one team and sleigh went through the ice and was lost.

The teamster jumped clear. The other teamster refused to go any further and unloaded all the supplies onto the ice and went back to Lac du Bonnet. Mr. Francis walked to the shore of the lake to try and secure some other means of transportation for the supplies. He remained overnight. When he came back to the supplies in the morning, out of the whole load of supplies there was only one box of prunes left. Tracks of hand sleighs ran in all directions.

Another incident on this survey was brought to mind again just over a year ago when I received a letter from Sidney Green, minister of mines, resources and environmental management for Manitoba:

Dear Mr. Beresford:

"I am pleased to forward to you the attached special certificate which records the name of Bernic Lake. This geographical feature was named after H. E. Beresford and J. Nicol, and was officially approved in 1933. The Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names has, for many years recorded names of geographical features commemorating Canadians who have made a contribution to some aspect of our life and society. This certificate has been prepared in order to honour such a contribution by a Manitoban."

The certificate is a work of art and is one of my prized possessions. It is delineated on a faint blue outline of the Province of Manitoba. The crest of the province and the floral emblem are shown in color and a small portion of the province showing Bernic Lake and vicinity is outlined and the location of the lake shown by a red maple leaf. Printed below the headings on the certificate is the following verse by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow:



"Lives of great men all remind us  
We can make our lives sublime  
And departing, leave behind us  
Footprints on the sands of time."

On January 1, 1914, while engaged on the Lac du Bonnet survey, James Nicol, a young Scotsman from Edinburgh who was a chainman on the party and I went to look for a new campground. We came upon an unnamed lake on the shore of which we found a suitable camping ground. Camp was moved and in due course the lake and the country surrounding it were surveyed. On final completion of our survey, the field notes and plans were sent to Ottawa, and on the plan which we made of the unnamed lake, we called it Bernic Lake, being the first three letters of my name and the first three letters of the name Nicol.

Mr. Francis recommended that the lake be so named and apparently, when a new map of that territory was being issued in 1933, the name was approved.

It is to be regretted that James Nicol never saw the name on a map. He was killed while on active service in the First World War.

While this survey was made for the purpose of agricultural settlement, parts of the area were stony and many rock outcroppings were visible. This brought the prospectors to the area and a few years after the survey a mineral discovery was made in a rather unusual manner. An elderly prospector in the area stopped to roll a cigarette and sat down on one of the stone mounds built by members of our survey party to make the section and quarter section corners. He picked up one of the pieces of rock he was sitting on and discovered there was valuable mineral in it. He and others staked claims and for a while the situation looked good.

A reporter for the Winnipeg Tribune wrote an article about the area in which he referred to me as "the man who missed a million dollars." I had assisted in building some of those stone mounds and had inspected most of them and a few months previously had passed a fairly stiff examination in mineralogy for my commission as a land surveyor. The old prospector saw what I didn't and while no great development occurred at that time, subsequent events have proved that the Bernic Lake area is rich in mineral resources.

An article in the Winnipeg Tribune on October 25, 1974, describes the operations of the Tantalum Mining Corporation's mine at Bernic Lake and states that this mine is the free world's major source of six rare minerals fast becoming useful in space age technology, tantalum, lithium, cesium, beryllium, gallium, and rubidium. Millions of dollars have been spent and millions more will be spent in recovery of these exotic minerals or

'wonder metals of the future' as they are sometimes called.

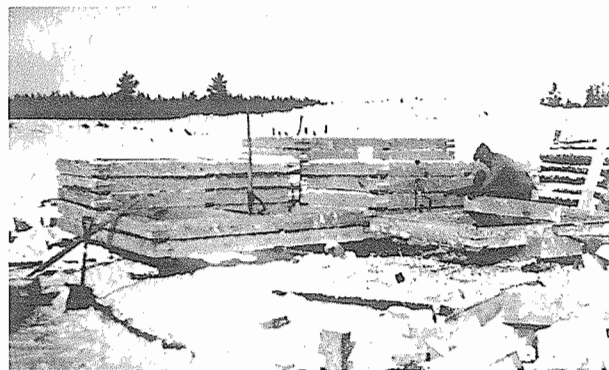
History was in the making on New Year's Day, 1914, when James Nicol and I first saw Bernic Lake.

Upon returning to civilization and having been only less than seven years away from my native land, I guess I was imbued with the spirit of patriotism, for I went to a shipping office and booked passage for Great Britain, sailed on the S.S. Missanabie, joined the British Army and served until demobilized in May, 1919, when I returned to Canada.

## HISTORY OF THE BERNIC LAKE MINE

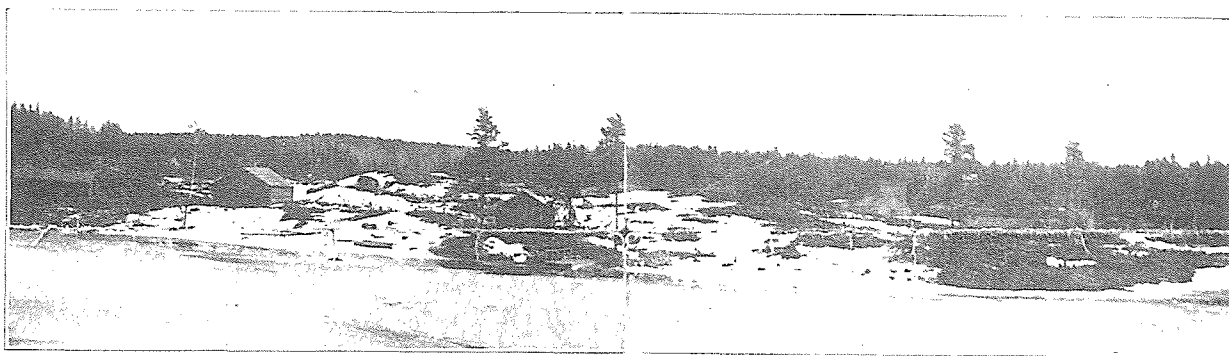
Perhaps the first to walk over the famous orebodies at Bernic Lake were the township subdivision survey crews led by Harry E. Beresford and James Nicol when they located their survey camp on the shores of the Lake on January 1st, 1914. The first three letters of each name were used to form BER-NIC, and the lake was so named. On November 20th, 1973 Harry Beresford was honoured with a special certificate, commemorating the naming of the lake, and his contribution to Manitoba history. A few years later Nicky Gilleran assisted by Fernie Calverley staked claims in the area for Leibert, a Latvian who discovered mineral but did not know how to stake.

During the gold rush years of the early 20's, a well known Manitoban prospector named John Nutt, active in the Central Manitoba Mines (Bisset area) and Flin Flin area engaged Mr. W. Jackson Bull M.E. to relocate the workings on Bernic Lake. He was accompanied to the location by Alex McIntosh of Lac du Bonnet, whose teams of horses provided the first transportation to the area, coming in via Pointe du Bois and Shatford Lake. Another winter route to the more northerly mining areas followed Lac du Bonnet and the Bird River

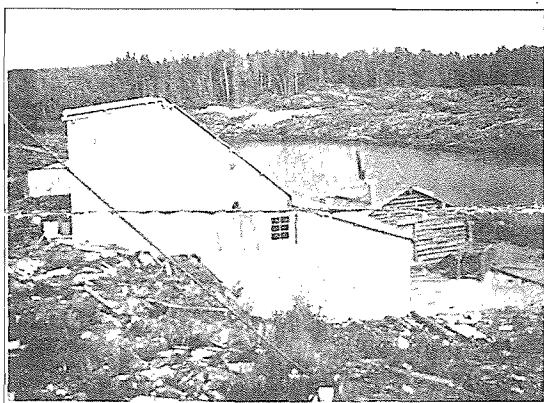


Framing shaft of timber (George Dranson) for Jack Nutt shaft, 1929.

PROPERTY OF THE CONSOLIDATED TIN CORPORATION LIMITED  
AT BERNIC LAKE, MANITOBA



Camp Buildings at Bernic Lake



Test Mill and Assay Plant, Bernic Lake



Shaft and Power Plant, Bernic Lake

The plant and camp at Bernic Lake, 1929.

valley, only a mile or two from Bernic Lake.

In 1926 Kenneth E. Miller discovered tin at Shatford Lake, about 3 miles south of Bernic Lake, and staking of pegmatites took place in several surrounding areas. The Shatford property was transferred to Mr. P. E. Hopkins, then to Manitoba Basin Mining Company and shortly after to the Manitoba Tin Company. A 110 foot shaft was sunk, and some 250 feet of drifting done to explore the tin values encountered on Tin Island. During the same year Peter Osis staked the Brilliant and Ken Miller staked the Coe at the east end of Bernic Lake, and these claims were staked and re-staked before being consolidated into the present group known as the Buck-Coe-Pegli, and owned by the Lithium Corporation of Canada Limited.

The discovery on the north shore of Bernic Lake was a narrow pegmatite outcrop in the form of a flat dipping dyke about five feet thick that exists on the point of land where the camp was, and part of the old workings are buried under the concrete that supports the present mill building. Jack Nutt Mines Limited was formed on October 18th, 1928, with John Nutt as President and Col. Ralph H. Webb, Mayor of Winnipeg, as vice president.

In April 1929 work started on the Jack Nutt shaft to develop the narrow dyke; the photograph

on page shows George Drawson framing shaft sets from hand-hewn timber. The timber is still in place and the old shaft is now used to circulate fresh heated air into the Mine. In March 1929 several log buildings were erected, a small steam boiler and mining plant were installed, and a small 10 ton per day test mill was built to process samples from surface and underground prospecting.

During the summer of 1929 some 100 tons of ore mined from the surface was processed in the small mill, and the photographs on page show the plant at that time. A sample of the concentrates ran over 70% tin oxide and 3.4% oxides of tantalum and columbium combined. In February and March 1929 Western Canada Airways flew several trips with their tri-motor Fokker to Bernic Lake, Shatford Lake and Bird Lake, and many distinguished Canadian mining people visited; Dr. E. L. Bruce, R. S. Lowe, Professor Stanley Graham, and Dr. George Brownell amongst others. Owing to the severe financial market crash and the fact that uncontrollable water was encountered in a crosscut from the shaft, the shaft was reported closed down on October 1st 1929. Diamond drilling of five holes with poor results had been completed at Bird Lake, the drill moved

to Bernic Lake, and here the drilling was rewarded by the discovery of a large massive dyke at 250 feet depth, reported in the Northern Miner on September 16, 1929. This dyke was 250 feet thick, and its presence was not known or suspected before.

Almost by accident the now famous Bernic Lake pegmatite dyke was discovered - nowhere does it appear on the surface. In an attempt to develop the massive dyke, which had almost no tin values, the company was reformed into the Consolidated Tin Corporation Limited on May 15th, 1930 to solicit new financing. In spite of a fine engineering report prepared by F. M. Smith the venture failed, the property was abandoned in 1932, and the claim eventually reverted to the Crown.

However, geological examinations and records were made of the drill cores and these first drill holes put down into the massive pegmatite zone did discover 17 feet of spodumene, an ore of lithium. There was other mining activity in the area; the claims staked by Ken Miller and Pete Osis in 1926 on the east end of Bernic Lake were eventually restaked in 1934. During 1936-37 about 70 tons of lithium ores were quarried and hand sorted in this area, and in 1940 an additional 100 tons were produced. Apparently little or none of it was shipped, and once again the area became inactive, and claims lapsed.

In 1955 the use of lithium in greases caused a great demand for the metal. Two prospectors, George McCartney and Stan McLeod, knowing of the existence of the metal at Bernic Lake, arranged to stake claims at the present minesite. Steve Grewinski did the actual staking in March 1955. Shortly after the claims were sold to Montgomery Petroleum Corporation Ltd. A new 400 foot drill hole indicated 56 feet of lithium ore, and in 1957 Montgomery granted an option to American Metals Ltd., a New York company. Other metals, cesium, rubidium, gallium, beryllium, tantalum and columbium were also found to occur in the massive pegmatite. A new shaft was collared and sunk over 300 feet into the bedrock, and development was started at the 285 foot horizon. The company was reformed into Montgomery Exploration Ltd., with George McCartney as President, and with funds provided by American Metals Ltd. work progressed rapidly, but was stopped due to financial difficulties when the option was dropped. In the spring of 1959 new financing was arranged, Ken Brown was appointed Manager and Dr. H. Quinn, Geologist, and work was resumed.

Once again in December 1959 the company was reorganized to Chemalloy Minerals Ltd. Diamond drilling was started off the ice of Bernic Lake, and a concentrated effort was made to develop

metallurgical processes to bring the mine into the production of lithium. By this time well over a mile of tunnels had been driven from the shaft, exploring the lithium zone, and thousands of feet of diamond drilling had been completed.

During these periods numerous studies of the drill cores and mine workings and ore samples were conducted, and excellent geological, mineralogical and metallurgical records were kept. By 1961 over \$2-1/2 million had been spent on the mine, with no returns. The mine was again closed down in early 1961, and in the spring of 1962 the pumps were pulled out, the mine allowed to flood, and the camp maintained by a watchman. In 1966 new uses developed for tantalum created a market for this product, and A.C.A. (Peter) Howe, long time geologist for Chemalloy, evaluated the property as a tantalum mine. As a result funds were obtained from the Goldfield Corporation, and a joint venture was arranged to determine the possibility of starting to mine and process the tantalum ore.

In March 1967 the mine was re-opened under the guidance of Lucien Cloutier and Bob Crouse, under the direction of A.C.A. Howe, and in November 1967 the Tantalum Mining Corporation of Canada Limited was formed as a Joint Venture, and C. T. (Dibs) Williams was appointed as Manager. Additional diamond drilling was carried out, with four drills on the property, and in 1968 a concentrator was designed to produce tantalum concentrates, and construction was started. In March 1969 the first concentrates were produced, and by September 1969 the plant was in full production, mining and milling over 500 tons of ore per day. By this time nearly \$9.0 million had been spent on the property.

Since beginning production in 1969 the tantalum plant has been expanded to include better machinery for recovering the tantalum and the capacity has been increased to process 700 tons of ore per day. Minor amounts of other ores have been produced and shipped, such as lithium ore, rubidium ore and cesium ore. Much metallurgical and chemical research has been done on the Lithium ore, and it is expected that the not too distant future will see the construction of a multi-million dollar chemical plant to process this ore into a lithium carbonate. By the end of 1977 about 2.6 million pounds of tantalum oxide had been produced from a million and a quarter tons of ore extracted from underground, just slightly more than two pounds for each ton processed. Over 90 people are continuously employed, contributing more than \$1.5 million per year in payroll alone into the economy of the Lac du Bonnet area.

In the 1920's the Bernic Lake pegmatite was referred to as "The Geologist's Paradise", and

today over fifty different minerals have been identified, and a new one, named Cernyité after the discoverer, Dr. Petr Cerný of the University of Manitoba, was first discovered in Bernic Lake ore. Geologists from all over the world, including Russia, visit the mine to study its structure.

Cesium ores shipped to Russia have been used in the generation of electricity by magnetohydrodynamics, a method still under experimentation in North America. Lithium ones have been shipped to Corning N. Y. and used to

make the famous Corningware. Tantalum concentrates have been shipped to Russia, to the Peoples Republic of China, to England, but mostly to Germany and the U.S.A. The bright red drums with the trademark showing TANCO, LAC DU BONNET, MANITOBA have been spread with renown throughout the world, helping to place Lac du Bonnet "on the map".

C. T. Williams  
Bernic Lake, Manitoba  
November 5, 1978

# Agriculture

## **SOME ASPECTS OF THE HISTORY OF AGRICULTURE IN THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF LAC DU BONNET**

by George Woods, 1977-78

Edited by Edythe Ehrlich

Resource material for Mr. Woods term paper, St. Paul's College.

1. The decennial censuses 1901-1971.
2. Soils of the Lac du Bonnet Area by Dr. W. A. Ehrlich; R. E. Smith; Manitoba Department of Agriculture, 1967.
3. Unused Lands of Manitoba by R. W. Murchie and H. C. Grant, 1926.
4. Manitoba Government Report, Agricultural Income and Rural Government in Manitoba prepared by H. C. Grant; C. B. Davidson and J. E. Chernick (1939).

The Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet was incorporated April 6, 1912 out of 12 townships of unorganized land in the S.E. area of Manitoba. The Rural Municipality was 322,560 acres at the time. A small area was lost in the incorporation of the village, May 7 1947. This size remained until 1962 when the Local Government of Pinawa was established. The present Rural Municipality area is 287,360 acres. Settlement did not increase much until after 1900. In the next 35 years, the R.M. attained its highest population, 3,200. Much of the increase occurred during 1920-35 and not until around 1930 was 15% of the total R.M. land occupied.

The total acreage was in farms, 38% was categorized as improved farmland. Land added after 1936 was also categorized improved land, no doubt due to the improved drainage techniques applied to lands. At the peak of population in 1941 density was 6.2 persons per square mile. In 1971 with a reduced area including the Village density was 7 persons per square mile. This was likely due to the changes in occupation, tourism and related occupations. The total farm area remained constant for 30 years, then the number of farms dropped following the new trend of fewer but larger farms. Writing in 1926, R. W. Murchie and H. C. Grant noted that "some settlers moved into the Lac du Bonnet area over 20 years ago". It was

also noted that "these settlers were attracted to the district in the first place by the construction work in connection with the Hydro-electric Power Plants. "Most of the first farms were on the east bank of the Winnipeg River on the island formed by the Pinawa Channel (Riverland). This land was considered "good for mixed farming purposes...dairy, cattle, hogs, and poultry and should rapidly become paying ventures."

Up until 1951 attempts were made with indifferent success to implement the type of farming recommended by Murchie and Grant. The reasons are probably varied, e.g. proximity to Winnipeg markets, competition with better placed areas and man's natural tendency to resist change. Around 1951 there was a lower production in all areas and an increase in fallow and pasture acreage. It appears from 1951-1956 decisions were taken to specialize, dairy cattle and sheep declined to a number that only served personal needs. Pigs and beef cattle rose in price and made a substantial cash crop.

In 1926, the production of hens and chickens was on the rise. 1951 was a low production year, 1965 a peak was reached and census show a decline again by 1971. A large processing plant was located in the area by F. Gauer, and turkey farming flourished for a time.

Years 1931-41 show a large increase in acreage of grain crops, wheat leading. In 1941 began a leveling off period after which acreage crops remained fairly constant. The number of farms became less, farms larger, families smaller, as a result of shortage of labor which machines took over. The sudden use of machines fitted in well with the post-war prosperity and the shift from wartime to a peace time manufacturing industry.

The development of agriculture is dependent on conditions of soil, topography and climate over which man has no control. As for the Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet, the nature of soil and topography had a limiting effect on agriculture since the earliest settlement. Situated as it is on the edge of the Canadian Shield, the area was settled only after the prime wheat lands in central and western Manitoba were taken. Thus the limits of

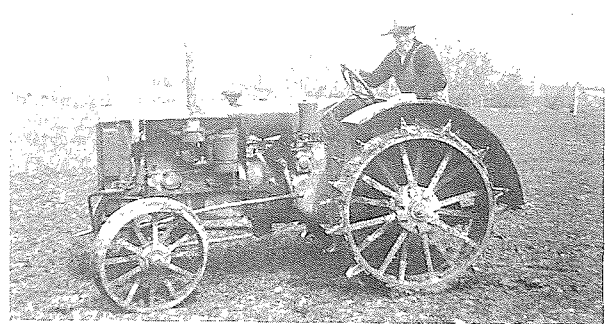
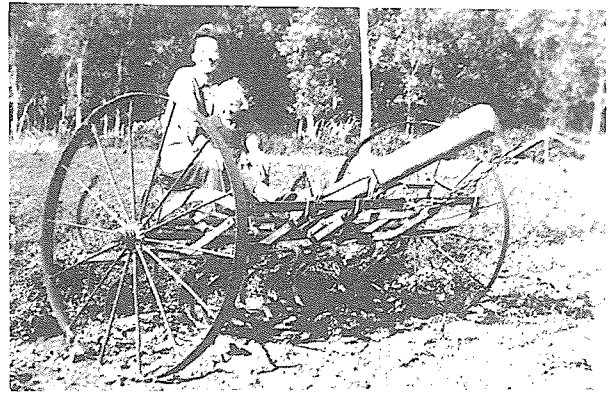


grain farming were quickly reached. There is a shift again to mixed farming which is more in keeping with the natural conditions in the area and very likely signal the direction of future agricultural development.

**Population of R.M. of Lac du Bonnet 1911-1976,  
Village 1951-1976**

| R.M. | Year | Village |
|------|------|---------|
| 1232 | 1911 |         |
| 2141 | 1921 |         |
| 2089 | 1926 |         |
| 2614 | 1931 |         |
| 2912 | 1936 |         |
| 3164 | 1941 |         |
| 2893 | 1946 |         |
| 2201 | 1951 | 571*    |
| 2103 | 1956 |         |
| 2183 | 1961 | 569     |
| 2012 | 1966 | 886     |
| 2195 | 1971 | 952     |
| 2332 | 1976 | 963     |

\* Village Incorporated 1947.



# Organizations

## THE FIRST GIRL GUIDE COMPANY ORGANIZED IN LAC DU BONNET

During the summer of 1930 a new incumbent to the St. John's Anglican Church, Rev. A. H. Gibson with his wife Ivy, arrived from Fort Churchill, Manitoba. They had come from England to minister to the mission at Churchill, where they experienced many trying times and hardships. When Rev. Gibson came to Lac du Bonnet he said "I am so accustomed to "mushing" behind a dog team, I will have to learn to walk properly." They were a fine couple. A son Graham was born in Lac du Bonnet. Mrs. Gibson, a warm, happy, lovable lady, soon won the affection of the young people. The not too large Parish Hall built in 1923 bounced with activity. Among Mrs. Gibson's many projects was the formation of the First Company of Girl Guides in Lac du Bonnet. It was registered November 29, 1930.

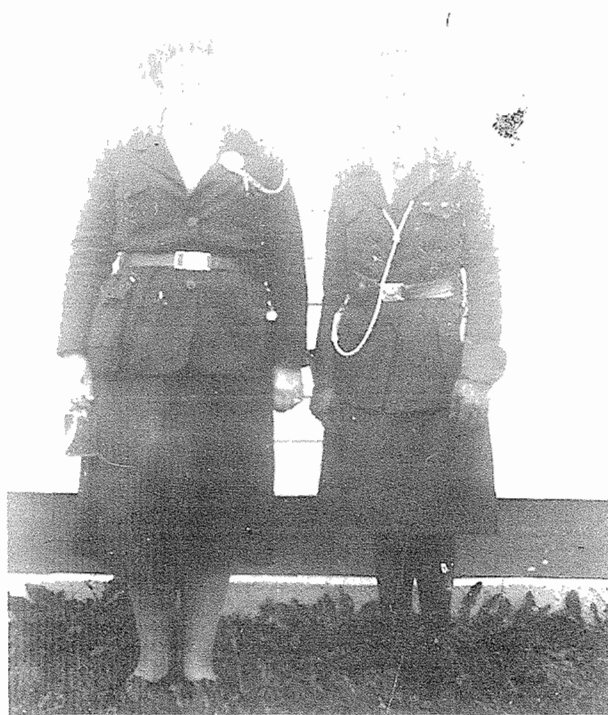
Mrs. Gibson, Captain; Miss Nellie Spence, Lieutenant. Four Patrols with Leaders: Canary - Leader Alice Nasstrom; Nightingale - Leader Aileen Small; Robin - Leader Edith Johnson; Skylark - Leader Edythe Waters.

The first record of enrollment, March 26th, 1931; 20 Guides. The last record of enrollment is June 20th, 1942; Verna Brown was the 113th Guide.

Mrs. Pat (Kay) Riley of Winnipeg was District Commissioner. Later Mrs. Gibson became the District Commissioner. Miss Spence became Captain, Edythe Waters became Lieutenant, leaving in September of 1932 to attend University. Aileen Small followed her. This was a wonderful happening in a "hamlet" for impressionable young people. We were indeed grateful to Mrs. Gibson for this experience.

October 31st, 1932 the first Lac du Bonnet Brownie Pack was registered. Alice Nasstrom graduated to a Brown Owl until she entered nurses training.

Aileen Small entered Teacher's College, Edith Johnson went on to pursue her career and so the "originals" faded perhaps but never forgetting the training, experiences and friendships acquired dur-



Mrs. I. Gibson, Captain; Miss N. Spence, Lieutenant.

ing those years. The Gibsons returned to England in October 1934. I kept in contact with them, especially during W.W. II. They adopted two war orphans who became a great comfort to them.

Miss Spence, with great dedication, carried on the Girl Guides until 1942.

Tannis Ylonen's history that she researched and wrote to earn the first part of her Challenge Emblem, follows here.

## HISTORY OF GIRL GUIDES IN LAC DU BONNET

by Tannis Ylonen

In 1930-33 guiding first began in Lac du Bonnet. The leader at that time was the minister's wife, Mrs. Gibson. Mrs. Gibson was away for awhile and her sister Miss Vi Scott, a commissioner from England, came and ran the group. Nellie Spence was captain.



Taps at camp at Silver Lodge.



Lac du Bonnet Girl Guide Company, 1930 on a hike. Top, L-R: Aileen Small, Edith Johnson, Mrs. Clark (a teacher), Bertha Fournier, Edythe Waters and Wanda Specht, Doris Sutherland, Evelyn Molloy, Gladys Madson, Bernice Sherk.

The uniforms were navy blue dresses. Weekly fees were 5¢. The girls went to summer camp at Silver Lodge in Riverland for two weeks in July.

Some of the Guides were: May Fournier (Lavoie), Bertha Fournier (Frayne), Aileen Oder, Giselle LeVasseur, Marguerite Campbell, Mary Zahara, Lillian Park. There were 35 girls in all. Meetings were held at the St. John's Parish Hall.

1938 — Leader was Nellie Spence. Went camping at Camp Lake in Winnipeg for two weeks in July. They went on quite a number of nature trails to Pickerel Lake. Guides at the time were: Phyllis Uhlman, Joyce Sparman, Lorraine Dow.

Meetings were held at St. John's Parish Hall. Uniforms were navy blue dresses. They made patrol boxes with pictures of birds on them and they kept all their guide supplies in them.

1947 — Guides started up again with the help of Nellie Spence, former leader. Leaders were: Dorothy Waters (Head Leader), Lorraine MacIntosh, Sylvia Bjornson.

The group ran for one year only. Fees were 5¢ weekly. Meetings were held at Park Avenue School. Some of the Guides at that time were: Jocelyn Arsenault, Evelyn Picard, Shaun Uhlman, Hallie Lavoie. The girls worked on badges. There was no camp that year. At one meeting they invited the Boys Scouts to one of their meetings and the Guide parents were very angry.

1967-68 — This was the first group of Guides for many years. Helen Tetrault and Carrie Brincheski were Guide leaders during these two years. Being new to the Guide movement they had a lot of reading and learning to do. The District Commissioner from Beausejour provided much assistance.

Uniforms were dark blue pleated skirts and blue blouses. Weekly fees were 10¢. There were 30 guides in the group. Some of the activities were: camping at Agassiz, learning to chop wood. They also camped at Seven Sisters - weekends only. They had to buy flags, etc. The meetings were held at the new Centennial School.

Also around that time the 1st Lac du Bonnet Brownie pack was formed. Leaders were: Lorette Tetrault and Yvonne Zoblotny.

1968-73 — The District Commissioner was Jean Jackson, from Pinawa. Guide leaders were: Grace Ambler, Leader; Ann Okrainec, Irene Lussier. In 1969, Ann Okrainec became District Commissioner. Registration fees were \$2.00 and 10¢ weekly. Uniforms were coulottes and blouses in royal blue. They went camping at Old Pinawa and Milner Ridge.

In 1973, the first Guides to receive the Canada Cord were: Loretta Jacobson, Sharon Byczek, Colleen Okrainec. Meetings held at Centennial School.



Cooks — Edith Johnson, Doris Sutherland, Alice Nasstron, camping at Silver Lodge.

The Brownie Leaders were: Ann Margaret Plummer, Linda Gove, Netta Balness, Martha Hansen, Marlene Rollins.

1973-77 — The Deputy Commissioner was Patty Hill, of Pinawa. Guide leaders were: Carol MacFarlane, Ruby Trask, Phyllis Hopko, Joan Areseniuk. The District Commissioner was Betty Stokes, who is still at present our District Commissioner.

Uniforms were blue one pleat skirts and blue blouses. Registration fees were \$4.00 and 10¢ weekly. Later the fees went up from \$4.00 to \$8.00 and weekly fees to 25¢. The girls went camping at Gustafson's farm, by Pinawa bridge and at Nutimik Lake.

In 1972 the first summer camp was at Camp Allaway. This Camp is owned by the Boy Scouts.

Canada Cords were given to the following: 1974 - Sonia Witte; 1977 - Marie Jo Howe, Lorraine Gendre, Shelly Howe; 1978 - Lisa Ylonen. The meetings were held at Centennial School.

The Brownie leaders were: Adele Byczek, Elaine Cuthbert, Mary Kachur, Yvonne Lussier.

These are some of the names and dates of leaders who have volunteered their time and efforts in the past. My apologies if I have missed anyone or got the dates incorrect.



Lieutenant Edythe Waters, 1931.



The Gibsons in England after W.W. II.

1978-79 — The Deputy Commissioner is Patty Hill, of Pinawa. Guide Leaders are: Donna Boulanger, Tannis Asselstine, Rosaline Burt, Sharon Byczek.

Fees are \$8.00 for registration and 50¢ weekly. Uniforms are blue skirts and blue blouses. Winter camping at Boggy Creek - made quincies and stayed overnight. The Pinawa and Lac du Bonnet Guides are the first to do overnight winter camping in Manitoba. Meetings are held at Centennial School.

Brownie leaders are: Adele Byczek, Mary Kachur, Sharon Dunn and Sandy Trueman.

Girls who received All-Round Cords 1979: Tannis Ylonen, Monique Gendre, Lori Lesko, Heather Unfried.



**BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS  
UNDER EXTENSION SERVICE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Boys and girls clubs were organized by the Extension service of the Department of Agriculture, Manitoba Government in 1924. The first Agricultural Representative in the area including Lac du Bonnet was Mr. W. Prodan, graduate of Manitoba Agricultural College. Mr. Prodan organized the Boys Clubs. Mrs. Evelyn Ames represented the women and Miss Jessie Stewart the Girls Clubs.

In the beginning these Clubs were closely associated with the schools and school fairs. In 1929 they changed from emphasis on the practical to the development of the boys and girls themselves. Thus a club must hold at least six meetings a year and study a project, each club had a voluntary leader and the club was visited by the Home Economist or Agricultural Representative perhaps three or four times a year and judged on Achievement Day. Inter club (not so easy in those days) activities were encouraged, public speaking, sports, debating, concerts. An executive was elected; meetings were opened, conducted and closed in proper parliamentary procedure. It was a training in citizenship and leadership. I'm sure most boys and girls found this invaluable in later years.

Mrs. Ames visited in Lac du Bonnet 1927 and the first Girls sewing club organized. Miss Verna Feely, the grade 1 and 2 teacher became the leader. Meetings were once a week on a school afternoon. Another teacher, male, gave the boys a course in rope work. Mrs. Pearl Sherk succeeded Miss Feely as leader. In 1928 a Foods Club was organized. The achievement day and display was held in the Thornquist Hall on the "River" bank. In 1930 when I had completed my three year project in sewing I became the leader until 1932 when I entered the University of Manitoba. My memory fails me here as to who became the next leader.

I look back on those years, as do my classmates, with great nostalgia and we are so grateful for an "extension" of our school education. Miriam Frayne of Pine Falls and I were fortunate one year to be chosen to attend a camp for two weeks at Delta Beach, owned by a Mr. Bell of New York. One night there was a great flap as the councillors searched our tents for True Story Magazines that were in a box of reading material. Our highlight meeting each year was saved for the middle of winter when we hiked out to the Krieshman home for a toboggan party and to later gorge on Mrs. Krieshman's cooking, especially her matrimonial cake.

Time passed — after the war, when my husband

had purchased a business here and we were a cog in the community. I happened to be visiting at a friend's home one day when her daughter came in after school all wrought up because she couldn't go to school in Winnipeg where they taught Home Economics in the schools. I left there very disturbed, thinking about this and remembered from club days that one should give to ones community ones best qualification — four years to earn a teacher of home economics degree from the University of Manitoba — result - 1946 a Foods Club was organized, twenty-one members; 1947 a second club; 1948 a third; gradually they evened off to one club - thanks to vim and vigor, I coped. We were in so many projects. The Extension Service used my home and my Foods Club for part of a film on Boys and Girls Clubs in Manitoba. We raised money to send and help a young girl, a polio victim through high school and a business course. Our club furnished a kitchen and dining, sitting room in the Park Avenue school, a lot of voluntary help came our way. This kitchen was the aid which supplied a hot soup to lunch carrying students in the winter. The girls were such eager beavers. Until we furnished the school kitchen, all classes were held in my home. A special occasion at the end of each year was a formal dinner served to the mothers, and always once a year a properly served



Dominion of Canada contestants from Manitoba attending the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto, November 1948. Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba contestants were No. 1 Jeanne Wold and No. 5 Marjorie Bruder.



tea, it was such fun. Our most exciting year was 1948 when the two highest achievers in our club competed with the other Foods clubs of Manitoba. The girls, Marjorie Bruder and Jeanne Wold became Manitoba Champions, eligible for competition at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto for the Dominion of Canada championship, November 16th, 1948. I received a telegram from Toronto, two words — Hello; Love; Marjorie and Jean. I knew they had won the Dominion Trophy, the first time for Manitoba. They deserved to win, two exuberant, hard-working, outgoing girls. I was so proud of them. I heard later from the Department of Agriculture they were a very popular team, a popular win agreed by their competitors. 1949 the Lac du Bonnet team won the Manitoba Competition, Donna Peterson and Marolyn Patterson and were off to the Royal Winter Fair. This time we lost to Alberta by a margin. A new rule was made by the Council that competitors must be 21 years of age and that ended our teams for competition except in Manitoba. I believe we won the T. Eaton award three times.

During this time I also gave talks on C.K.Y. radio Prairie Farm broadcasts on nutrition as leader of the Lac du Bonnet Foods Club. In 1951 I was selected as a Club Leader to act as a Provisional Director of the Manitoba Boys and Girls Association which would administer the Club Trust Fund. These meetings were held in Brandon. By 1956 I felt I had to retire from club work. Driving and arranging for transportation to Fairs, competitions, just became too much. Traffic became more dense and I was nervous during the weary drives home late at night and the responsibility. However I did receive from the Canadian Council on 4-H clubs a Leadership award signed by R. B. Robertson, Minister of Agriculture, G. F. Muirhead, Provincial Supervisor (a classmate at U. of M.) which hangs on the wall in my library. I would not have missed my close relationship with these girls and all we shared. They have not forgotten me, some I see, some write to me.

I also owe a thank you to Mrs. V. C. Hardy who ably assisted me in the last two years of my club work.

I must add this — Lynne Wade (Mrs. Sandy Bruce) brought her loaf of bread to me to be judged. A friend, a Grain Exchange Executive saw the loaf and asked for it. I said "Why?" He wanted to send it to Purity Flour to be evaluated. I got Lynne's permission to part with her loaf of bread. I received a letter from Purity Flour stating the bread was judged 99% and all the Purity Flour products I could use were to be charged to the Company. So there were compensations.

Boys and Girls Clubs became known as 4-H Clubs in April 1951. The first Provincial 4-H Club

organized in Canada was set up in Brandon, Manitoba during the Winter Fair in 1951. 4-H was again revived in Lac du Bonnet. Mrs. Dorothy Marion and Mrs. Ann Bilan will continue the story of 4-H in Lac du Bonnet.

#### **A song of the Boys and Girls Club**

If you are hungry, try our soup  
Our biscuits and muffins make you hoot!  
We make desserts and salads too.  
We bake good bread, the staff of life.  
All this helps to make a wife.  
To Mrs. Brown a debt we owe  
For she has taught us all we know!

Submitted by  
Edythe M. Ehrlich

#### **"HOLLYWOOD COMES TO LAC DU BONNET"**

by J. W. Wade

Last Friday the girls of the Lac du Bonnet Foods and Nutrition class realized the secret ambition of thousands of their older sisters and acted in front of honest to goodness Kleig lights and a moving picture camera.

The extension Service of the Department of Agriculture has been making moving pictures of various Boys and Girls Clubs in order to give the young people in the province an idea of how this work is carried on.

The scenes were taken in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Brown. The first scene was a table formally laid, with six of the second year class about to enjoy their dinner. Verna Brown, Florence Swetz, Minnie Kowalchuk, Jeanne Wold and Shirley Shewfelt were seated at the table while Shirley Choma was the hostess.

The second scene was a tea in the living room. Marilyn Patterson presided at the tea table while Jean Petrus assisted with the serving. The guests included Helen Coates, Marjorie Ann Tomlinson, Evelyn Park and Jean Wickman. The third scene was a demonstration on how to make tomato soup. Sheila Hollingsworth and Marjorie Bruder were the cooks in this shot while Mrs. Brown watched the proceedings. When the soup was finished the girls gave their leader a bowl full and her verdict was GOOD!

The final scene explained the mystery of making muffins. Verna Brown and Florence Springman were the bakers in the case. They went through everything from mixing the first ingredients until the pan came out of the oven. Again, Mrs. Brown pronounced judgement and again it was good.

The actual showing time of the film would run about five minutes, nevertheless it took over two

hours to take the shots, arrange lights etc., and those lights, boy are they hot, here's one person who wouldn't want to spend much time in front of them.

J. W. Wade  
Archives, Springfield Leader

### LAC DU BONNET "LAND OF SECOND HELPINGS"

by J. W. Wade

#### Best Cooks Take Top Spot for Manitoba

Most sensational news stories are success stories, and here is a success story, not from New York, not even from Winnipeg, but from Lac du Bonnet.

Last fall a group of twenty girls with Mrs. Frank Brown as their leader organized a Foods Club under the supervision of the Extension Service of the Manitoba Department of Agriculture. They elected Beatrice Tomlinson as their president and Florence Springman as their secretary and started right in to prove to their folks what good cooks they could be.

They did their practice cooking at home and every second week they met at Mrs. Brown's home and took turns in giving demonstrations of the various techniques of preparation which they were learning.

This group of energetic girls did not confine

themselves to cooking either, but helped with many community activities thus proving that they could be good citizens as well as good cooks. They sold shell-out tickets at Hallowe'en, the money earned going toward a Child Welfare fund in their own community. Several of the girls helped serve at a "Welcome Home" Banquet held for the Lac du Bonnet veterans and they all took turns making cocoa for the school at lunch time.

Highlight of the year's work was the supper the girls served for their mothers on April 15th. The girls enjoyed it and so did the mothers from all reports.

On May 11th the girls staged their final show of the year. At an open meeting in the Community Hall they exhibited some of their baked products, some canning and the notebooks which they had worked on so industriously all year.

They presented a varied and delightful program including two very professional demonstrations on the making of cream soup and the setting of a table for dinner. Prizes were awarded for the best cakes of the day and Jeanne Wold won the much coveted trip to Winnipeg.

Now that all the Foods Clubs in the province have completed their year's work and scores have been arrived at and added, it appears that the Lac du Bonnet Foods Club have won top honours in the province. They were awarded the T. Eaton Company Shield for the high scoring club in the



One of the many Food Club classes. Back row: Joan Swetz, Marjorie Tomlinson, Leader Mrs. E. Brown, Helen Coates, Jean Wickman, Joyce Morski.  
Front row: Marilyn Patterson, Jean Petrus and Mary Funk.

province.

The clubs are scored on the basis of their Achievement Day marks, their meeting reports, their attendance and their percentage completion. This hard working group of girls and their enterprising leader Mrs. Brown deserve a great deal of praise. They are learning a lesson in homemaking and citizenship which will serve them well in any walk of life.

### **LAC DU BONNET BUSY BEES 1959-1970**

On November 16, 1959 a group of interested ladies and several eager young girls held their organizational meeting to form what was to be the beginning of the Lac du Bonnet 4-H Busy Bees Club. Our sponsoring organization was the Lac du Bonnet Home and School Association. All the members took sewing that first year. The younger girls enrolled in Project 1 and were required to make an apron, Project 2 girls made skirts and Project 3 (the older girls) made dresses. Basic knitting and crocheting were included in these projects. Samples of basic stitches in sewing were also required.

In addition to learning to sew the girls took part in many community activities. These included the following: Serving at the Legion Banquet, serving at the Curling Banquet, selling poppies, collecting for the CNIB and Red Cross, etc. Many hours were spent in fund-raising — bake sales, raffles, running the concession stand at the ball park during games, to mention only a few.

The girls elected their executive members and these in turn ran the affairs of the club under the guidance of their club leaders.

They learned how to properly conduct a business meeting, and how to take care of the club's finances.

Each year with the money raised from the various activities, the club would purchase materials to be made into club uniforms. It was quite an honor when these 4-H girls (1959-60) wearing their uniforms were named Grand Champions in the marching competition at the Club Rally in Dugald, Manitoba on July 22, 1960.

Achievement Day of that first year was a time for the girls to show their parents and the community how well they could plan their own club's activities. All articles made by the girls were displayed for judging. After judging, parents and friends were allowed to view the girls' work. Following a short program in the evening, lunch was served by the club members.

Public Speaking was another competition under-

taken. Many of our girls placed well in these events.

Team Demonstrations were also an important part of the girls' 4-H year. Quite often our girls placed first at the Rally competition.

In 1962 some changes were made in the types of projects offered to club members. Clothing - Units A, B, C, D; Cooking - now called Foods - Units A, B, C, D; Home Design and Handicrafts, were also new. These added projects enabled more members to come into 4-H and it was the first time (in our club) that a boy had taken Handicrafts B and completed the required work that year.

In 1964 more boys joined 4-H and took the Woodworking Project. The boys formed their own club which they called "Lac du Bonnet Busy Beavers".

The Junior Leader Project was another in which our girls took part. This project enabled the girls to use their organizational abilities to help the younger members of the club.

During our first Achievement Day program we received a cheque for \$53.25 from a former 4-H Foods Club which disbanded several years before.

The club continued throughout the following years, helping the young members of our community. "Learn to do by doing" is the 4-H Club motto and all members did just that in learning to cook and sew.

There were many other activities that our members took part in during their membership in the 4-H Busy Bees, namely:

1. Going to camp for one week.
2. Winning the Gold Watch Award.
3. Picked to model their own garments at Rally (Red River Exhibition).
4. Prepare and display some baked goods at Rally.

In April 1970, after eleven years as leader, I left 4-H to younger and I trust more able individuals. As I write this I cannot help but reflect on my years in 4-H and must add that the job could not have been completed so successfully if we did not have the parent volunteers we recruited to help with our work. Each year we would call for 10 or more volunteers, some years we had offers of more help than was needed. Names of the parent volunteers I will not list here for fear I will miss someone. I am positive though that anyone spending time on 4-H from 1959-70 will recall the part that they played in the lives of the club members.

And lastly, the club member, for it is they who have succeeded because of their involvement in 4-H. It was through their efforts that the club succeeded. For what is a club without members.

Dorothy Marion  
Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba  
November 1979

4-H is an organization in which young people and adults work together to achieve common goals for themselves and their community.

The 4-H pledge is as follows:

"I Pledge:

My Head to clearer thinking,

My Heart to greater loyalty,

My Hands to larger service,

My Health to better living, for

My Club, My Community and My Country."

The 4-H motto is "Learn to do by Doing".

Four years ago, there were 37 4-Hers enrolled in the Lac du Bonnet Busy Bees 4-H Club. This has steadily increased every year and in the 1979-1980 year we have an enrollment of 60 girls and boys and 15 leaders.

The Projects that are available are varied and many. Those that have been offered locally the last few years include: Clothing, Crafts, Home Design, Junior Leader, Mechanics, Snowmobile Safety, Woodworking, Photography, Dog Care and Training, Horticulture, Hunter Safety, Model Aircraft Building.

Several other projects are available if there is a demand for them.

Our business meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. Enrollment takes place at our September meeting. Some of the activities held during the year include: Halloween Party, CNIB Canvass, Fall Potluck Supper - Senior Members, Christmas Party and gift exchanges, Participation in Community Christmas Concert, Mock New Year's Dance, Creative Writing Competition, Safety Competition - Poems, Essays and Posters, Curling Bonspiel, Public Speaking Competition, Trip to Pan Am Pool, Spring Break - Tour to Winnipeg for 9, 10, and 11 year olds, Spring Break - Conference for 13 and 14 year olds, Senior Members Weekend for 15 year olds and over, Bowling Tournament, Trips to Summer Camp, Exchange Trips to other parts of Canada and U.S.A.

In April our Achievement Day is held where we proudly display the projects we have worked on so hard during the fall and winter months.

Rally is held in June and alternates between the Beausejour-Springfield District and the Winnipeg River District and includes all the Clubs in these two districts. A parade starts the day off. Club Exhibits and Individual Displays are on view for all to see. These are the ones chosen at the individual Achievements. This is basically a fun day for all with games and disco-dancing, etc. A program is held in the afternoon with a Dress Review, Crowning of the King and Queen and Prince and Princess of the Rally. Awards for the displays, exhibits, and parade are given out. This marks the end of another successful year in 4-H.

Our motto "4-H Working for a Better Tomorrow Today".

Anne Bellin,  
Head Leader

## THE LAC DU BONNET HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

At the urging of the principal, Mr. Peterson, the Home and School Association was formed in Lac du Bonnet, October 1943 with Mrs. Tomlinson as president. When she left town, Mrs. Mary Reid became president with Helen Smith secretary. This organization was appalled at conditions in the school and were unable to meet with the local school board at that time because their meetings were mostly held in private. The members organized a bucket brigade to clean up the school and the night before they were to begin, the school burnt down - the school board jokingly said "they didn't need to go that far!" The Association helped muster classrooms in the Legion Hall, Memorial Hall, Parish Hall and got desks and furniture so that within a week the children were back in school. This Home and School Association was unique in the many ways they assisted the school board with numerous innovations that helped and improved conditions in the school. There was cooperation between school board, teachers and parents for the good of the students.

The Home and School Association introduced Graduation exercises for the senior grade. Award day, when an award, usually a book or Honor scroll was given to a pupil in each grade. Sports day was organized by the Principal and Home and School assisted. The Principal also organized gardens cared for by students and judged for excellence. Mrs. Edythe Brown had a Foods Club of girls under the Extension Service. She taught them cooking and nutrition in foods. These girls were very interested, raised money to combine two rooms made into a dining and sitting room and a kitchen where classes were taught. Marjorie Bruder and Jean Wold competed in Dominion finals and won the Championship for Canada and were honored by the Home and School Association. The hot soup for lunch became a pleasure to produce with an electric stove and proper utensils. Members volunteered to oversee this addition to the children's lunch. Aunts Mary Campbell and Mary Nasstrom were the greatest volunteers and made homemade soup.

The annual Christmas Concert held while we had one school was a combined effort, the classes providing the program and the H & S the finale - Santa and bags of candy, provided by the business people in town and bagged by the two Aunt Marys

and one or two other members of the Association. Once a year, an ethnic night was the theme of a meeting with foods of different countries present in the area making a delicious assortment for the lunch.

The Home and School Association with the co-operation of organizations in town set up a bursary for a graduating student to further his education in any field whether it was University or hair dressing and to this day is still awarded.

During the time the Miniature Model United Nations was held in Brandon, the Home and School paid the expense of one and sometimes two students to participate in this event on international affairs and later would hear the report of this meeting. In 1967 Lac du Bonnet Home and School was proud to be chosen to participate in an international exchange of students the Federal Government hoped to arrange with other countries such as France and Italy, but unable to get it finalized. The Home and School Association also were able to have a government dentist sent out on two occasions to check the childrens' teeth.

Every year two delegates attended the Home and School convention and at one of these conventions a petition was made and taken to the Department of Education requesting a teacher for a "Slow Learner" class which was later implemented.

After the Second War clothing was needed in many countries. For several years a clothing drive was held twice a year and brought to the school, sorted and packed and sent into Winnipeg, often courtesy of our local transfer, to be shipped to needy areas in war torn Europe. We also made up small Christmas gifts of a bar of soap and face cloth to be sent as well. After the new school was built, pictures of the students who made the supreme sacrifice in the 2nd World War were dedicated and hung in the hall.

The Home and School Association also collected through the school children for the U.N.I.S.F. Fund.

After the school burned, we were left without a library and sport's equipment. A drive organized by Helen Smith, president, was made for books and the Home and School bought a set of Americana Encyclopedica and the later supplements for it.

When the new Maths was introduced into the school, it caused quite a furor as it was difficult to understand. The Home and School with the cooperation of the teachers had classes for the parents and it was so successful that some nights the room was crowded. Also for the parents for two years while we had a real Frenchman teaching french, a Mr. Louis Lahaie, conversational French classes were held during the winter months which

were enjoyed but little chance to practice.

Records of most of the early years of the Home and School have disappeared but some names of former presidents come to mind, namely Lil Tomlinson, Mary Reid, Helen Smith, Marion Sneath, Ed. Smee, Leah Zeemel, Rev. Bissell, Mary Pickard, Father Bonin, Louise Brown, Alta Atkinson, Louis Brown-Principal and possibly Ray Fetterly and T. Bone.

This history taken from tape of what Helen Smith remembers of the early years.

The Home and School Association resumed after being inactive for several years. Through the effort of Mary and John Hayward and other parents and teachers it was organized with John Hayward as president in 1973-74 followed by Ray Fetterly 1974-75, Gertrude Kyne for two years 1975-77, Pastor Nyyssonen 1977-78, Noreen Ostash 1978-79, Peter Knoedler 1979-80.

Again programs of interest to parents and teachers are planned and co-operation is the main object between parents, teachers and pupils.

Date of reorganization and name of presidents obtained from Mr. Philip Stokes.

## AGASSIZ HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The society was organized in April, 1969. Mrs. Mary Yakem and Mrs. Olga Urban belonged to the Winnipeg Horticultural Society for a number of years and then decided to form a branch of the Society in the Lac du Bonnet area. The first meeting was held in the Lac du Bonnet arena. The first president was Gordon Boone. The charter was received in February 1970.

The first Flower Show was held in the Memorial Hall in 1970 and was a great success. This show also featured the junior gardeners. We give much credit to Mr. Pete Peters and the late Fred Weir for the early success of the society.

Our membership has grown from a few to a few dozen. It was quite a task to find a suitable meeting place. Some meetings were held in the old Lakeview Hotel and the Rural Municipal Hall. We were grateful for the use of these premises. All regular meetings are now held in the multi-purpose room of the Senior High School and we find this room very handy. All shows of the society are now held in the Legion Hall. We find the hall to be an ideal situation as both the hall and the show have greatly expanded in the last few years.

Presidents over the years since its inception have been Mr. Gordon Boone, Mr. Doug Taylor, Mrs. Willa Smith and Mr. Fred Bishop.



## THE LIONS CLUB OF LAC DU BONNET

Some fifteen years ago a group of citizens of Lac du Bonnet met to consider the formation of a Lions Club. Not long after, the Lions Club of Lac du Bonnet received its Charter from Lions International, with headquarters in the U.S.A.

There were 44 charter members of the club: Jerry Anderson, Ted Anderstedt, Ralph Butchart, Don Bateman, Ralph Boyle, Laverne Cherry, Dennis Crook, Victor David, Jim Druchet, Bob Dodman, Gerry DeMuynck, Bob Dyne, Ray Enright, Bob Fawcett, Cam Fergusson, Eric Greirson, Bruce Griffith, Jim Gomican, Irwin Grabke, Roger Guzinski, Father George Hart, Len Horn, Dori Holm, Emil Kaprawy, Alden King, Robert Kost, Philip Koslowsky, Paul Lavoie, Frank Levis, Calvin Magee, John Mansbridge, John McPherson, Stan Penner, Ted Schlorff, Ed Semple, Steve Tobak, Charles Van Bastelaere, Bert Wood, Edward Worona, Victor Worona.

The Lac du Bonnet Lions Club has striven over the years to live up to its motto "We Serve". As is proper, the majority of the Club's efforts have been within the community, although it has supported projects, through Lions, both in Manitoba and internationally.

Perhaps the largest project with which the Lions were closely associated was the construction of the Arena, both in its original form and then with the "extension". A major portion of money raised at Lions functions for several years was committed to this project; approximately \$30,000 was raised by the Lions alone.

The Club has helped the Lac du Bonnet Ambulance Centre, with presentations of Radio equipment, and more recently, a stretcher.

Lac du Bonnet has several fine parks, of which we are justly proud. The Lions Club have played their part here, too, by erecting some of the playground equipment.

Not all the projects involve buildings or equipment. The Club uses funds to help other organizations to function, such as the Brownies and Guides, as well as sponsoring the Senior Citizens Supper every Christmastide.

Monies to enable the club to carry out these projects have been raised by a variety of functions. The club has become synonymous over the last few years with Sponsorship of the Canada Day Celebrations in the village. Generally a two day event, the Lions have been responsible for the organization, although many other groups have added their support, all combining to make each year's celebrations a memorable event.

Membership of the clubs has changed considerably over the years, and of the Charter members, only Ted Anderstedt, Ralph Butchart,

Ray Enright, Stan Penner and Steve Tobak still belong to the club. Presently standing at 31, members of the Club are drawn from all walks of life: a broad cross section of the Community.

## CENTENNIAL REBEKAH LODGE NO. 61

Centennial Rebekah Lodge No. 61 was instituted on February 26th, 1966 by Mrs. Irene Brown of Stockton, Manitoba at that time President of the Rebekah Assembly of Manitoba, and her staff of assembly Officers. This took place in the afternoon. In the evening Coronation Rebekah Lodge No. 51 Pine Falls under the direction of the late Mrs. Wanda Fredericks conferred the degree on twelve new members. Mrs. Marion Sharpe, District Deputy President in the chair, installed the Officers of the new Lodge. Elected Officers installed were Sisters Rose Schenk, Noble Grand; Grace Rogers, Vice Grand; Rose Nelson, Recording Secretary; Stella Hammerstedt, Financial Secretary; and Gertrude Hardy, Treasurer. The late Sister Kay Rousseau was installed as Junior Past Noble Grand. There were 149 Rebekahs attending these meetings including the late Sister Florence Groat of Winnipeg, Vice President of International Association of Rebekah Assembly of the World and Mr. Leonard Hughes, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba.

Previous members of Coronation Lodge, they now worked to get Centennial Lodge No. 61 started. Charter members were the late Kay Rousseau, Gertrude Hardy, Grace Rogers, Rose and Bill Schenk, Stella Hammerstedt, Norma Halliday, Alice Puddicombe, Rose Nelson, Gladys McLeod, Sandra Rhame, Viola Campbell, Leah Zeemel, Audrey Weiss and Ted Semple.

The Lodge assists in community projects such as Senior Citizens Outing by the Age and Opportunity Bureau, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, 4-H, Day Care Centre, Entertainment at East Gate Lodge in Beausejour, assisted the Senior Citizens Club when it started, taking part in Senior Citizens Choir, Support the United Nations Pilgrimage of Youth to New York, of which Margaret Fryer was chosen as alternate to go. It holds a Penmanship Contest in Grades four to six inclusive yearly since institution; a prize going to top girl and boy in each grade. Also a plaque is presented to the room with best overall writing. For many years tested Kindergarten, Grade 1 and 2 pupils for Amlyopia (lazy eye) in all Agassiz Division. This year schools are holding a similar test and asked Centennial members to assist, ten members took part. It holds the annual Heart Fund canvas, has a booth at the Lions July 1st celebration and at present are supervising for the Recreational Craft

Classes at Centennial and Park Avenue Schools under the direction of Miss Ellen Kelly of the Recreational Branch, Winnipeg.

This Lodge has won the Honor Roll several times, also had the honor of having the late Sister Kay Rousseau appointed as Color Bearer for one term at the Sessions in Winnipeg. A very successful fowl supper this year of 1978. The Lodge is very active and now has a membership of 42. Our past Noble grands are Sister Rose Schenk, Grace Rogers, Alice Puddicombe, Norma Halliday, Stella Hammerstedt, Audrey Weiss, Leah Zeemel, Rose Nelson, Gertrude Hardy, Nora Malyk, Jessie Richmond and Lottie Bishop as Noble Grand this year of 1978.

Submitted by  
Rose Schenk

### HISTORY OF THE PIONEER CLUB OF LAC DU BONNET

On January 19th, 1976 a meeting was called by Mrs. R. Butchart. She felt a club made up of members sixty years or over might fill a social and educational need for this age group. An encouraging number turned out and a slate of officers were elected: Mrs. Alta Atkinson, president, Mrs. P. Lodge, vice-president, Mrs. G. Campbell, Secretary and Grace Rogers, treasurer. Mrs. R. Butchart, program convenor, assisted by Mrs. N. Halliday, Mrs. Mary Newsham, Mrs. V. C. Harty and Mrs. Viola Campbell. The club met the first Monday of each month. Membership fee was one dollar. Other convenors were appointed and a constitution was adopted. These officers held office until September 3rd, 1977 when Fred Bishop became President, Jim Martin, first vice-president, Mrs. E. Richmond, Secretary and Marie Thor, Treasurer. New convenors were appointed also.

All meetings were held in the beginning in the lounge at Bonny Vista, the Senior Citizens home. As the club grew it was apparent larger quarters would be needed and a committee was set up to look for larger quarters that would be central. Finally a large and small room was rented and an application for a New Horizon's grant from the Federal Government applied for and received. With this grant the furnishings necessary was bought which even included a pool table, piano and stereo. These rooms were on Second Street near the Post Office and very central. This "Recreation Centre" as it was called was opened officially by Jake Epp, M.P. on September 23rd, 1978.

A varied program continued throughout the years which include card parties every second Wednesday, a birthday party once a month, crib-

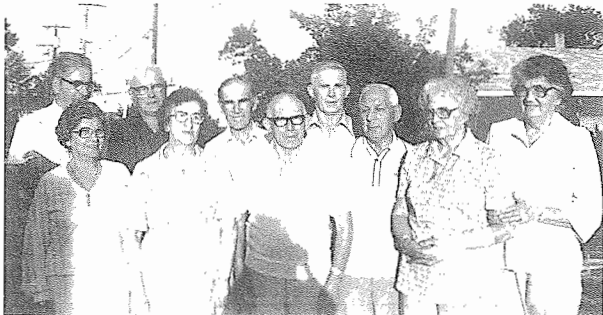
bage, bowling and pool competitions and every New Years Eve a party. Crafts have been taught and will continue to be available. A choir organized under the leadership of Mrs. G. Hardy has weekly practice and sing at local concerts and entertain shutins. This choir was chosen to sing at the Golden Agers concert in the Playhouse in Winnipeg in October, 1977. Several guest speakers have spoken on various topics. Also slides of trips taken have been shown.



1976-1977 — First Officers of the Pioneer Club. Left to right: Mrs. Alta Atkinson, president; Mrs. George Campbell, secretary and Mrs. Grace Rogers, treasurer.



1977-1979 — Officers of the Pioneer club. Left to right: Mrs. E. Richmond, secretary; Fred Bishop, president and Marie Thor, treasurer.



PIONEER CLUB RECREATION COMMITTEE  
1978-79-80

Back row: Rudy Zeemel, Albert Mager, Harry Park, Paul Sikora. Front row: Stella Hammerstedt, Marie Thor, Fred Bishop, James Martin, Gertrude Hardy, Louise Haavisto.



#### HISTORY BOOK COMMITTEE

Back row: Mrs. Margit Major, Alex McIntosh, Louise Haavisto, Alta Atkinson, Edythe Ehrlich, Myrna McMillan. Front row: Stella Hammerstedt, Marie Thor, Jack Wade, Fred Bishop, Gertrude Hardy, Billie Butchart.

To raise funds a cookbook was compiled, printed and sold and when that proved successful, work began on a history book of this area and will shortly be printed. A lunch counter in the Recreation Centre, which is open five days a week under the care of a member, shows a profit. Raffle and Nevada tickets are also sold. A display of crafts, sale of baking and plants, and tea is held twice a year.

Numerous bus trips have been organized to places of interest. Tickets are donated and appreciated to see Opera and concerts in Winnipeg.

With all these activities and interests the Pioneer Club displays vitality and a zest for living.

#### ART IN LAC DU BONNET

by Myrna McMillan

In the winter of 1970-71 through the Agassiz School Board, a group of 12 young men and women formed an oil painting class under the tutelage of Mrs. Eileen Copeland. With Jim Jordan as teacher this class was again active in 1975-77. There were no oil painting classes at the school the next two seasons but several of the class members continued to meet at the home of Mrs. Ruth Wardrop. Although Ruth always claimed that she was not a teacher, her help was of great value to those who met there. Everyone progressed favorably and enjoyed the hospitality of this kind lady who so generously gave of her time and knowledge.

In 1979 the Agassiz School division again advertised an oil painting class. Some of the former class members got together, rounded up the necessary 12 people and registered for classes. The fee for each student was \$30 for 60 hours. The classes took place in the senior school and were three hours long, once a week. Twenty students registered but due partly to a rather shaky begin-

ning the number dwindled to fifteen. However once we really started under the very able direction of Mrs. Vera McLean of Beausejour, the class, even with some stormy wintery, bad travelling weather, averaged eleven members over the season. The members as a whole feel they made excellent progress and are hopefully looking forward to next season with Mrs. McLean leading them on to broader fields of learning.

Mr. Graham Clarke of Inwood, Manitoba was in Lac du Bonnet giving a crash course, 18 hours for \$20, and some of the members of the longer course and some others from the region attended.

I should mention that the members of the classes were from school age to senior citizens, some with 10 years of painting experience, others having their very first try at expressing themselves through their painting. We feel a great pride in the achievements of our art group. Early in April there was a juried art show in Beausejour with many of



Lori Lesko, 14 years.



Art Show at Lac du Bonnet, 1980. Springfield Leader.

the Eastman regional towns represented. Mrs. Barbara Steed, a member of the class, took first prize for her painting "Her 80th Birthday". Others from the class won honorable mentions. Mildred Bruneau for "Cows" done in oils, Esme Boone working with acrylics for her "Reclining Nude", Jim too for his oil painting "December", and "The Deserted Farmhouse" done in oils by Myrna McMillan. As the season drew to a close it was decided to display our work in our own Lac du Bonnet. On May 31, 1980, in the Senior Citizens Recreational Center we displayed the work of nineteen artists. There were 107 paintings greatly varied in their subject matter from still life, animal, flowers to portraits and beautiful landscapes.

Anyone who paints will understand the benefits gained when we meet with others in a group to work and discuss our thoughts about art and ar-

tists, to swap ideas and techniques. On July 8, 1980 nine local artists met at Mildred Bruneau's home to discuss and form the Lac du Bonnet Arts Society. The aim of this organization is to get assistance through workshops or among themselves in the arts field. Hopefully this will expand eventually to include other fields of art.

Elsewhere in this book there is an article about our professional artist Mr. Robert Kost who has brought, over the years, great honor to his native Lac du Bonnet. No need for me to speak here. His paintings speak for themselves.

There are many people in this area working in ceramics, macrame, weaving, quilting, etc. and although one might say these are crafts, many have raised their hobbies into the field of art through their natural talent.

# Community Services

## ROYAL BANK

### Managers:

R. E. Emmett — September 10, 1920 to  
May 5, 1927  
A. Griffin — May 30, 1927 - August 2, 1943  
E. F. Shewfelt — July 28, 1943 - January 26, 1956  
A. S. King — February 13, 1956 - November 1967  
R. A. Klimack — November 27, 1967 to  
February 9, 1970  
W. W. Magura — February 4, 1970 to  
May 14, 1973  
R. J. Struss — May 7, 1973 -

Note: The manager from 1919-1920 when it was a sub branch, was the same manager as Beausejour - H. C. Chapin.



Onfrey Maslo in front of the Royal Bank, Lac du Bonnet, after he had unloaded his wood, circa 1921-22.



Indian mailman and dog team from Fort Alexander.

## THE HISTORY OF TELEPHONE SERVICE IN LAC DU BONNET

The provincial government purchased facilities from the Bell Telephone Company in 1908 and the system became a public utility known as the Manitoba Government Telephones. The name was changed to Manitoba Telephone System in 1921.

The first telephone service in Lac du Bonnet was provided by a toll office. The agent at that time was Donald McCulloch and the year was 1926. The following year, 1927, there were three subscribers listed in the directory. They are as follows:

Hotel, Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet, Stewart, Corporal of RNWMP.

In 1928, the list of subscribers lengthened considerably. They are: Campbell RN, general store; Childe William, office; Commercial Hotel, Dancyt A., bakery; Johnson Hans, Res.; Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet, Sparman J., Travellers Hotel.

Dial service was introduced to Lac du Bonnet in 1953 at which time there were 161 telephones in the community. Direct Distance Dialing was provided in February, 1969.

M. P. George  
Supervisor - Community Relations

## HISTORY OF THE LAC DU BONNET VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The very first Fire Department was started December 13, 1949 and consisted of: the Mayor, Joe Sparman (deceased) and councillors - Vic Rowe (residing in Winnipeg), Albert Arsenault (deceased), Mike Mikolichuk (deceased) and Mike Danylchuk (living in B.C.). They purchased a 1945 truck and an 800 gallon tank and proceeded to make their own fire truck. In 1950, they built a frame building just large enough to house the fire truck. This, the first fire hall, was situated on the corner of Park Avenue and Second Street, where the Bay Store parking lot is now.

As the years went by, the firemen increased and eventually the Council turned the department over



to an appointed chief, Ramsay McIntosh and Deputy Chief, Eugene Lavoie. Some of the first men in this new fire department were Ivor Winberg, Bud Bjornson, Dickie Campbell, Arnold Urban, Arvid Dancyt, Walter Zarecki and Russel Waters. Two men served the longest on the fire department — Ramsay McIntosh and Arnold Urban, both these men retired from the fire department just last year.

In 1962, the Village purchased a new fire truck, a 1962 GMC equipped with a fire pump, approved by the Canadian Underwriters Association, and which produced 625 gallons of water per minute at 175 p.s.i. and had all equipment on it. With the new fire truck, they had to build a larger hall to house both units. This was built on McArthur Avenue at the present location. This also meant enlarging the department of a total of 20 firemen. The Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet also wanted fire protection and they agreed to pay towards the operating costs of the fire department.

In 1966, the Lac du Bonnet Fire Department and the Pinawa Fire Department made a mutual agreement to aid one another when necessary.

In September, 1968, the town purchased a tank truck which holds 2500 gallons of water with two 2 inch pumps.

In the spring of 1973, the Town and R.M. built an addition to the fire hall consisting of two more bays and a meeting room. In June 1973, a Ford Econoline Rescue Van was purchased and the Lac du Bonnet Hospital Guild supplied the stretcher.

In 1976, the fire department was increased to 25 men, 14 of which began taking training to become Ambulance Attendant Drivers. In March, an Ambulance was purchased with the aid of grants from the Province, by the Rural Municipality, and in April the ambulance service was put into operation. The Ambulance service is run by the Lac du Bonnet District Ambulance Service Committee

and qualified firemen as the Attendant-Drivers. Various organizations made donations and purchased a two-way radio system for the ambulance. The Ambulance Service has been very busy, thus proving it was a much needed service for our community.

In the summer of 1977, the Rural Municipality purchased a new tanker truck. This made the Rural Municipality an equal partner with the Village in the operation of the Fire Department and also costs are equally shared. The new tanker truck is a 1974 Ford Tandem with a carrying capacity of 3,000 gallons and can load or unload at the rate of 250 gallons per minute. It is NOT red in colour, but lime green - which is the internationally recognized safety colour for emergency vehicles.

Our Fire Department is an active one. There have been various committees set up to handle various jobs. The Equipment Maintenance Committee takes care of the vehicles and equipment; the Training Committee sets up training and upgrading programs; Fire Prevention Committee will inspect buildings, sell fire extinguishers, etc.; the Cleaning Committee keeps equipment and fire hall clean; The Ambulance Committee takes care of the ambulance; and the Social Committee - needs no real explanation. So you can see that the firemen do not simply attend fires when called upon, but must have training in all aspects of driving the vehicles, using the equipment and in fire fighting. There are two fire meetings per month, one is usually a training session. The ambulance committee have separate training sessions at other various times. Not only do the firemen put in many hours every month even when there are no fires, but the wives are involved with phoning committees and so on.

Muscular Dystrophy is the pet charity organization of the Fire Department.

# *District Health Centre*

## **LARGE TURNOUT TO MEET NEW HEALTH TEAM STAFF**

'It's a great turnout in spite of the snow', said a smiling Dr. W. A. Ehrlich, chairman of the Lac du Bonnet Health Board as he welcomed several hundred residents of that area who had arrived to meet the members of their new health team.

In spite of the violent snowstorm on Friday evening, January 25, every bleacher seat in the brightly lit Senior School Auditorium was full for the occasion.

'I would like to introduce Buck Sellers - Community Worker, Doreen Dancyt - Steno-Receptionist-bookkeeper, Bev McCrea - R.N., and Esme Boone - R.N.

'Our Public Health Nurse Beth Dyck really doesn't need any introduction as she is well known to all of you. However, I do want to tell you that the Health Board will be hiring Mrs. Dyck as Program Co-ordinator for the new Health Clinic as soon as the funds are made available to us.'

Next to be introduced were the members serving on the Lac du Bonnet Health Board; Ex officio members Reeve Walter Zarecki and Mayor Russ Waters, Member at Large Tage Worona, Leo Grabel representing the R.M. of Lac du Bonnet, Vice Chairman Mrs. Kay Rousseau, Treasurer Saleen Bellan, Secretary Mrs. Dibs Williams, Martin Okalita representing the Village Council, Mr. John Bracken of Great Falls, Jack Lamb of Pointe du Bois and Roy Fruend.

Doctors Beaumont and Opie of the Pinawa Hospital were also introduced as were Dr. John Waters, Medical Health Officer for the District and Dr. Ted Tulchinsky, Associate Deputy Minister for the Department of Health.

'Two other people from the Department of Health who have been extremely helpful to the Board are also here with us tonight,' Dr. Ehrlich said, 'they are Peter Dueck and Linda Bakken from the White Paper Working Group office.'

'Before I introduce our main speakers,' he continued, 'I would like to introduce a number of people who are here tonight. A great deal of credit for the presence of the Health Clinic at Lac du Bonnet

must go to the members of the North Eastern Health Services Committee.

'The members of this original group were the people who went to work, dug out the necessary statistics, formulated a plan and made the government aware of our needs. They began this work back in 1969,' he stated.

'Joyce Larsen, chairman of this group and Jo Anne Hillier were largely responsible. Working with them were Leman Ziemel, Gordon Boone, Ina Hatland, Gertrude Hardy, Alice Puddicombe, Al Campbell, Walter Zarecki, Edward Verenoux, Dagmar Hominuk (formerly Neilson), Ian Harkness, Stu McLean, George Anderson, Mrs. F. Boulanger and John Duchinski.

'This group was responsible. We simply carried on in 1973,' he said.

'Based on the response to the Health Clinic since it opened its doors on January 14, 1974, I consider it already successful. Dr. Kyne and the health team staff are already busy. I don't doubt that a few of the first comers were curious but they went away very pleasantly surprised.

'Three years from now,' he continued, 'we have the potential for accommodating 14 people and we will have laboratory facilities here. Now it will not be a hospital. We will still rely on Drs. Beaumont and Opie at the Pinawa Hospital for acute care service.

'Establishing a clinic of this nature is somewhat difficult. It involves every aspect of health care at the physical, mental and social level. There are a lot of things to iron out yet and we will be relying on the help of the Eastman Regional Health Office to get us started.

'Physical health is not our only concern at the Clinic. We must be concerned with the whole aspect of health.'

'Our first speaker tonight is Minister of Agriculture Sam Uskiw. He has strongly supported this venture,' said Dr. Ehrlich.

Mr. Uskiw began his remarks by noting, 'This is an opportunity to appear at an event that has been long in coming. And, it is to your credit that you have received it. But, I should make the point that it took a change in government to stop the huge



**DISTRICT HEALTH CARE**  
Members of the Lac du Bonnet Board of Health were all present to officially welcome the new health team on Friday evening. Standing (l-r) are Mayor Waters, Reeve Zarecki, John Bracken, Roy Freund, Tage Worona, Leo Gabel, Martin Okolita, and Jack Lamb. Sitting (l-r) are Mrs. Kay Rousseau, Chairman Dr. W. Ehrlich, Mrs. Saleen Bellan and Mrs. Dibs Williams.

wheel of health turning and try to give it new and better direction.

'This Clinic shall be an experiment to some degree. I am positive that this initial concept will evolve into something much greater in time. You will be able to innovate and you will be checking your progress. Other communities will be watching your progress.

'It is good in another sense as well. All professional people trend toward the large centres and there are many pockets in Manitoba where there are no professional services. We hope this new concept will bring about some change and bring back the basic necessities to the people.

'I extend my good wishes to all of you and I want to personally welcome your new doctor,' he concluded.

Dr. Ehrlich next introduced Member of Parliament for Provencher Jake Epp noting that he was, 'very happy that our federal member could be present for the occasion.'

Mr. Epp began his remarks by wishing all members of the health team the very best in the new venture.

'I am fully aware that health care is the bailiwick of provincial governments but I want to note that Lac du Bonnet has recently seen the construction of a veterinary clinic, a senior citizens home and now a health centre. The federal government has participated financially in all of these.

'A community clinic is a very controversial topic which draws many questions from the medical field. I was on the Health Board in my home area when the topic first came up and it generated a great deal of discussion. I wish you the

very best in this experiment and I find it very exciting that a doctor from Toronto has chosen our rural area for the quality of life.

'Your new medical clinic will go a long way to providing services to the people in this area. I was amazed at the large number of local people involved in getting the community clinic started.

'A lot of people are going to be changing their thinking about Eastern Manitoba. For a long time it has been thought of as not prime agricultural land. An area that couldn't match up to the rest of the prairie region. Obviously, this is not the case now.

'Diversification, such as the nuclear energy research site at Pinawa is the answer.

'The fact that a heavy water plant and a power producing reactor could be located in the Lac du Bonnet-Pinawa-Whiteshell areas is of very great concern to all of us.

'The federal government is looking at two sites - Eastern Manitoba or Esterhazy, Saskatchewan. By using the same methods of co-operation that saw this community health clinic established, I am sure that we can make a very strong representation and a very strong case for the location of this valuable economic site here.

'Last Thursday, Minister of Energy Donald MacDonald made a very significant announcement.

'Previously, the federal government was offering to finance the construction of the second nuclear power reactor in every province. Due to the energy crisis, Minister MacDonald announced a change in this policy. The federal government will now finance the first nuclear power reactor built in each

province.

'New Brunswick is considering building their first reactor and with this announcement and the fact that Ontario and Quebec are already well into the nuclear program, the need for more heavy water plants is becoming more crucial every day.

Mr. Epp then noted that the L.I.P. for Provencher were awarded by a local board. The grants totaled \$179,000.

'Lac du Bonnet's share of the L.I.P. grants will go toward the new clinic,' noted Mr. Epp. 'I am sure that the money will be put to very good use there,' he concluded.

Dr. Ehrlich then introduced Dr. John Weeks, Director of Health and Safety for W.N.R.E. and chief Medical Officer for the Pinawa Hospital, noting that 'We are looking for Dr. Week's support in this new venture.'

'Nearly 11 years ago,' began Dr. Weeks, 'I attended a Chamber of Commerce meeting at Lac du Bonnet. At that meeting, we laid the basis for friendly co-operation between our two communities which has played a tremendous role in the friendly medical co-operation over the years.

'We are now crossing a new frontier in the delivery of health care. The Manitoba White Paper on Health draws attention to the need for access to health services... at a time of tremendous advances. There are many problems to be met in this area of service in this province.

'But, I have no doubt, if people get in there and get involved the way they have done around here, these problems will be solved. I wish you every good wish for the success of this new venture,' he concluded.

Dr. Michael Kyne, new doctor of the clinic and leader of the health team, was then introduced by Dr. Ehrlich.

'Dr. Kyne is a quiet and unassuming individual', said Dr. Ehrlich, 'but he comes extremely highly recommended by those with whom he has worked in the past.'

'First I want to tell you how much my family and I appreciate the warm welcome to the community,' Dr. Kyne began. 'We also deeply appreciate the efforts of the Health Board in seeing to our satisfactory accommodations. I am honoured that you chose me as your doctor.

'This is a new experience for me and an exciting one. I have never worked with a team oriented towards total health care. Now, we do not expect people here to sever their relationships with doctors in other areas immediately. We are all part of a very large team working for you.

'It is gratifying to see so many groups represented here tonight. We, at the Health Clinic, are well aware that they will be following the launching of the Clinic with great interest.



Dr. M. Kyne (r) enjoys a cup of coffee with Mr. and Mrs. Dibs Williams of Lac du Bonnet.

'I can only tell you that myself and the rest of the staff, as well as the members of the Health Board, exceed their interest and their concern.'

Dr. Ehrlich then called upon Dr. Ross, Eastman Regional Director for the Department of Health noting that, 'Dr. Ross is here both on behalf of the Department and on his own behalf. He has already been a great deal of help and we still have a lot of problems to iron out and a long way to go in delivery of health services at the social level. We look to Dr. Ross and his Department for help in this area.'

'How very rewarding it must seem to all of you to see the Clinic open after so many years of work to get it established,' Dr. Ross began. 'I will try, as briefly as possible to tell you how my Department ties in.

'There are three main programs provided by the Department: Personal, Income Maintenance and Dental. Personal includes the delivery of eight or nine different types of services such as preventative health, communicable disease control, pre and post-natal service, family planning, education, etc.

'We have been assisting with a 'Family Life' program at the Beausejour Senior School, with a 'Parent Communication' program up at Pine Falls and with a 'Drug' program in another area.

'One of the most interesting areas is the new 'Home Care' program which got underway last summer. This provides both professional and supportive services in the home involving a nurse or a housekeeper. The idea of this program is to keep people happy and healthy in their own homes rather than have them taking up a valuable bed in an acute care hospital.

'Our Department is responsible for Child Welfare which is broken into two areas of responsibility. The Children's Aid handles this program in organized towns. The Department handles it in un-

organized areas. We also handle Probation and Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

'Under Income Maintenance, we assess and service people applying for social assistance. Municipalities are responsible for this assistance for people who are actually employable.

'In the Dental program, we visit school children, assist in dental education and in decay prevention programs.

'With the coming of the Clinic to Lac du Bonnet, some of these tasks such as Public Health, Home Care, Service to the elderly, Community Education and Counselling will be handled through the Clinic.

'Our Department will work out of the Clinic and remain an integral part of the Clinic services. All our resources will be behind the Clinic and we will also play a monitoring role on quality control of services at the Clinic the same as we do for other facilities throughout the Eastman region,' he concluded.

Dr. Ehrlich then brought the formal portion of the evening to a close by inviting one and all to partake in refreshments provided by the Ladies Auxiliary to the Health Clinic.

'You will want to talk with the members of your health team to learn more of the services. And, the Department of Health has provided a large number of pamphlets on these services which you may take home with you.'

#### **THE LAC DU BONNET LADIES AUXILIARY TO HEALTH CENTRE**

The Lac du Bonnet Health Centre Auxiliary had its beginnings on November 27th, 1973 at a meeting held in the Rural Municipal office. This was after Lac du Bonnet was given government approval to build a Health Centre to service the village and surrounding district. At the meeting were members of the Pinawa Hospital Auxiliary as several members of the immediate Auxiliary being formed were formally affiliated with the Pinawa Lac du Bonnet Hospital Auxiliary where our nearest hospital was located. A cheque for \$300.00 was presented by the Pinawa Auxiliary.

As of November 27th, 1979 the Auxiliary has been in existence six years and has been of assistance to the Health Centre in many ways with volunteer work; helping to raise money for equipment, donations, tagging linen supplies, providing lunch for the annual public meetings of the Health Board, etc.

Wool is purchased for volunteer knitting and there is a project each year to raise funds.

Submitted by  
Mrs. Vera McLean

#### **COMMUNITY REGRETS DR. REID LEAVING**

Springfield Leader, July 16, 1946

Lac du Bonnet — We are sorry to have to report that July 15th is the last day we will have Dr. Reid as our doctor. On that date Dr. I. W. Sneath will take over Dr. Reid's practise.

Dr. Sneath who hails from Regina served in the Armed Forces and spent three months at Pine Falls Hospital after receiving his discharge. He is married and Mrs. Sneath is a nurse.

#### **DR. REID EULOGIZED FOR TROJAN JOB AT FAREWELL IN HIS HONOR**

Springfield Leader, July 23, 1946

Lac du Bonnet — Alan Young's radio show "Stag Party" has long been one of our leading entertainment features over the air waves but no Alan Young show ever equalled the stag party held in the Community Hall here on Thursday evening when people of the entire surrounding district gathered together to bid farewell to Dr. W. S. Reid who is leaving for the States to do post-graduate work.

Dr. Reid started practising here on June 1, 1939 and looked after the health of this district all through the trying war years. As the war progressed, doctor after doctor was called to the armed forces until Dr. Reid was called to cover a territory which roughly ranged from the Ontario boundary to Brokenhead Municipality and took in all the power plant towns along the Winnipeg River, as well as the rural districts. He took over the directorship of Pine Falls Hospital when Dr. Bissett joined the Army Medical Corps, and from then on was the busiest man in the district, often going day and night to try to keep up with the demands on his services. Few will ever understand the effort required in trying to minister to the health needs of such a vast area but all those whom Dr. Reid served know something of his efforts and certainly appreciate his service.)

One long table running down the center of the hall, decorated with cut flowers was loaded with a lunch which varied from plain food to a number of delicacies which certainly tickled ones palate.

The boys started gathering about nine o'clock and by 9:30 the party was underway. The first half hour or so was spent in sampling the various refreshments after which E. F. Shewfelt who acted as Chairman made a few appropriate opening remarks then called on the representatives of the various districts. K. C. Ferguson spoke for Great Falls, S. S. Square represented Pointe du Bois, M. E. Wentz brought greetings from Pinawa and Frank Brown spoke on behalf of Lac du Bonnet. At the conclusion of his remarks Mr. Square presented Dr. Reid with a silver cigarette case on



behalf of the people of Pointe du Bois and later Mr. Shewfelt presented the Doctor with a purse on behalf of the entire gathering.

In accepting three mementoes Dr. Reid reminisced on some of his experiences since coming to the district and gave the gathering some insight into what the average person is apt to consider as the "commonplace" life of a doctor. He then stressed the very great need of a hospital in the district.

Later J. O. Jones proposed a farewell toast to Dr. Reid and in proposing the toast J. O. gave a few interesting figures regarding Dr. Reid's activities in the district. To say the least these figures were astounding but knowing J. O.'s ability and accuracy with figures they must be accepted as correct. During the past seven years Dr. Reid served a district comprising 65,000 square miles with a population of only about 9,000 people which however is nine times more than the average doctor serves as the ratio is around one doctor per thousand people.

In that time Dr. Reid brought over 1800 babies in to the world and performed over 1,000 major operations. The box score on the above is 100% as Dr. Reid never lost a mother in child birth and all the operatives survived. A record which may be equalled but cannot be beaten.

After replying to the toast Dr. Reid introduced Dr. Sneath who will be our doctor from now on. The crowd welcomed Dr. Sneath in a fitting manner and in a few well chosen words our new doctor expressed the hope that he would be able to serve the district to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Music and a sing song rounded out the evening.

Peter Winberg kept the piano bench warm and his selections varied from boogie woogie to accompaniments for the songs. Art Arsenault and Mike Hanson took turns on the guitar. Fred Dufily warmed up his violin and Cec. Patterson had along his sax, but the outstanding member of the group around the piano was Scotty Clark who did a varied accompaniment to many of the pieces with two spoons held in one hand.

As usual the boys dug in and lent a hand where necessary. Jack Watkins did the running around and Joe Sparman had lunch worries to attend to. And don't forget the ladies who gathered at Mrs. Sparman's in the afternoon and worked on the lunch for a stag which they were not allowed to attend.

J.W.W.

Archives, Springfield Leader

Editor's note:

A very interesting and informative letter to his friends about his work at Cook's Hospital, Chicago, Illinois appears in the October 29, 1946 issue of the Springfield Leader where Dr. Reid also expresses his appreciation for the "wonderful send-off you gave me."

Dr. Reid subsequently obtained a practise at Selkirk, Manitoba where he still is. Both his children, Ian and Blythe, chose the medical profession for their careers. Dr. Ian Reid, upon graduating, became an associate of his fathers.

In view of the fact that Dr. Reid wished for a hospital in "your beautiful valley", as he called Lac du Bonnet in his letter, the account of the inception and growth of the District Health Centre in the Leader and these articles about his departure seem to belong together.

# Sports

## HISTORY OF THE LAC DU BONNET CURLING CLUB

Compiled by Ralph Butchart

On August 23rd, 1933 a meeting was held in Lac du Bonnet to form a curling club.

Eleven persons were present and on a motion by Mr. Galt, seconded by Mr. Neily, Mr. H. A. Stewart was elected president. Other elected members were Mr. Cadario, Secretary; Mr. Galt, Vice President; Mr. Griffin, Treasurer; and directors - Mr. Neily, Mr. Sparman, Mr. Parks and Mr. Richards.

At an August 31st, 1933 meeting it was announced that land for the rink had been secured from the Social Club.

The 30th September 1933 meeting showed that lumber for the building - a one sheeted - was to be bought from Mr. N. Arseniuk "for \$35.00 cash and balance when suitable."

At the Traveller's Hotel on October 18th a number of important decisions were made. Initial club membership was set at \$3.00 for ladies, \$5.00 for men. Mr. J. Lindgren was hired at 25¢ per hour to take charge of the building of the rink with power to hire at \$1.00 per eight hour day such help as required. The Pinawa Club was invited to join and school children could curl Saturdays for \$1.00 per season. At this meeting, new members were: A. Griffin, L. McDonald, T. B. McDonald, J. Rosenberg, W. Zikman, J. Zikman, W. Smith, A. Markusson and H. S. Richards. Caretaker was to get \$20.00 for the season. Invitational matches were to be arranged with all local clubs on a two versus two rink basis.

On January 27th, 1934, the club joined the Manitoba Curling Association.

In the fall of 1934, Mr. H. A. Stewart was re-elected president and that season due to the popularity of the game, a second sheet was proposed at a cost of \$445.00.

Completion date of this addition was not mentioned in the minutes. The first bonspiel was held March 14th, 1935.

Ladies rinks were approved December 13th, 1935 and mixed rinks January 12, 1936.

The first trophy put up for competition was the Dr. B. B. Claman trophy. He was the local dentist and the first winner of same was the W. Peterson rink.

The year 1936 saw the introduction of the Turner Trophy for inter club competition on a two rink total point basis. A book to record the personnel of the competing rinks accompanied the trophy and remarks by the writer. The book saw many interesting write-ups and distinctive art work.

In going through the minutes for the next few years, it is noted that in 1942 the curling on natural ice of course began January 5th and the last game March 16th.

Also that year two rinks from Beresford Lake challenged Lac du Bonnet and brought with them the Good Fellowship Learens Shield. The winner had to challenge in two weeks another club. Bissett was also a visitor to Lac du Bonnet that year.

From 1942 to the end of the war, money was raised for the Red Cross through bonspiels in some of which as many as 26 rinks competed.

On March 16th, 1938, a Winnipeg Police rink and Deer Lodge rink visited the club and after curling, everyone proceeded to George Woods sauna bath with a suitable amount of "refreshments" to offset loss by perspiration.

Funds to operate the club were generated by holding whist drives, dances and other entertainment.

The first North Eastern Bonspiel was held January 19 and 20th, 1946. This became the major bonspiel east of the Red River for a number of years. Initially it comprised eight rinks - one from Bissett. As there was no road into Bissett at this time the rink had to travel through the bush or by air to get to Lac du Bonnet.

In 1946 at the November 12th meeting, it was suggested that the club needed a three sheet rink. It was not till March 1949 that the members voted in favour of going ahead with this project and by November 1949, the rink was almost completed and was ready for play for the 1949/50 season.

In the interim the Curling Club became a member of the Lac du Bonnet Memorial Centre

with four representatives on the Board. They were - J. C. Uhlman, J. Sparman, H. P. Smith and Tom Wood. During this period, considerable funds were generated on July 1st through promotion of water ski shows.

These showed profits of up to \$9,000.00 the first year - \$5,000.00 the second year and varying amounts thereafter. As a result the Curling Club was able to construct an entirely new building, with waiting room, for under \$5,000.00 with considerable volunteer labour. This building was ready for play for the 1949/50 season.

By 1951 the premier curling event was the North Eastern Bonspiel with a limited entry of only 16 rinks. This bonspiel must have been of some importance as Scotty Harper of the Free Press was invited to attend the smoker and do a write up on it.

1954 saw the Turner Trophy awarded to the team scoring the most points in their first three games of the North Eastern Bonspiel.

Mr. Hardy as principal of the Lac du Bonnet Consolidated School during 1954/55 pressed development of High School curling and initiated the first District High School Curling Bonspiel with Lac du Bonnet winning same. High school students continued to maintain interest in the sport culminating in a rink that was to attract attention locally and eventually provincially. This rink skipped originally by Glenn Butchart with John Usackis, Don Stupak and Andy Usackis won more than their share of games at the Club and district levels. Eventually Usackis became skip and the same quartet performed well at club, Winnipeg Bonspiel and Provincial Playdown levels.

In the 1950's the following were honoured by being elected life members - J. E. Neily, Percy Jones, Andy Markusson and Joe Sparman - in recognition of many years of loyal service to the Lac du Bonnet Curling Club and the promotion of the game itself. Later others were Ray Enright, Ralph Butchart and Leah Zeemel.

Over the years the Lac du Bonnet Curling Club has produced many ladies and men curlers who have given a good account of themselves, both locally and provincially.

Some of the ladies rinks were those skipped by Sadie Jones, Inga Zikman, Dorothy Waters and Elsie Chapman. Covering the period up to 1953 old timers will recall the exploits of Bill Peterson, Joe Sparman of Mugwump fame, Jack Parks and Bill Zikman.

In 1959 a new roof was put on the rink, all done by voluntary labour. Ray Foubert in that year presented the club with an interior "Welcome Curlers" sign and an exterior one "Lac du Bonnet Curling Club".

1961 saw the installation of up to date toilet

facilities and the next year the club incorporated and bought itself out of the Lac du Bonnet Memorial Centre for \$2,000.00.

1963 saw the installation of artificial ice with opening ceremonies December 14th, 1963. Joe Sparman threw the first rock with Fred Law, Grain Exchange, and Charlie Precious of Seven Sisters Curling Club doing the sweeping. MLA Oscar Bjornson, Mayor Walter Zarecki and Reeve Harry Olenski were also present.

1966 saw the formation of the Ladies Curling Club as a separate unit and they were to make important financial contributions to the club from then on.

From 1966 to 1973 interest in curling remained at a generally high level but in 1974, it was decided to enlarge the club rooms and by 1975 an expenditure of almost \$60,000.00 with the addition and new seating was completed, including carpeted floors, new washrooms, dressing rooms, and lunch counter.

Finances for this project came from a Government grant, donations from the Ladies Curling Club and Lions Club plus proceeds from Club activities.

In conclusion it should be mentioned that both the ladies and men's Club rinks have over the years won more than their share of prizes and bonspiels at local and Provincial levels.

The most successful of these rinks was the one skipped by John Usackis and it is only fitting that he should, in his own words, record in this history of The Club the story of the many victories his different rinks achieved.

## JOHN USACKIS

Started curling in Lac du Bonnet at the age of eleven in Junior High School curling. Ralph and Glenn Butchart were very instrumental in teaching me the fundamentals of the game. Competed in numerous Manitoba High School Bonspiels and one year lost in the semi-finals of the main event. Won the Lac du Bonnet Men's Club Championship at the age of fifteen. I had actually just turned fifteen at the end of the season. Won numerous local bonspiels dating back to 1957. Among the more prominent spiels was the Pine Falls Men's spiel which we won eight or nine times. I lost track of the number of wins as the old rink burnt down and with it the original bonspiel trophy. It was always special for us, as among the competitors there was always a strong Winnipeg contingent.

The Lac du Bonnet bonspiel was called the North Eastern. We also won this event numerous times. One thing I distinctly remember about this

spiel was that they had a special event called the Turner trophy event which was awarded to the rink winning their first three games with the highest total accumulated score. We won this event a couple of times, but the veteran curlers became infuriated with us as we ran up such high scores. They then changed the format of this event awarding it to the rink winning its first three games by the lowest total accumulated score. We won again but this still peeved the veteran curlers as we were knocking our own stones out in an effort to keep the score down. This event was finally dropped from the North Eastern spiel as it was causing nothing but ill feelings.

In 1962 we won our first Zone Playdowns which qualified the winning rink into the Provincial Playdowns which consisted of thirty-two teams. We caused quite a sensation that year winning our first three games and being labelled the "cinderella team" by the newspapers until finally the balloon burst. The other members of that rink were Glenn Butchart, Don Stupak, and my brother Andy and we only averaged twenty years of age which was fairly young at that time. We were also voted the best sweeping rink that year mainly because of our strong sweeping front end.

At the time of writing, I have been fortunate enough to be a member of a total of thirteen Zone winning rinks. The highlight being winning the Provincial Playdowns in 1977 and representing Manitoba at the Canadian Championships, more affectionately known as the Macdonald Brier, in Montreal. But I'll get back to that later. The members of these Zone winning rinks were: Glenn Butchart - 4 times; Don Stupak - 3 times; my brother Andy - 4 times, Bob Lesko - 7 times; Gary Erickson - 2 times; Don McDonald - 3 times; Ed Thomson - 4 times; Bob Collez - 7 times; Dave Romano - 3 times; Randall Foubert and Clare Payne once each.

I'll attempt to recollect and give you a brief resume of some of the other major wins during my career. In 1965 went to Morden, Manitoba and won T.V. sets as 1st prize which was a major prize in those days. Also in 1965 we lost in the finals of the Henry Birks even which was a major event along with the Eaton's event in the Manitoba Curling Association bonspiel. This spiel is the largest in the world as up to 728 rinks have competed in it in one year. In the 1969-70 season we won three consecutive cash bonspiels on three consecutive weekends, a feat which I can never remember being duplicated in Manitoba since. Included in these winnings were four brand new automobiles at the Heather Club in Winnipeg. In 1971 in the Provincial Playdowns lost in the semi-finals to Larry Taylor of Winnipeg who in turn lost in the final to Don Duguid of Winnipeg. Granite went on to win

the World Championship that year for the second consecutive time. In the fall of 1972, Orest Meleschuk of Winnipeg, who in the spring of that year had won the World Championship, was invited on a 3½ year tour of Switzerland and Sweden with all expenses paid. Two of his teammates were unable to go because of work commitments and Bob Lesko and myself were asked to substitute. Up to this point this had to be the highlight of my career. Curling was just becoming popular in Europe, and, with Meleschuk being the World Champ, they treated us like royalty. It was just an unforgettable trip. And there is also an ironic twist. We can remember teaching Otto Danielli's Swiss rink some of the finer points of the game and just three years later in 1975, they won the World Championship. In 1975 we travelled to Fort Frances, Ontario and came home with first prize of \$4,000 cash. In 1976 we teamed up with Orest Meleschuk and won the \$6,000 cash first prize in Sudbury, Ontario.

1977 has to be the highlight of my curling career as we won the Provincial Championship which was played at the Winnipeg arena. Our rink was comprised of Dave Romano at third, Ed Thomson at second and Bob Collez at lead, who were all resident or former residents of Pine Falls. Representing Manitoba in Montreal in the Canadian Championship was the ultimate thrill. Although we ended up with a disappointing 6 win - 5 loss record some of the experiences are unforgettable. The terrific fellowship and being piped out onto the ice before the games and having to choke back the tears and remembering my heart pounding so rapidly, I thought it was going to take off. These are just a couple of the memories.

In 1978 curling with Lydia McCoy at third, Dave Romano at second and my wife Teri at lead, we were runners up in the Seagram's Mixed Championship for the Province.

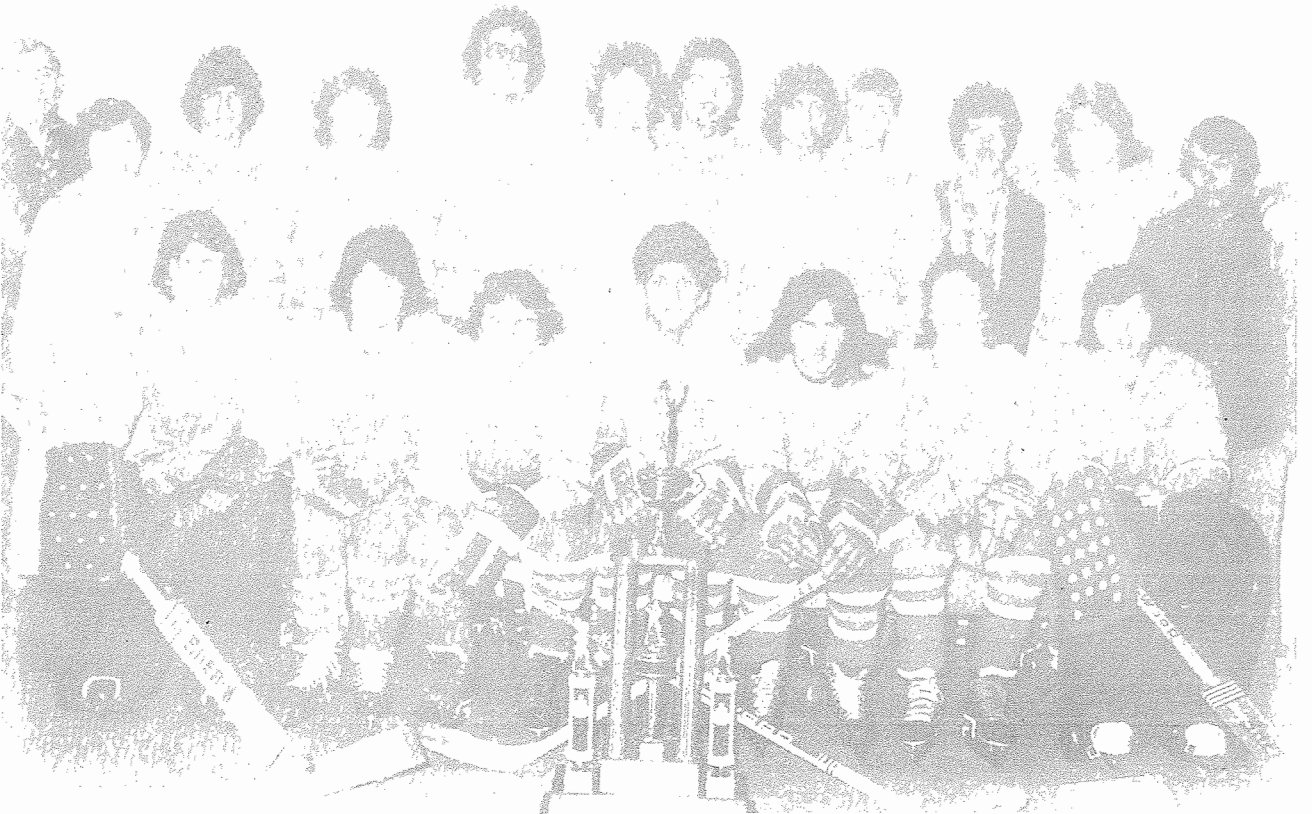
In 1979 curling third for Orest Meleschuk we won the Portage la Prairie cash spiel worth \$5,500.

At the time of writing I am curling third for Orest Meleschuk, who by the way is the last Canadian skip to win the World Championship in 1972, and we are getting ready to compete in the zone playdowns.



Lac du Bonnet Pee Wee Hockey Team. L.-R.: Randy Gustafson coach, Gerald Lange manager, Grant Nelson, Billy Meade, Mark Tinant, Milton Bruchanski, Greg Mitchell, Derek Hirst, Glen Unfried, Dan Wasny, Stanley Sihora, Daryl Champagne, Marvin Houston.

Second Row: Stuart Lange, Kevin Schinkle, John Lavery, Kevin Peterson, Tim Lewko, James Bruchanski, Anthony Kost, Todd Martell.



Back row, L to R: G. Kabaluk, V. Laforte, D. Hirst, C. Dancyt, B. Wold, M. Kocis, Alvin Laforte, G. Rollins, D. Gove, C. Hirst, Alex Laforte.

Front row, L to R: C. Hapko, L. Charles, R. Gustafson, H. Queau, B. Brincheski, N. Podolsky, J. Kyne, P. Kocis.





Lac du Bonnet hockey team. Left to right: Fred Small, Russell Waters, Louis Le Vasseur, Glen Demeria, Ray Park and Ralph Shapland.

### HOCKEY IN LAC DU BONNET IN THE 1930'S by Ray Park

In order that I may put my mind back to the days "way back when", I decided to play some mood music. I chose some records by the Moms and Dads and Jan Garber whose music sounds much like what we used to dance to at Holiday Beach, when that place opened up with the Blue Knights from Winnipeg supplying the music. They were great years weren't they? But now that my mind is well back into the '30s I only hope I can come back when I'm finished writing!

Whenever we had a nice long spell of skating when the river froze over each fall, it generated enough enthusiasm for people to get busy and build a skating rink when the skating on the river was no longer possible. Usually the Lac du Bonnet Social Club provided a rink for the town. Our hockey also consisted of listening to the radio broadcasts on Saturday nights by Foster Hewitt.

The rinks that were built on the river were most unique, especially at the end of the season. For you see there was so much snow thrown over the boards during the season that the ice heaved up in the center and sometimes, while a hockey game was in progress, the goalie at one end could barely see the goalie at the other end!

My boys are flabbergasted when I tell them what old Dad had to go through when he played hockey. Whenever I asked my Dad for money to buy a hockey stick he usually asked, "Where's the old one I bought you last year?"

I can't recall just how the games we played with Pointe du Bois got started, but we in Lac du Bonnet were blessed with the fact that the Pointe boys had to make all the arrangements for transportation whether the games were in Lac du Bonnet or Pointe du Bois. You see, the only means

of travel was by bus on the railway tracks and the Power Plant owned and operated the bus.

A typical day of hockey when Lac du Bonnet was going to Pointe du Bois would start at 5 a.m. Being the captain of the team, it was my job to see that all the boys made it. I was favourably located in town so that I could look out my window and if I saw smoke curling out of the chimneys at Setter's, Demeria's, Halliday's, and Specht's, I knew they were up and getting ready. As for the rest of the team, I just had to cross my fingers and hope they were up too. We seldom had any late arrivals. So you see, compared to this day and age of telephone, radio, walkie talkies, television and space satellites, we had to depend on smoke signals!

We all gathered at the C.P.R. station and boarded the iron shod bus at 6 a.m. for the big trip of 25 miles which took about two hours. Upon arriving at the Pointe we would walk directly to the rink and be ready to play the game at 9 a.m.

About the only other person (besides the two teams) within a mile of the rink was Herb Eby, the principal of the school at the Pointe. Naturally, Herb was drafted to be referee and he always did a fair and masterful job. His way of handing out penalties was unique in that whenever he called a penalty, he held up one finger. Should we choose to stand and argue that point, Herb put up two fingers, then three, four, as long as we argued. We soon learned to be satisfied with the one minute sentence. Herb seldom had to argue vocally - his fingers spoke for him.

After the game, our opposite numbers took us to their homes for lunch and refreshments, then back to the rink for another game at 2 p.m., when there would be a few spectators out. Our teams were very evenly matched and the games were close.



Pointe hockey team, approximately 1938. Left to right: Roy Lodge, goalie; Jim Laurie, Alex More, Val Hawkes, Fred Hawkes, George More, Norman Brownell, David More, Ted Hawkes and Bob More.

The fellows on the Pointe du Bois team as I recall were: Jim Laurie, Ed Marcus, Roy Lodge, Norman Brownell, the Hawkes (Ted, Val, and Fred), the three More brothers and sometimes when they came out from Winnipeg, Billy McLeod and Shath Square. My apologies if I missed anyone.

There was never any rough house hockey and we got along so well that we carried on through the summer when we organized softball games. We also looked forward to the great New Years' Eve parties at the Pointe.

When the Pointe team came to Lac du Bonnet the time of the game depended on when the iron bus was available and usually only one game was played. On one occasion they were in Lac du Bonnet for a game at 7 a.m. and back home in Pointe du Bois by noon. Needless to say, there were not too many spectators at that game, except a few who saw us and wondered what was going on at that hour.

The members of our team at that time were (hoping I haven't forgotten anyone) Harry Cadario, Vic Setter, Paul Gaudry, Carl Specht, Glen Demeria, Ralph Shapland, John Lodge, Mickey Halliday and myself. Standing in the wings and ready to take our place soon after were such stalwarts as: Fred Small, Russ Waters, Louis LeVasseur, Arvid Dancyt, John Letain, John Campbell, and several others whose names escape me at the moment. With a great bunch of fellows like that, it was fun and a privilege to be coach, manager, trainer, captain and water boy for we all played for the love of the game.

One summer in the '30s, the Boy Scouts of Lac du Bonnet went on a camping trip to Grand Beach, along with Scout troops from Beausejour, Pine Falls and a Salvation Army Scout Troop from Winnipeg. It was a great two-week camp and I believe all the boys enjoyed it very much. Some of the names I remember from Pine Falls were Steve Velie, Ken Walton, Jack Dean, Dave Hutchison, Bill Jackson, Bill Sokoloski, Allan Brown, Bennie Smith, Malo Farmer, and several others. The following winter we arranged a game of hockey against these fellows. The game was played in Lac du Bonnet on a Saturday afternoon, which we won.

The next Monday afternoon, I happened to wander down to Joe Sparman's garage. He called me into his office to congratulate us on our showing in the hockey game, but said we all looked like a bunch of farmers, since none of us had any semblance of uniforms while the Pine Falls boys were decked out in hockey togs and looked like hockey players. He then handed me a ten dollar bill and asked if that would help us out in procuring uniforms. Blurting out a "thank you" I set out to round up the gang and in a short while we had

organized a Collection Committee. After canvassing the town merchants during the next two days we collected a total of \$45.00. In this day and age that wouldn't buy a shin pad for a one-legged player! But, believe it or not we gave the money to Bill Scherk (who made daily trips to Winnipeg on the C.P.R.) and when he returned on Thursday night he brought back nine hockey outfits, consisting of jerseys, pants and socks (red and white).

When we went back to Pine Falls on Saturday for the return game, our team was all decked out in brand spankin' new uniforms, and a proud bunch we were! By this time too, we were getting some coaching from the senior men such as Ed Fisher, Fred King, etc.

I try to keep abreast of the hockey picture in the Lac du Bonnet area through the medium of the Springfield Leader. It is most interesting reading about doings in Pine Falls by a good friend Jean Velie and write-ups about Great Falls, Pointe du Bois and of course, Lac du Bonnet.

## THE HISTORY OF THE LAC DU BONNET LAKERS SKI CLUB

To an enterprising group the realization that the "Lake" had great potential for water skiing decided to act. June 1957, Al. Churchill, Don Calander (R.C.M.P.), Dennis Crook, I. Grabke, Murray Thorpe, Steve Stevens, Gerry Demuynck, Ethel David and others formed an executive. All had to be voluntary as there were no funds, borrowed boats, motors, skis and got them "off the water." Ways and means of raising money were the dances held at Holiday Beach with Fred Dufily's orchestra supplying the music. Bingo was started and charges for skiing.

In 1958 the new executive with Dennis Crook as



Miss Minnewawa being crowned on the town dock by Edythe Brown. Queen Rosemary Kaban and princess Roberta Wineberg.



Duchess Macleod. Irma Balod, Macleod's float, 1959.

Senior president and Junior advisor and an active, conscientious executive committee really put forth great efforts to establish the Ski Club. Rules and regulations were made, i.e. skiers had to take swimming tests, wear life jackets, the club insured participants. The Red Cross Swimming instructions were sponsored by the Ski club and still are in 1979.

The boat dock was built immediately, then a ski jump, the first boat was purchased and also a 40 H.P. Scott motor. Ethel David zoomed up and down the lake with the "beginners" and her patience with all the "spills" was incredible.

The club was named the Lac du Bonnet Lakers Ski Club, the colors were blue and white, eventually they wore jackets with the emblem. The first Bingo night in the Legion (Memorial Hall then) Hall was October 1958.

The Club was given permission to sponsor the July 1st celebrations which included a parade with floats, princesses sponsored by Lac du Bonnet organizations and business and the winner became the Ski queen called Miss Minnewawa. Also there

were ball tournaments, games of chance and a water ski show and boat races. Following the parade, the princesses, judges, and parents met at the home of Edythe Brown (Ehrlich) for a luncheon, parade of dresses and bathing suits. The crowning of the winner took place on the town dock. At the end of the day the workers met at Brown's house, weary but happy at the day's success to have supper and talk over plans and improvements for the next year.

In 1959 plus the July 1st, the club undertook to sponsor the 6th annual Manitoba Open Water Ski Championship meet. Weather cannot be predicted and the event was not too successful, however other Manitoba ski events and championship meets were held in Lac du Bonnet successfully. The Lakers were always well represented at ski meets in Manitoba, the pioneering for the Lakers was fun and an adventure.

1973 brought about the purchase of a kite for kite skiing. The skiers were so enthusiastic, a larger one was purchased in 1974. The Lakers have hosted the Manitoba kite flying Ski Championships here as recent as 1979.

The Lakers have won prizes and recognition at Manitoba ski meets and in 1969 a Laker, Brenda Augustine won the Bronze Medal at the Canada games.

An outstanding event one year was that performed by Gerry DeMuynek and Hart Brown. They were doing their act, "over and under", Gerry was to ski around and in front of the jump, Hart was to go over the jump and Gerry. The spectators gasped - as Hart went off the jump, he landed on Gerry's shoulders, both sank. If they tried forever to repeat this, it would probably not happen again.

The Lakers Ski Club through the years has made progress, they now have a club house, boat house, two boats with motors, trailers, skis and ski equipment. They continue to sponsor the Red Cross Swimming lessons which gives every boy and girl in Lac du Bonnet the opportunity to become swimmers and become proficient life savers as well. The Lions Club has relieved them of the July 1st celebrations.

It is thanks to the first organizers who worked so diligently that we thrill at the sight of our Lakers performing on the "River".

Submitted to Edythe Ehrlich

# Schools

## SCHOOLS OF THE LAC DU BONNET AREA

by Lynne Champagne  
for Professor G. Friesen  
of the University of Manitoba

There is reason to believe that the Lac du Bonnet School was opened on May 30, 1903, by Inspector Best who was at this time responsible for the north-easterly Inspectoral Division. The school was a bilingual, English-French school, so, in 1905, when Mr. Roger Goulet was charged with all the bilingual schools in the province, Lac du Bonnet became part of his inspectoral district. Even in the early years, ratepayers in the Lac du Bonnet School District, unlike those of many other

districts, did not complain of over-taxation. The 1905 Inspector's report indicates that although Lac du Bonnet was a new settlement, a substantial school house had been set up, and an experienced teacher had been employed at a good salary. The up-to-date equipment in the schoolhouse "clearly show(ed) the enterprising spirit of the ratepayers."

The first school in Lac du Bonnet was a one-room school, but, by 1913, two teachers were employed by the school district, a male teacher at \$80.00 a month, and a female teacher at \$60.00 a month.

Many small schools were being opened in the unorganized territory in the vicinity of Lac du Bonnet at this time. In 1913, schools were established at nearby Pointe du Bois, and the follow-



First School at Lac du Bonnet, class of about 1908, teacher Miss Reid.

ing year, at Bird River, Grantley and Newcombe. Immigrants had been taking up homesteads along the Pinawa Channel and Bird River; many of these settlers were Russian, and the School Districts were set up for their benefit. Male teachers were most frequently employed in these types of bilingual schools. In 1915, a new one-room school house was erected in the Brightstone district, once again in the vicinity of Lac du Bonnet. This area had a very high enrollment of Polish and Ruthenian students, posing a problem to the Bureau of Education, for bilingual teachers were hard to come by.

In 1916, with the abolition of bilingual schools in the province, the Lac du Bonnet school fell under a new inspectoral division, that of Mr. A. Willows. Three teachers were hired for the first time during the 1921-22 school year as a third



Old school with addition.



Mr. and Mrs. Mackie and Inspector West.

classroom was opened up in what was then the Swedish Church.

Brookfield School opened up in the vicinity of Lac du Bonnet in 1920. The students of Lac du Bonnet and the neighbouring schools participated actively in "school gardens" and Boy's and Girl's Club fairs, which were held in Lac du Bonnet. A Lac du Bonnet Trustees Association was set up in 1922, and, subsequently, a field-day was organized, with 10 schools participating. The Lac du Bonnet school now counted 146 students, and was listed for the first time, as having an intermediate section, eleven pupils doing high-school work. By 1931, a fourth teacher was added to the school staff, and by 1938, a fifth. Teachers' salaries had not been raised significantly since 1913. By the late 1920's, they ranged from \$80.00 to \$125.00 a month, depending on sex, (or so it appeared), and experience. After the early years of the Depression, they had actually declined, teachers now earning \$62.40 to \$102.95 a month.

One hundred and seventy-nine students were attending the Lac du Bonnet school in 1931, when a new school was to be constructed. The mid-thirties marked certain special developments in the school program. Forty-six young men from Lac du Bonnet took Relief Camp Correspondence courses in various trades, and, by 1936, a course in agriculture was being offered at the school. The 1930's also marked the beginning of inter-school athletics and the participation of the Lac du Bonnet school in the Music and Spoken Poetry Festival in Beausejour.

New school districts were still opening up near Lac du Bonnet — Crescent Bay in 1935, Glenmoor in 1938, and Berryland in 1933. A school also existed in Riverland, just across the river from Lac du Bonnet.

By 1937, the Lac du Bonnet school was overcrowded, and a new one required. This school question was settled, quite clearly, by an Act of God — in the evening of February 24, 1945, the Lac du Bonnet school was destroyed by fire. The municipal and parish halls were to serve as temporary classrooms, as the school board attempted to gain permission for the construction of a new school. The approval came in the Spring of 1946, and construction began, the electors having authorized the School District to borrow \$30,000 for its construction. Students entered the not-yet-completed school in January of 1947.

In June of 1945, the first formal graduation was held in the Lac du Bonnet School when four students received their diplomas. Prizes to the graduates were offered by the Home and School Association, an active committee whose goals appeared to constitute a link between the school board, the teachers, the parents and the students.





1932, High School students on way to Silver Lodge for picnic - Thelma Pearson, Marguerite Wentz, Hilma Fransen, ?, Bertha Fournier, Lillian Park, Alice Nasstrom, Marguerite Campbell, Gisele LeVasseur, Gordon Nystedt - navigator.

By the 1948-49 school year, a two-room High School Department, with an enrollment of forty-five students, was in operation in Lac du Bonnet. The recently-built school proved to be too small. By 1951, the situation had become quite serious, so the classes had to be staggered to accommodate the large number of students. A four-classroom addition to the school in 1953 alleviated the problem somewhat, and the building was now equipped with a new automatic oil-heated steam furnace.

Travelling libraries served the various schools in Lac du Bonnet and the surrounding district. During 1955, English classes for new Canadians were given by members of the school staff, the program having been instituted under the auspices of the Lac du Bonnet School Board.

Twenty schools now existed in the Lac du Bonnet municipality, the town school being one of the larger ones, having 325 students, seven elementary and three high-school teachers in 1955. In 1958, as new School Divisions were created, Lac du Bonnet School became part of the Agassiz School Division No. 13. In February of 1959, the voters of the Lac du Bonnet School District voted in favor of the Provincial Government's plan to hand over the responsibility of high-school educa-

tion to a divisional school board.

In early 1960, the recently organized Agassiz School Division presented plans to build four high schools in the division, including an eight-room collegiate in Lac du Bonnet. The total cost was to be \$250,000. Difficulties arose in Lac du Bonnet,



Ukrainian Folk Dance. L-R: Marjorie Neily, Mabel Olsen, Ostende LeVasseur, Jeanette Desjardins, Elizabeth Specht, taught by Miss Nysnyk. Coming in 1st at the Musical Festival in Beausejour, May 1938.



Lac du Bonnet School - Class of 1939-1940. Teacher Miss Nysnyk.



Class of 1939-40, teacher Aileen Small.



Lac du Bonnet High School graduation, 1950. L.-R.: Percy Zeemel, Ronald Torrance, Shirley Shewfelt, Doreen King, Joyce Morski, Anne Holyk, Florence Swetz, Pat Frank, Judy Uhlman, Dorothy Champagne, Shirley Choma.

upon the purchasing of a site for the new school, as the trustees felt that the asking price of \$1000.00 an acre was too high. Eventually, land was expropriated so as to permit construction.

By September of 1961, although the new school had not yet been completed, children from Lac du Bonnet and Great Falls had started attending, and the result was a state of confusion for a month or so. The Lac du Bonnet Collegiate was officially opened on November 24, 1961.

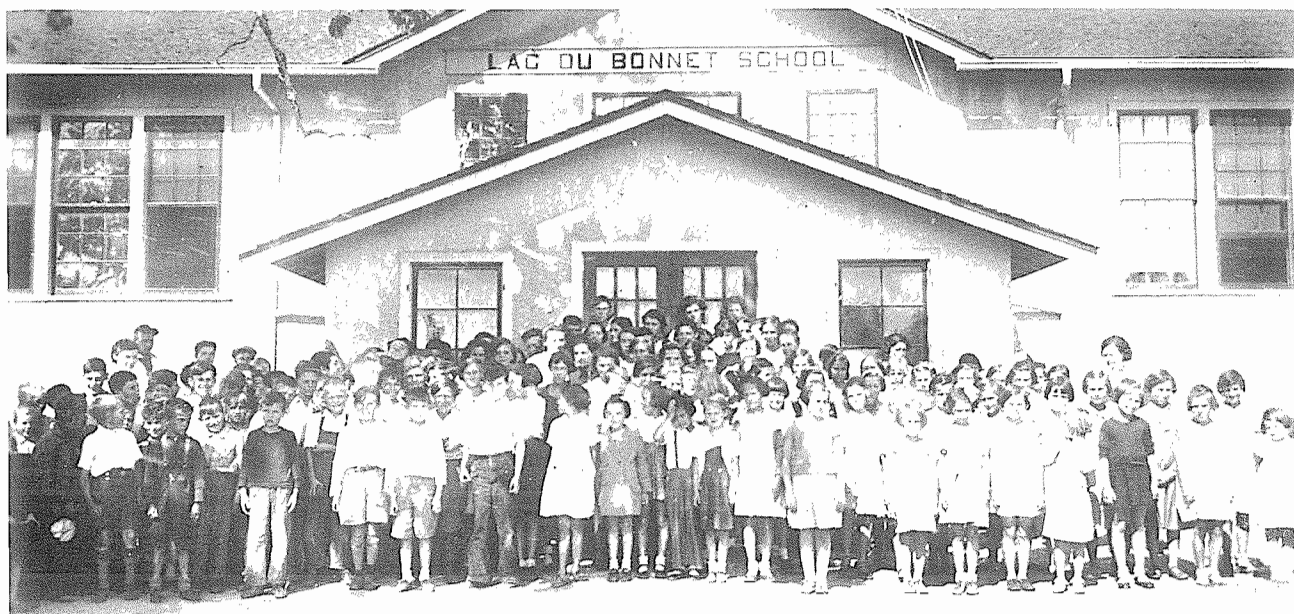
It was to be used by high-school level students from Brightstone, Brookfield, Bird River, Great Falls, and other surrounding areas, as well as by the Lac du Bonnet students.

Consolidation of schools in the Lac du Bonnet area had begun in 1961, when Lac du Bonnet S.D. No. 1235 and Brookfield S.D. No. 2052 were consolidated into the new Lac du Bonnet S.D. No. 2394. The Brookfield school had been closed down as the Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. had required the land for its Whiteshell research site, and the students had been transferred to the Lac du Bonnet School. Two other schools requested consolidation with Lac du Bonnet in July of 1965 — Landerville No. 1888, and Maple Creek No. 2275. Berryland No. 2246, Red Deer No. 1918, and Milner Ridge No. 1857, were dissolved, and consolidated into

Lac du Bonnet in 1966. Riverland No. 1557 followed in September of 1966, and finally, Brightstone No. 1646 in 1968. The consolidation of all these schools had raised the enrollment at the Lac du Bonnet School considerably, and although the removal of the high-school students from the school had created more space, overcrowding continued. In 1963, 357 students attended the Lac du Bonnet Elementary School; eleven classrooms were in the school itself, and a twelfth was held in the Parish Hall. By March of 1966, the Home and School Association had expressed the necessity of a new elementary school in Lac du Bonnet, and, two months later, the ratepayers gave approval for the construction of a new elementary school. The new, twelve-classroom school was constructed during 1966-7, and in September, 1967, Centennial School, opened its doors to students from grades five through eight. The older Park Avenue Elementary housed the primary grades. Upon completion of consolidation in 1968, a kindergarten was started, and a special class, which had been instituted earlier, was to be continued. By 1968, Centennial School was already overflowing, with the four supplementary classrooms filled with eighth-graders.

At the new collegiate, activities had begun immediately. In January, 1962, students began a drive to build up their library; concerts, plays were put on, and weekly reports of the activities were made to the local newspaper. School teams participated actively in all sports, notably curling, which appeared to be "the" sport in Lac du Bonnet. Freshie Days, Science Fairs and Graduation ceremonies were held annually. Conversational French and a new math course were taught to adults, beginning in January, 1966.

In February, 1970 building an addition to the collegiate was begun, making it a Junior-Senior High School Complex. The Lac du Bonnet Senior School was officially opened in October, 1972, to accommodate 250 students. The new addition included a larger gymnasium, shower and sports facilities, shop, and home-ec. areas, audio-visual



Lac du Bonnet school children. Miss Reid at the right.

equipment and a material resource center with study carrels.

Lac du Bonnet has come a long way from that little one-room schoolhouse in 1903!

#### **PARK AVENUE SCHOOL STAFF**

**1979-80**

|                    |                           |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Kindergarten       | — Mrs. Ann Green          |
| Grade 1            | — Mrs. Donna Wold         |
|                    | — Mrs. Joan Wojciechowski |
| Grade 2            | — Mrs. Shirley Sampson    |
|                    | — Mrs. Helen Stine        |
| Grade 3            | — Mrs. Judith Foubert     |
|                    | — Mr. Arthur Van Steelant |
|                    | Principal                 |
| Special Class      | — Miss Sandra Fraser      |
| Music              | — Miss Clara Thurmeier    |
| Physical Education | — Mrs. Karen David        |
| Resource           | — Mrs. Grace Moore        |
| Secretary          | — Mrs. Dorothy Marion     |
| Teacher Aide       | — Mrs. Melba Carter       |
| Custodians         | — Mr. and Mrs. I. Meyers  |

#### **CENTENNIAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STAFF**

**1979-80**

|                |                              |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Grade 4</b> |                              |
|                | Mrs. Agnes Meade             |
|                | Mrs. Terri Schwartz          |
| <b>Grade 5</b> |                              |
|                | Mrs. JoAnne Hirst            |
|                | Mr. Dave Penner              |
| <b>Grade 6</b> |                              |
|                | Mr. Gerry Kachur, Principal. |
|                | Mrs. Helen Wade              |

#### **Physical Education**

Mrs. Karen David

#### **Resource**

Mrs. Grace Moore

#### **Music**

Miss Clara Thurmeier

#### **Secretary**

Mrs. Dorothy Marion

#### **Teacher Aide**

Mrs. Grace Hrychany

#### **Custodian**

Mr. Eric Grierson

#### **Helper**

Mrs. Bernice Sobering/Mrs. Margaret Laurie

#### **LAC DU BONNET SENIOR SCHOOL STAFF 1979-80**

#### **OFFICE:**

|   |
|---|
| Mr. W. Lavery - Principal                           |
| Mr. D. Playfair - Assistant Principal               |
| Mrs. Ann Okrainec - Secretary                       |
| Mrs. Marjorie Nyssonen - Teacher Aide               |
| Mr. Peter Unfried - Coordinator of Special Services |
| Mrs. Audrey Wood - Assistant Librarian              |

#### **CUSTODIANS:**

|   |
|---|
| Mr. Louis Wazny - Head Custodian          |
| Mrs. Eleanor Hladki - Assistant Custodian |
| Mrs. Bernice Sobering - Custodian         |
| Mrs. Hermine Lussier - Custodian          |

#### **TEACHERS:**

|   |
|---|
| Mrs. Karen Augustine                        |
| Health/Guidance 7,8 - English 8,9           |
| Mr. Robert Becker                           |
| Geography 7, History 7,8 - Social Studies 9 |

Mrs. Helene Bowman  
French 7-12, P.E. 7,8 - Typing 10

Mr. Wally Brandt  
Mathematics 10-12, Exploring Business 9

Mr. Larry Dyrkacz  
Mathematics 8, Social Studies 9, History 11,  
Geography 10

Miss Glynis Hart  
Home Economics, (Foods)

Mr. Rudy Klassen  
Language Arts 9, English 11-12

Mr. W. Lavery (Principal)  
Mathematics 12, Social Studies 12

Miss Anne Longston  
English 7-9, Band/Health & Guidance 8,9

Mr. Doug MacLachlan  
Industrial Arts (Metals)

Mr. Ernest Morris  
Science 9,10, Chemistry 11 & 12, Physics 11 & 1

Mr. Kevin Nally  
Mathematics 7-11

Mr. Keith Olson  
Industrial Arts (Electricity/Drafting)

Mr. David Paziuk  
Business Education (Typing 10-12, Bus.  
Law 12)

Mr. Don Playfair (Asst. Principal)  
Biology 11 & 12, Ecology 12

Mr. Russ Reid  
Geography 10,11, Business Principles 11,  
Accounting 11,12, P.E. 7,8.

Mr. Chuck Reynolds  
Science 7, Physical Education 8,9,10

Miss Audrey Schreyer  
Home Economics (Clothing)

Miss Corine Walker  
Mathematics 7, Science 7-9

Mrs. Elizabeth Wiens  
Language Arts 9, English 10,12, Geography  
300, Journalism 11

Mrs. Ainslie Wishnowski  
English 7,8, Art 7-9, Guidance 8,9

### COLLEGIATE PLAYS DRAW CAPACITY CROWDS

Lac du Bonnet Collegiate held its first drama night in the Collegiate auditorium on Friday, evening before a packed house that provided much entertainment and laughter as the evening unfolded three one-act plays under the guidance of principal K. Long.

The first play, "Wayside War", directed by Mrs. R. Stine, depicted the Duke of Monmouth's Rebellion of 1485, a play studied at the Grade IX level this year.

The characters in the play were well performed



Pictured above is a scene from the play "The Grand Cham's Diamond" with part of the cast. From left to right are: Margaret Wicott of Great Falls, Evelyn Soroko, Georgina Hodgkins and Rene Lussier.

by the students with the Colonel by Chris Fournier playing an outstanding part along with Alicia Pemberton who was played by Sally Simcoe.

The Collegiate choir, during the intermissions between plays sang the following selections "The Happy Wanderer", "When The Saints Go Marching In", "Rendezvous" and "May You Always". The choir was conducted by Mrs. V. Hardy with Mrs. G. Atkinson at the piano and assisted by Mrs. L. Fryer and Mrs. D. Crook.

A short skit, directed by Wilma Warren, called "The Big Itch" took place in a bus depot and proved to be on the humorous side. Clifford Zarecki's entrance at the beginning was the outstanding performance of this play along with Chris Freund as the best scratcher.

During intermission a piano solo by Georgina Hodgkins and a guitar selection by Donald Bruneau and Bruce Nystedt entertained the audience.

The third play was the highlight of the evening called "The Grand Cham's Diamond" directed by Mrs. Edythe Brown. The play was about a diamond that had been stolen and ends up in the living room of the Perkins family where the entire play is enacted. Rene Lussier, who played the part of Mr. Perkins, had little difficulty in portraying his role well and was the best of all the performers. Mrs. Perkins played by Georgina Hodgkins was also good but at times seemed to overact her part.

The evening came to a close with Hart's Brown's interpretation of the T.V. program that proved to be the most hilarious skit of the evening. Hart played the part of Roy Ward Dickson to perfection except for one flaw when he asked the question, "Give me the name of Roy Roger's hearse."

The entire program was also presented in the afternoon to the students of the elementary school and collegiate.

## THE CANADIAN SCHOOL TEACHER I LOVED BEST

by Rita M. Schilling

**(A Manitoba school girl's heartbreak, when her goddess teacher marries, is winner of Liberty Magazine's essay contest.) Published October 19th, 1961.**

Young female teachers, like Miss Leda Myrtle Sanderson, never lasted much more than one term at the lonely hamlet of Lac du Bonnet in Northeastern Manitoba, population 300 farmers, where I was born. Eligible bachelors took flight as soon as they could break ties with their families, in order to get a job at a gold mine or on a bigger farm. It was during the 30's, those days of hard work and plain food.

And I was nine. My French-Canadian origin was reflected in my olive complexion, dark brown eyes, and chocolate-brown hair. I looked about six, my tinyness accentuated by my elfish Buster Brown haircut. In winter, I wore long underwear and moccasins; in warmer weather, the left-over gingham that my mother on our poor wheat farm sewed into dresses. Only girls with prosperous parents could wear tunics to our school.

Miss Sanderson taught grades three, four and five, a total of about 48 children. We were a conglomeration of every racial origin common to the Manitoba plains: Polish, Ukrainian, English, Irish, German and French, with possibly several others as well.

Lac du Bonnet school house, a frame building with narrow siding painted an insipid gray and the shingled roof an angry gray (having lost all of its color if it ever had any), was divided in half by a hallway; the other half housing grades six to eleven. Another smaller building - painted a jaundiced yellow, wedged between the Catholic and Protestant church - was "the little school", wherein lived grades one and two.

That fall, I was very disappointed. There had been a "bear scare", and the children who lived a distance from the school in wooded areas were advised to stay at home. My sister and I had to content ourselves with a few brief words from my brothers (who braved the woods), about our new teacher, Miss Sanderson. She was beautiful, they said. Her hair was black; and her skin was white; and she had blue, blue eyes, they said. A grade three student, I could hardly stand the suspense of waiting to see her and starting at "the big school".

Shortly after my entrance into the third grade, Miss Sanderson took us on an excursion to a nearby town. My sister was unable to go, because of illness, and my mother had sent Miss Sanderson a note expressing her anxiety. The result was that I

was seated beside my teacher on the train.

Great was my bliss, and as the old train chugged along, she chatted pleasantly with another teacher seated opposite her, but I was rewarded now and then with one of her wonderful smiles, and a few kind words with which she favored me. She wore a picture hat, with a silk band, and, because of this, I suffered a headache from a hat which was too small but I would not remove it for all the world. The Goddess beside me wore a hat, and so must I. From this day on, I became her servant, ready to jump at the least command, adoring her from a distance.

She was, indeed, remarkably beautiful. But it was much more than the physical gifts with which nature had so kindly endowed her. She possessed an infinite enthusiasm that made the commonplace uncommonly magnificent. I felt my soul burst out of its cocoon beneath her spell, as she led me to a great threshold of wonder, the very summit of my existence today, exciting and splendid without which I would indeed feel old. I have often thought about the other children who were subjected to Miss Sanderson that year. Unmanageable boys softened beneath her pleading gaze but iron hand. I wonder if they too have carried her magic throughout their lives.

We always knew when she was unhappy, as she began by saying in a rather low, husky voice, "Girls and Boys." She believed in talking to her boys and girls, and the warm, heartfelt discussions, though more often condemnations, were comforting and a source of inspiration. She was seldom annoyed or, if she were, showed it only a little, and when her deep blue eyes gazed steadfastly into our hearts, I felt she knew our innermost thoughts.

We had a system of gold stars. It created a spirit of competition on the one hand, but left the class to its own idea of honesty. A card, designed for a record of health habits hung on the wall, one section for teeth, one section for nails and hair, where we were to stick in our own stars, if we had accomplished these tasks before coming to school. One day, Miss Sanderson suspected that too many gold stars were being awarded.

Though she did not point a finger at anyone in particular, she gave one of her soul-searching talks. "A clean heart," she said, "is far more important than clean finger nails." Before the day had ended, many tiny hands had reached up to tear down a golden star.

Her general appeal to the class was not without its moments when the classroom rang with laughter. It was a beautiful, sunny day during Manitoba's special brand of Indian summer. The students were seated in place, all polished and brushed. Miss Sanderson looked as lovely as the wild daisies which leaned out of a vase on her desk.



All was well in "the big school" North, but for one very peculiar thing. There was a repugnant odor which pervaded the room, the kind which was visible on the faces of all who drew breath in its presence, except for Miss Sanderson. She looked unaffected, save for an amused expression on her lovely face. Notwithstanding, she began the day with the usual rituals. This being done, she began roaming the classroom, stopping now and then at one section of desks, not looking at any particular student, but still thoughtfully amused. As the morning progressed, the odor did not leave, despite the fact that Miss Sanderson had opened up most of the windows.

It was with some relief that the voice of our teacher was heard, in the manner with which she usually addressed us, when something unusual was about to happen.

"Girls and Boys," she said, "As you know, animals have ways of defending themselves. These defences vary, and there are times when man is at a loss to know how to cope with them. The skunk is one such animal. Someone in the classroom has been too near a skunk this morning. Though I don't want this student to feel that he (or she) has done wrong, I would like this person to stand, please."

There was a silence which seemed to interrupt my very breathing, so embarrassed was I for the anonymous unfortunate. No one stood. Expecting this outcome no doubt, Miss Sanderson went on:

"As I said before, the student need not feel that this will be a punishment. As a matter of fact he may have a holiday, imagine! The remainder of the day as free as a bird!"

There was another silence, when the odor seemed to be dancing and whizzing about like a thing alive and hateful. Miss Sanderson was about to speak again, but a shuffling of feet was heard and a redfaced smiling boy stood to his feet. He was my brother. My heart almost stopped pounding, and my face must have nearly matched the color of his.

That year, our parents came to see our Christmas Tree concert, and we all knew Miss Sanderson expected the very most of us. We were pledged, in a sense, not to let her down . . . that silent union between teacher and student where parents are concerned.

A great group of us from the third grade were collected on the stage, each one representing one of Santa's toys in his workshop. We stood, or sat, lifelessly still, each awaiting his turn to come to life by singing, reading or dancing. I was "A Londonary Air's" little boy blue and I stood motionless in a saluting position, dressed in a blue crepe paper costume, looking a combination of soldier and boy blue. Though terribly uncomfortable with my arm raised up to my forehead, I

wished with all my heart that I didn't have to come to life.

But she expected me to do it, and do it I must. I was paralyzed with fear. I heard the piano introduction of my song, and near panic seized me, as I was next in the limelight. My song began rather shakily, but fairly well, all things considered. But as the emotional reaction set in, a chill swept over my whole body, and my throat began to constrict itself. Luckily, it was a sad song: "But what has become of our little boy blue" . . .

I drew in a deep sigh (more a cry than a sigh), for which Miss Sanderson knowingly allowed time at the piano, and as I caught a new desperate breathe: "Since he kissed them and put them there?"

I caught her eye at the piano, and I had difficulty returning my gaze to the audience. She was speaking, beckoning to me, telling me with her blue, blue eyes that I was wonderful. Just then, I noticed the hush in the audience, and I knew, I realized all those faces down there; they liked my song. I then felt warm inside and with one tingling glance at my beloved teacher, I poured all I had into the remainder of that pathetic little song, feeling every word and rising to every note.

It was no wonder that we were sad when the year was over. She had brought new color into our country lives, as vivid as the blue in her eyes and as varied as the brilliant hues of our Manitoba skies. Because of her, I became aware of things — a flight of wild geese as they sped rapturously across the sky, or a fat robin pulling at a sweet worm as it stood in a puddle of soft, warm rain — and as I walked sometimes, I took leaps up into the air, just to keep up with my bounding heart.

And the wonder of being alive had been set to music. Miss Sanderson had taught us many songs with the same great wave of enthusiasm she had for everything else. Even today, I can close my eyes, and see her seated at the grand piano in that old town hall beside the Winnipeg River, where we were marched once a week. I can picture her as she played Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata as a special treat, her full skirt spread majestically on the piano seat, her dark hair shimmering, as it moved with her, rhythmically, exquisitely. She loved music with a romantic joy, that gaiety spilling over into our young hearts.

It wasn't that I had never thought of her as marrying; but it came as a shock to me to learn that Miss Sanderson would marry anyone less than a prince. When we returned to school the following term, I graduated to grade four. We had the same teacher, but she was no longer "Miss Sanderson". She had married and now was "Mrs. Bert Churchill."

My parents were impressed that my teacher had

taken time on her honeymoon, during that summer vacation, to buy a book for me (a promised prize for arriving at third place in my class), but the book lay unread for many months. It was titled "Country Mouse and City Mouse," and it held a souvenir handkerchief of Banff in its pages.

Each time I glanced at the book, I was reminded of my disillusionment. Even the bright shiny uniform of the Princess Pat's Division of the Canadian Army Band, so handsomely worn by the new husband did not win my childish heart. The fact remained that the only Goddess I had ever known had turned to clay.

As the school term advanced, however, I found she really hadn't changed and found it in my heart to forgive her, but not so Mr. Churchill, her husband. We rarely saw him, as he was stationed in Winnipeg; but when we did, I felt nothing but a great resentment for this man. My sister thought he was handsome, but not I. I knew he would take her away from us, an unforgiveable thought, which was not long in reaching fulfillment.

We have our usual Christmas Concert that year, and again it was a resounding success. But that evening it was announced with great regret that Mrs. Churchill, nee Sanderson, was leaving our school after Christmas to follow her soldier husband to Edmonton in Alberta, where he had been transferred. My sister and I were very sad as we journeyed home that night, and I can remember how we wept a little in my father's big sleigh beneath the warm blankets.

Seemingly having read our lonely feeling of loss, Miss Sanderson (Mrs. Churchill) kept a promise the following day, with a visit to our farm home. That Saturday morning, my sister and I were ecstatic, when we saw them struggling in the deep snow down our pathway, as they emerged from out of our woods, and headed towards our house, the handsome man in uniform and his beautiful bride. I have since often asked myself how many young brides, busy with a brand new marriage, Christmas and a transfer would leave a warm car on the village highway to trudge through two miles of drifting snow to gladden two little girls.

They entered the back way into the kitchen, and at once, I lost all powers of speech, so great was my delight. I saw those blue, blue eyes in our very

own kitchen, smiling down at me. There was another set of blue eyes in the background. They were kind, wonderful eyes, and the very presence of the huge man in the gallant uniform made all things right.

I felt choked up, wanting to cry out, "I forgive him, I forgive," but I couldn't speak. They understood in joint benevolence as their smiles warmed me. He was a prince after all.

She was the fairest of them all, this enthusiastic young girl of 21 who was part real, and yet part myth. My fond hope is that there will always be one teacher like Miss Sanderson in the life of every child who will enter his soul in that very special way, leaving behind a shrine for beauty, the only thing which God has allowed to pass through time untouched, unchanged.

I am now a housewife, living in a bungalow in the suburbs of Winnipeg, and I can only hope that my two little children - Douglas, three, and Martin, two - will some day have a teacher like Miss Sanderson.

Ah, Miss Sanderson. The fresh blown snow did cover up your footprints that day many storms ago, but your sweet memory lives on.

#### Editors Note:

Since the above essay was written, human interest articles of Rita's have appeared in the magazine sections of the Winnipeg Free Press and the Winnipeg Tribune.

She has written educational documentaries for radio and television, short stories, stage and screen plays. Recently she has dropped all her freelance work except for a short weekly broadcast for C.B.C. Radio, to collect material for an historical novel about the Metis people in Saskatoon and other parts of Saskatchewan as well. (The Churchills live in McKellar, Ontario now.)

#### Beloved school teacher writes

I was deeply touched by Rita Schilling's prize-winning Oct. essay about myself, *The Canadian school teacher I loved best*. You may be interested in the snapshot I took of her outside her Manitoba farmhouse of years ago, as well as the photo of myself today.

Mrs. Leda Churchill, Barrie, Ont.



Leda Churchill then.



Rita Schilling then.



Leda Churchill now.

# Churches

## NOTRE DAME DU LAC PARISH

by Lynne Champagne

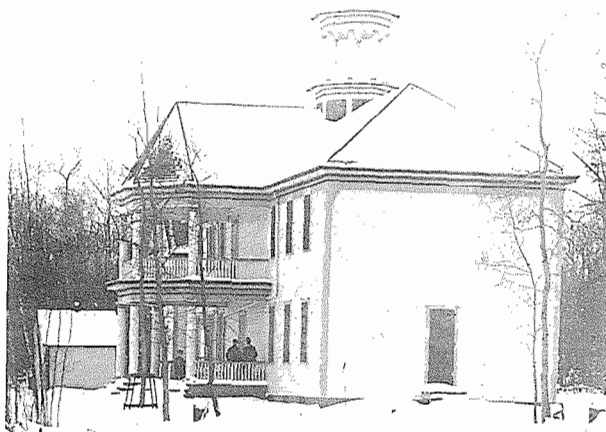
The Roman Catholic mission at Lac du Bonnet, dates back to the beginning of the twentieth century. Roman Catholic families did reside in the area prior to 1900 for, in 1878, Father Allard from the Selkirk parish baptized a child "e loco Lac du Bonnet". The baptism was registered in Fort Alexander, but it may even have taken place in Lac du Bonnet itself. The mission at Lac du Bonnet was first served by Oblate Fathers from St. Michael's Parish of Selkirk. Rev. Father Joseph Magnan, O.M.I. was the first missionary to serve the Notre-Dame-du-Lac parish, some time between 1898 and 1903. In 1904, he was succeeded by Father Joseph Thibaudeau, O.M.I., who apparently raised enough money in the settlement to pay for stained

glass windows for the proposed chapel. Father Louis de Gonzague Bélanger, who served the mission from 1904 to 1907, was credited with the building of the first chapel of Notre-Dame-du-Lac. The small, white, single-spired structure was completed in 1904 or 1905. While Father C. Deshaies was in charge of the mission, an altar valued at \$300.00 was built into the chapel, and the stations of the cross were installed. Father Deshaies' successor, Father J. E. Derome, had the church property enclosed in 1909.

As of 1910, the Archdiocese of St-Boniface took charge of the Lac du Bonnet mission, relieving the Selkirk priests of this duty. Father N. Bellevance was sent out to the mission, where improvements were made to the church: the inside walls were finished, a small portico was built, and the entire church was painted. At this time, the congregation consisted of 23 French-Catholic and three English-Catholic families, a total of 140 people. The following year, Father Bélanger returned to his old mission, hoping, while he was there, to work on the "schools question", to improve the existing cemetery, and to purchase a bell for the chapel. A choir loft was built into the church and used for the first time in April of 1911 and a bell was purchased and blessed on July 13, 1913. Both Fathers Bellevance and Bélanger appear to have been very popular with the residents of Lac du Bonnet, and the members of the congregation objected to their appointments elsewhere through petitions to His Excellency Mgr. Langevin. Father François-Xavier Leroux, the economist of the diocese, was sent out to replace Father Bélanger in 1914, and he was followed, one year later, by Father Eugène Tetreault. In 1920, Father Tetreault, the first priest to have been known as "le curé de Lac du Bonnet", lost his entire library and clothing during an unfortunate fire which destroyed the presbytery. Upon his leaving, Father Tetreault was succeeded, in turn by Fathers Lucien Senez (1921-28), Albert Dufort, Honoré Mazué (1929) and Father Laliberté, as pastor of Notre-Dame-du-Lac. Reverend Father L. Vinet became pastor in 1935, and served the parish until 1941. During his ministry, the church was enlarged and completed,



First Roman Catholic Church

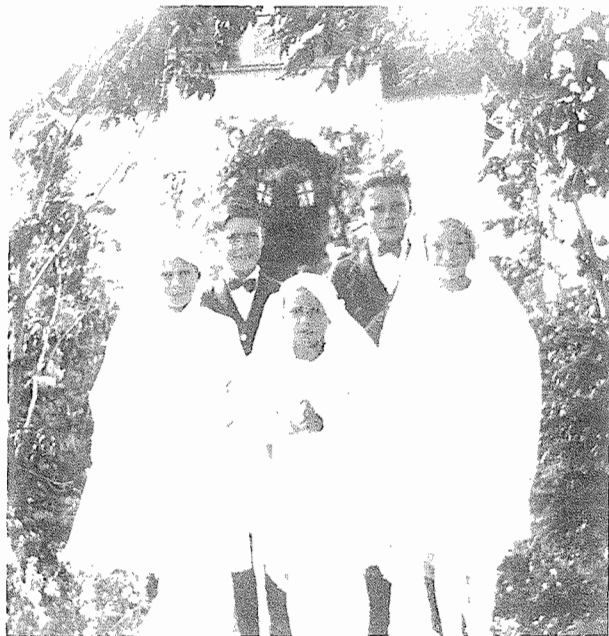


Villa Provencher, built in 1913 south of town. A summer residence of Archbishop Langevin and for priests and friends on vacation. Destroyed by fire October 20, 1920.

and a new presbytery and parish hall were built. From 1941 to 1945, various priests were sent out to the parish: Father Picton, Father A. Dufort, and Father Bélanger, once again, who officiated at the midnight mass of Christmas 1943. Father Louis Lahaie acted as pastor of the parish during 1945 and part of 1946. Two masses were said daily, the girls of the congregation had formed a choir, and Father Lahaie looked after the religious instruction in the Lac du Bonnet school. Upon his leaving in 1946, the Order of St. Francis was to establish itself in Lac du Bonnet to take over the ministry of Notre-Dame-du-Lac. A residence was purchased along the lake, (formerly the Hans Johnson residence) to house any number of Franciscan Fathers and Brothers who were to reside in Lac du Bonnet at a given time. It might be noted that this residence served as a vacation and rest-home for members of the Franciscan Order from all over Manitoba and Western Canada.

The Franciscans were to play a very important role in the Notre-Dame-du-Lac Parish for the next 17 years. Not only did they supply pastors and curates for Lac du Bonnet, but they also served the missions at Bissett, Milner Ridge, Crescent Bay, Landreville, and Red Lake, Ontario, from Lac du Bonnet. Father Sylvestre-Marie Baudet became the first Franciscan pastor of the parish, and he shared mission responsibilities with Fathers Engelbert Paradis and Albérique Fréchette among others. Brother Ladilaus Frytek served as pastor in 1953, and he was replaced by Father Ulric Ell. Father Ell presented plans for a new church to the Archdiocese, and his plans were accepted. Through much voluntary labor, a new church was constructed during the summer and autumn of

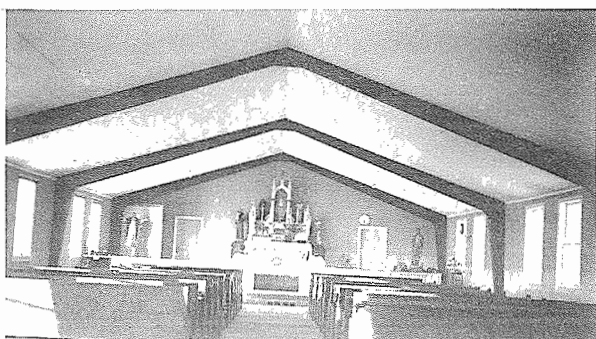
1955, to replace the 50-year-old Notre-Dame-du-Lac church. By Christmas, 1955, although neither the interior, nor the basement, which was to serve as a parish hall, were completed, the new building was to be used, and at Midnight Mass, the parishioners celebrated the first mass in the new



Confirmation and first communion. Arthur and Hubert, Marie, Ellen and Evelyn Arsenault, August 13, 1934.



Roman Catholic Church Auxiliary Ladies. Front row — Mrs. Fournier, Mrs. Binda, Kay Creaney, Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Arsenault. Second row — Mrs. Dufily and Mrs. Picard. Third row — Mrs. Picard's daughter Mrs. Le Vasseur and Mrs. Pitre.



Roman Catholic church inside — 1956.

Notre Dame church. In July, 1961, Father Ell left the parish after eight years of service, and he was replaced, as pastor, by Father George Hart. Father Hart, like his predecessors, was quite active in the community of Lac du Bonnet, and he was elected president of the Home and School Association in March, 1962. Father Hubert McCrae was also quite active in the parish at this time. He was responsible for the annual Christmas concert given by the school children of the Notre-Dame-du-Lac parish, and, throughout his years as curate of Lac du Bonnet (1954-60), he visited "his" mission - St. Anthony's mission at Bissett, once a month. In August, 1963, the Franciscan Order left Lac du Bonnet. Numerous members of the congregation, as well as many other residents of the community gathered to bid farewell to Fathers Hart and Dolf, the last two Franciscans to look after the Notre Dame parish.

As of August 17th, Father Albert Fréchette, a secular priest, took over the duties of pastor of the parish, with Father Boisjoli as his assistant. A Catholic Men's Club was organized by Father Fréchette in 1964, and a Catholic Youth Organization in 1966. Additional parishes served by the priests of Notre-Dame-du-Lac at this point were: Great Falls, Pinawa, and Pointe du Bois. Father Fréchette was replaced by Father Allen Soucy in July, 1966. Father Maurice Jeanneau, who had been named curate of the parish in 1966, remained

until January, 1967, when he was transferred to Holy Cross Parish in Norwood. In September, 1973, Father Soucy left Lac du Bonnet, and was replaced by Father Edouard Bonin, who was also charged with the mission at Pinawa. Father Olivier Valcourt is presently in charge of the Notre-Dame-du-Lac parish.

The Catholic population of Lac du Bonnet was, and still is, composed of people of a variety of ethnic origins: French, English, German, Italian, Polish and others. The size of the congregation has risen steadily, from 140 in 1910, to 210 in 1951, 319 in 1955, to 767 in 1965, one-half of whom were of French-Canadian ancestry.

### UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. ANTHONY PETCHERSKY

by Lynne Champagne

The St. Anthony Petchersky Parish was an offspring of the St. John the Baptist Parish of Brightstone. The St. John Parish was founded in Brightstone in 1937 by Reverend Hewko, a Basilian Father. The same year, an acre of land was donated to the parish, and through donated materials and voluntary labour, a small church, holding approximately 50 people, was erected. Various priests from Winnipeg, especially the Very Rev. Msgr. B. Kushnir, served the new parish. The parish had been established in Brightstone for the Ukrainian Catholic farm families of the district, but many families went elsewhere, or did not attend Church at all; as a result, the church was filled only for special celebrations, such as "Praz-nick".

Between 1950 and 1959, the parish was served by Father Joseph Kamenecky of Beausejour. During this time, many farmers moved into nearby Lac du Bonnet, and began attending Notre Dame du Lac Roman Catholic Church. Father Kamenecky, therefore, began conducting Ukrainian Catholic services in the Notre Dame Church.





All funeral services were held in the Roman Catholic Church, as it could accommodate a larger number of people, although many burials followed in the Brightstone cemetery.

When Father John Iwanchuk began serving the parish in November of 1959, he continued services in the Notre Dame du Lac Church, although he hoped to have the Brightstone Church moved to Lac du Bonnet and, eventually, to hold services once again in the old church. Meetings in February and March of 1960 resulted in the formation of a new parish, that of St. Anthony Petchersky. A new church executive was formed, as well as a ladies' organization, and it was resolved to buy a piece of property in Lac du Bonnet, and have the Brightstone Church moved into the town. A generous donation of \$1000.00 allowed the new parish to purchase a 2¾ acre site for the church in Lac du Bonnet, and to have the Brightstone church moved. In August, 1961, the church was consecrated by His Excellency Metropolitan M. Hermaniuk.

Reverend Iwanchuk served the parish until 1965, when he was replaced by Father Geo. Spolitakewich. Services were held in the church once a month, with the Pastor of Lac du Bonnet serving the other Ukrainian Catholic Parishes in the district as well. Father Semen Izyk, who resides in Winnipeg, has been serving the parish since 1969. Services are still conducted once a month, at three o'clock on Sunday afternoons. Upon request, Father Izyk will also conduct funeral services between his monthly visits. Burials are still occasionally made in the old Brightstone Cemetery.

The St. Anthony Petchersky Parish has remained small, and it has not been found necessary to enlarge the church, which, however, is kept well repaired and painted. Services are conducted in Ukrainian, therefore the 25-member congregation is composed mainly of older people who understand the language, while some of the younger ones attend the Roman Catholic Church. The Women's Auxiliary attempts to raise funds throughout the year, through bake and perogie sales.

### General Information

Apart from the churches, which exist today in Lac du Bonnet, there appears to be a Jehovah Witness' Kingdom Hall, located along No. 11 Highway, which has served the Lac du Bonnet area since 1959, or possibly earlier.

In 1960 and 1961, as well, Baptist Sunday School services were conducted in the Legion Hall, by Student Pastor Weiner Waitkus, and later, Bible Study classes were given by Rev. A. Gilbert, as part of a Baptist Extension Work Program.

The churches have played an important role in Lac du Bonnet over the years, not only serving the

spiritual needs of the people, but assisting in the education of the children, and contributing to the community's social activities as well — organizing card parties, bingos, bake sales and bazaars. Most ministers and pastors appear to have been respected and well-liked in the community. Often they were asked to speak at graduation ceremonies and the like, or to contribute articles to the local newspapers, particularly for the Christmas issue. As well farewell teas were invariably organized upon their leaving Lac du Bonnet, to thank them for their years of service.

Ecumenical services were held in 1967 and the youth organizations from the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Lutheran Churches held joint meetings. It is of interest to note that the various churches, while reflecting the obvious ethnic mosaic of this community, stand together at the heart of the town.

### EBENEZER LUTHERAN CHURCH

In 1911, thirty-five people in Riverland had shown a desire to form a Lutheran Congregation. Mr. Nils Johnson, a resident of the area, attended the Conference Convention in Winnipeg and presented the wishes of the people.

In 1912, Pastor Bergstrom left Stockholm, Saskatchewan and came to Riverland. At the organizational meeting of the same year, four adult members united to form a congregation. Services were held in the log schoolhouse, which was situated on what is now known as the "School Point" adjacent to Riverland Hall. A Ladies Aid was also organized that same year. Those first years were difficult years. At first few people came to worship. However, as time went on, the Holy Spirit worked through pastors and faithful members, the number increased.

Pastor Bergstrom left in 1913, and beginning in 1914 there was a long succession of student



Riverland Church, taken in the summer of 1936.

pastors and vice-pastors from numerous places. Each summer found a new student pastor spending from one to three months at Ebenezer. During the winter months vice-pastors, usually from Kenora, served.

Services were not always held in the log cabin. In 1925 worship was first held at the Riverland School and later moved to the Riverland Hall.

As the congregation grew in size and confidence, the people felt they should have a real church building. So it was not surprising that in 1932 the congregation decided to do something about it. Operation construction began! Mr. Frank Pearson donated a half acre of land, and a building committee was organized, with Mr. E. Naastrom in charge. The labour was totally voluntary, and most of the building supplies were donated. Mr. Axel Lindgren, being the versatile sort of person he is, was asked to volunteer to build the chimney. Being very busy at the time he wanted to decline, but jokingly a bargain was made. If Axel Lindgren would build the church chimney free of charge, Ebenezer would some day marry him free of charge. Mr. Lindgren did not forget, and six years later when Miss Hilda Schacht marched down the aisle to become Mrs. Axel Lindgren, it cost them only the construction of one chimney.

Everyone contributed to the new church in some way or another. The pews were made by members of the congregation. These were sold when the church was dissolved. Two of them were used in the Lutheran Church of the Cross as a choir loft. The altar consisted of a rough lumber box covered with maroon velvet and a beautiful altar cloth crocheted by Mrs. F. Pearson.

The baptismal font was made and donated by Mr. Dave Fernell, which was also used by the Church of the Cross. Mr. Fernell made two identical ones at the time. The other was bought by Mr. Olof Simonson and donated to the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer on Academy Road, Winnipeg. The furnace from Ebenezer was also moved to the Lac du Bonnet Church. While Pastor Bergstrom was still in Riverland he donated a lovely white and gold cross to the congregation.

The church building seems to have been completed in 1931. The congregation valued their new property at \$2000.00, but the debt on the building amounted to \$500.00. A loan was made from the Lutheran Old Folks Home Fund which solved the problems for awhile, but soon the congregation were unable to meet the payments. Mr. Naastrom kindly offered to extend the church a loan to meet the payments. Finally a day came when the loan was paid but still \$200.00 was still owing to Mr. Naastrom.

In the summer of 1946 Ebenezer was blessed with a student pastor by the name of Mr. Ericson,



Riverland Church, 1936. Joseph Elmear.

who was worried about the congregation's debt. He spoke of his concern to Mr. Purves who had a summer home in Riverland. Mr. Purves promptly decided to help the church in its plight despite the fact that he was not a member. They decided to hold a special service. Dr. Truman of the University of Manitoba and Mr. John MacAuley, a Winnipeg lawyer, were invited to be guest speakers for the occasion. The service was well prayed for, well advertised, and consequently well attended. Near the end of the service, Mr. MacAuley announced that a special offering would be given to pay the amount still owing on the church. He has been quoted as having said, "I am a nervous man, so please keep the collection very quiet." The total debt of \$200.00 was paid with that one offering.

There are several "firsts" that are worthy of mention. The first confirmation class to be confirmed in the new building consisted of one girl; she is now Mrs. Fred Peterson. Pastor P. Anderson of Kenora conducted the service. The first children to be baptized in the church were Gustav Kenneth Allen Melquist and Arvid Alex Theodore Hendrickson. The date — Sunday, July 10, 1932. Mr. and Mrs. Dave Pearson were the first couple to be married in the Ebenezer church building, August 13, 1932.

About 1950 a little 12 by 18 foot two room structure was purchased and moved onto the church yard to serve as a parsonage. Those were difficult times for the student pastors who stayed there, for there was no electricity, no gas or electric stove, no running water. And remember — the majority of the young students were accustomed to

these conveniences. Undoubtedly many of the students, and a few wives, first learned the secret of firing a wood stove while serving the Ebenezer congregation. One couple ate all cold food for their first three days because they had no idea how to build a fire in the stove.

Beginning in about 1953, services were held in the Village of Lac du Bonnet. As the work prospered in town, the question had to be answered, "Is it well to have two Lutheran congregations only a few miles apart? Would it perhaps be better to have one strong church?" Finally a meeting was called in 1959, and all members of the Ebenezer, Riverland congregation were urged to attend. Unfortunately, not a large number of people availed themselves of the opportunity. In the course of the meeting it was moved, seconded and carried that Ebenezer Lutheran Church of Riverland be dissolved. Perhaps "merged" would have been a better word than "dissolved", for the majority of the Riverland members were received into the new Lutheran Church of the Cross, Lac du Bonnet, when it organized November 1, 1959.

The Ebenezer church building became the property of the Church of the Cross. At a congregational meeting in 1960, the members decided to sell the structure to Mr. August Osis. Though some disagree, many others felt that it was particularly appropriate the building had become a carpenter's shop. For did not the toil of a certain beloved carpenter of long ago likewise hallow the building where he laboured? "Is not this the carpenter", said men in speaking of our Lord (Mark 6:3).

As we have seen, throughout the entire history of the congregation, there was not one resident pastor. Rev. Bergstrom, as Mission Superintendent, was simply sent to organize the work knowing full well that he would soon move on. Thus, the marvel is that the congregation survived and prospered as well as it did. And the success that the congregation did enjoy was due not simply to the efforts of the student pastors — it was due also to the efforts of faithful workers such as builders, caretakers, and Sunday School teachers. One teacher recalls walking from farm to farm collecting children who, Pied Piper fashion, followed her to the church, where Sunday School was held.

Today, of the physical property of the congregation, only the cemetery remains. Mr. Melquist Sr. was the caretaker for many years. One thing more remains — the faith of men and women who recognize that the Kingdom of God is more important than any single congregation, and who knows that the Lord has called us to save souls, not simply to save an organization or a building.

Rosalie (Biedler) Saleski

## LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS, LAC DU BONNET

How does a congregation get its start? For the Lutheran Church of the Cross, the earliest beginnings of the congregation were in the mind of Mr. Jack Bjornson. The first concrete step towards action was taken when Mr. Bjornson phoned Pastor Uno Lundmark, of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Winnipeg. This was in late 1952 or early 1953. Mr. J. Bjornson expressed the belief that the village of Lac du Bonnet should be served by the Lutheran Church. Pastor Lundmark agreed, but felt that progress would be made only if continuous work could be carried on, Sunday by Sunday. And Rev. Lundmark stated that he could spare only every other Sunday afternoon to come out to Lac du Bonnet. Mr. Bjornson argued, "But **someone** should do something." And Pastor Lundmark replied, "I agree. What will **you** do?" Thus it was decided that, the minister of St. Mark's should take the service one Sunday, Mr. Jack Bjornson the next, and so on.

From the beginning the response to the services was encouraging. The very first Sunday, thirty people were on hand to worship at the Legion Hall. Average attendance for the first two years hovered in that area.

Sunday School was begun shortly after. Mrs. Albert Wood was apparently the first Sunday School Superintendent. The first Vacation Bible School ever held in the village was conducted in the summer of 1953. The response was overwhelming. Vacation Bible School has been held every summer since that time. The summer of 1964 saw eighty children enrolled in V.B.S., over thirty of whom came in from Riverland.

During the summer months, students served both the village of Lac du Bonnet and also the Ebenezer congregation, Riverland. In 1954 student Ivar Holmgren worked together with Sister Helen Eriksson and Pastor Lundmark in conducting a survey of the village. The following year saw Mr. Vincent Eriksson, student from Luther Seminary, Saskatoon, serving in Lac du Bonnet. Mr. Eriksson won many hearts by his great earnestness and zeal. It was a familiar sight to see him riding a bicycle around the area when he couldn't borrow a car from Viking Motors. He astonished more than one Riverland farmer by pedalling into his yard, many miles away from the village. Attendance that summer averaged fourteen souls at worship each Sunday. However, Easter Sunday 1956 saw sixty men, women and children in church. Mr. Morris Green of Kenora, a Luther Seminary student, served the congregation during the summer of 1956. Three years later he was to return as the first resident Lutheran pastor in Lac du Bonnet.



Rev. Morris Magnus Green.

It seems to have been in 1956 that a hopeless looking building was purchased in Riverland and moved to town. The building had served as chapel for the Rupertsland Anglican Bible Camp. This camp had been sold when the water level of the river was raised. The price for the chapel — \$250.00. One of those who volunteered for a cleaning detail had a feeling akin to despair as the workers hosed and swept dirt, spider webs, broken beer bottles and other trash out of the building. The structure was actually only a shell, with no interior finishing completed whatever. However, with the coming of Mr. Willard Albertson in 1957, things began to change. His winsome personality and his vigour drew the children, the youth, even the indifferent, and many of these were found working alongside "Bill" to make the building attractive and worshipful. Many still recall Mr. Albertson taking a short time off from work on the chapel so that he could take a dip in the river with his youthful crew. The first worship service in the chapel was conducted by Mr. Albertson.

Gradually furnishings were acquired. A pump organ was purchased as well as forty or so chairs. Mr. Albertson helped pay for the chairs out of his meager summer salary. Money for drapes was donated by a Mrs. Melville from the U.S. and Mrs. Herb Dancyt was put in charge of the task of sewing them. A bit later Mr. August Osis provided the cross above the altar, and Mr. Axel Lindgren built the altar itself. In 1958 Mr. Jack Bjornson returned from his new home in Regina with an altar rail and lectern made by a Regina ironsmith. Mr. Bjornson conducted the service on Easter Sunday of that year. What a thrill it was for him to have eighty-seven persons at worship.

In 1957 a Ladies Aid was organized. The first meeting, November 18, was attended by seventeen ladies. In that first year, thirty-four different women attended, but far from all became active.

The first president was Mrs. Margaret Sweinson. Other first officers were: Mrs. Arnold Urban, vice-president; Mrs. Rudy Zeemel, treasurer; and Mrs. Evelyn Nystedt, secretary. Mrs. Mystedt was the first adult confirmed as a result of the work of the Church of the Cross. She served two different periods of time as Sunday School superintendent. One of the projects of the ladies was helping with the 1957 religious survey of the community; five women assisted.

Two students, Mr. Victor Nelson and Mr. Johnson, served in 1958.

Rev. Lundmark left Winnipeg early in 1958, and Pastor John Vedell of the Norman (Kenora) and Lac Lu parish assisted Lac du Bonnet whenever possible. He was elected vice-pastor. Rev. Garth Lof of St. Mark's, Winnipeg also served as vice-pastor and gave of his time and energy.

One of the persons who was particularly helpful in the early days of the congregation was Sister Helen Erikson. She conducted surveys lead in Bible studies at the Ladies Aid meetings, and even on occasion took the worship service on a Sunday morning. Many thanks are due to Miss Erikson as well as to the scores of other faithful workers, whether they be salaried or volunteer labourers.

Sunday, July 5, 1959 was an important milestone for the Lutherans of Lac du Bonnet, for on that day Pastor Morris Green was installed as Board Missionary by the Regional Director of American Missions, Pastor L. Floyd Lewis. Pastor Green had been ordained that same summer. For the first time Lac du Bonnet had a Lutheran pastor living in the village. The Gunn residence was purchased to use for a parsonage. This house had formerly always been owned by the Lac du Bonnet physician.

As work progressed towards the day of organization, a steering committee was selected, composed of Madame Evelyn Nysredt, Axel Lindgren, Fred Peterson and Misters Adam Arneson, Oscar Bjornson, John Lindgren, Hilding Peterson and Roger Stine.

On November 1, 1959 150 individuals gathered to take part in the official organization of the Lutheran Church of the Cross. Dr. Otto Olson, Canada Conference president, spoke that morning on "Privileges and Responsibilities of Church Membership", using as his text Hebrews 10:25-27. Three children and four adults were baptized at the service. Seventy-eight adults signed the charter roll, indicating their decision to become members of the new congregation. In the afternoon a banquet was held with 115 in attendance.

The first business meeting of the congregation was held at the church at 3:00 p.m. Pastor Lewis had devotions after which the constitution was read and adopted. The following were elected as

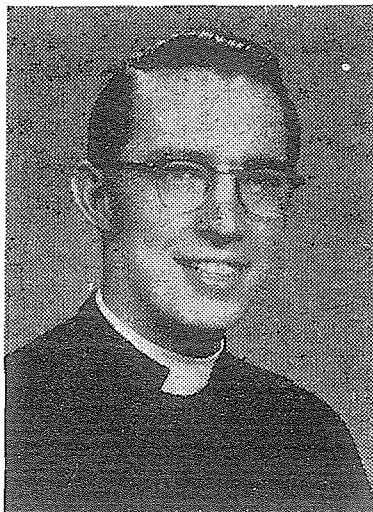
officers of the congregation: Congregational Secretary Mrs. G. Thor, Church Council: Adam Arneson, John Lindgren and Sverre Solnes, Trustees: Roger Stine, Arthur Johnson, Arvid Melquist, Oscar Magnuson, Hilding Peterson and Erlender Ingelson.

In 1959, the Ladies Aid was discontinued, and in January of 1961 a Lutheran Church Women's group organized. These ladies have worked faithfully at such projects as conducting clothing drives, making layettes and collecting materials for Kiddie Kits to send to refugee children. Of interest to some may be the fact that the Church of the Cross L.C.W. never depends upon the pastor for their Bible studies. The ladies always conduct their own studies.

Pastor Green ended his ministry in September of 1961. Rev. Robert Erickson, then serving with the Canadian Lutheran Council in Winnipeg, served as vice-pastor during the vacancy. After five months, Pastor Edwin Bowen was installed March 4, 1962, having come to Lac du Bonnet from the Czar, Hughenden and Wainwright parish in Alberta.

During the years around 1956 and 1958 a Luther League had met weekly for fellowship and for study. The group suspended meeting in 1959. In 1962, the young people reorganized. Some of the notable projects have been: a program put on for patients at the Selkirk Mental Hospital, followed by a tour of the institution; "a wilderness retreat" to Davidson Lake, attended by twenty young people and counselors; Christmas caroling; and the sponsoring of Sunday evening "religious films at the Lac du Bonnet theatre".

When Pastor Bowen returned from his holiday in Alberta in 1963, the L.C.W. informed him that they had purchased a brand new \$1500.00 Hallman electronic organ. This lovely instrument



Rev. Edwin Bowen.



Rev. James H. Peterson.

was dedicated on November 11 of that year "to the glory of God and in memory of our fallen servicemen". In passing it might be noted that Mrs. Herb Dancyt has been organist of the congregation right back to the very beginning, although both pastor's wives gave her some assistance.

The above history of The Lutheran Church of The Cross, Lac du Bonnet and The Ebenezer Lutheran Church of Riverland was written as a cooperative project by the former Rosalene (Biedler) Saleski, Pastor Bowen, with resource material provided by Mr. Jack Bjornson and many others for the fifth anniversary. Pastor Bowen served as pastor until December 31, 1968. Before leaving, arrangements were made to purchase land next to the Centennial School. A building fund was started and the payment for the parsonage was completed.

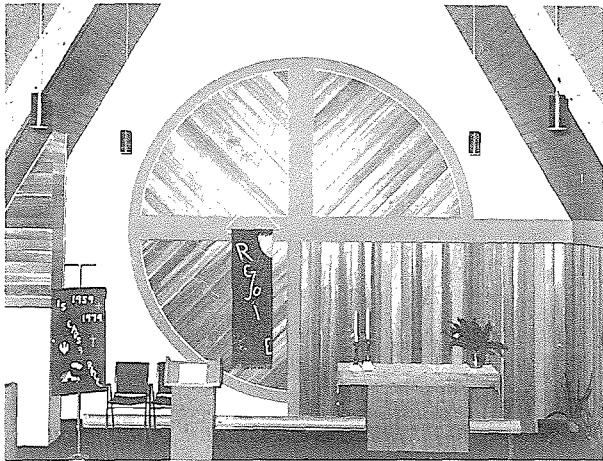
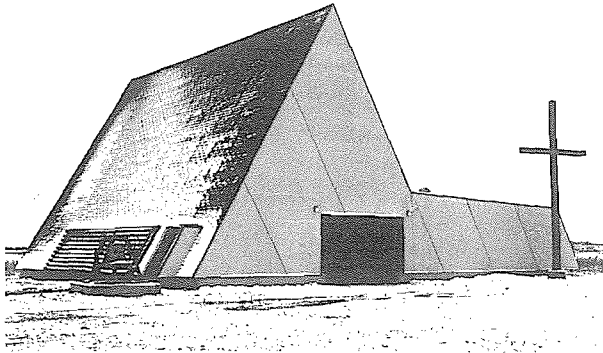
The Congregation carried on without a pastor for seven months until Pastor James Peterson accepted a call and arrived in late August, 1969. He arrived as a bachelor from First Lutheran, Blue Island, Illinois and within a month was united in marriage to Caroline Rempel of South Dakota.

In June 1970, Mr. Charles Westman, from the Lutheran Layman Movement, helped conduct a funding drive and on November 29th, 1970 the sod was turned to start construction, with the help of a low interest mortgage for nearly \$50,000.00 from the Board of American Mission.

The first service in the new building was on the festival of Pentecost, May 31, 1971, which marks the birthday of the Christian Church. At this service ten young people were confirmed: Ingun (Behrendt) Jeremy, James Fieblekorn, Cyril Larson, Coral (Melquist) Wood, Cameron Neurenberg, Louise (Peterson) Laing, Ryan Sellers, Edward Stine, Karen (Sundstrom) Frayer and Carl Thor.

September 5th, 1971 was the day of Dedication of the new Lutheran of the Cross. The church was





Lutheran Church of the Cross.

filled with members and friends who celebrated in worship at this festive service.

At the end of 1976 the B.A.M. (now called D.M.N.A.) mortgage was taken over by zero interest loans from members of the congregation and the congregation changed its status as a mission church and became self supporting after 19 years of support.

The end of 1978 the indebtedness was wiped out and on May 20th, 1979 Pastor Leuthehalter, President of Central Canada Synod, attended to help the Congregation burn the mortgage.

In 1978 a Federation parish agreement was signed with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Pinawa. The Pastor now had two congregations to serve.

After nine years their son, Pastor Peterson, accepted a call to St. Timothy's in Regina and he, Cari and Mitchell left in August 1978.

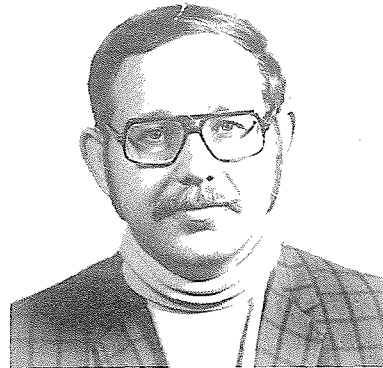
The pulpit was filled each Sunday by pastors from Winnipeg or a Church Councilman until the new Pastor arrived to take up his duties.

Pastor Barry Bence, together with his wife Clarice and two daughters Rebecca and Sarah, came to the Church of the Cross from parishes in Langenburg and Marchwell, Saskatchewan. He preached his first sermon on October, 1978.

In 1979 the congregation decided to sell the parsonage and pay a housing allowance to the Pastor.

The building was sold September 1st, 1979 and the money invested to fund the housing allowance.

Submitted by  
Marie Thor (Mrs. G.)  
Dibs Williams



REV. BARRY BENCE

Born in Ephrata, Pennsylvania, attended Susquehanna University, graduated with A.B. degree. Attended Gettysburg Seminary and Saskatoon Seminary, received a Master of Divinity Degree with a major in the relationship between the New Testament and the Parish Ministry.

He served parishes in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; rural Alberta, Langenburg and Marchwell, Saskatchewan before coming to Lac du Bonnet and Pinawa. He served on the Central Canada Synod's Youth Committee and is on the Synod's Mission Committee. Also served several summers in the Synod's Camping Program.

Pastor and Mrs Bence have two daughters, Rebecca and Sarah.

## FULL GOSPEL CHURCH

The present day Full Gospel Church had its origins as the Swedish Covenant or the Swedish Mission Church which had existed in Lac du Bonnet since the 1920's or even earlier. In the late twenties or the early thirties, independent Pentecostal Ministers, travelling about in the district, began holding services in the Swedish Church, and, more often in private homes, as many Swedish Covenant Ministers had done before them.

A few years later, the Pentecostal Assembly of Canada, (PAOC), purchased the old Swedish Mission Church and began renovating the interior and the exterior. Evangelists conducted Sunday School classes in the mid-1930's and, in 1938, the Swedish Mission, as it was still referred to, was rented by the Lac du Bonnet School Board to take charge of the education of children in the primary grades. By

1940, Miss Verna Clink became the regular Evangelist in Lac du Bonnet, preaching every Thursday evening.

In 1947, Pastor T. Hoover took charge of the Full Gospel Mission, and he was replaced in 1955 by Pastor V. R. Erickson. The Pastors conducted services of the PAOC, as well as the evangelist programs, and the Sunday Schools. In 1956, Pastor F. Howsen, the newly-appointed pastor, initiated the Vacational Bible School. In 1958, Reverend V. Orser took over the Evangelical duties, and he was replaced, in early 1959, by Mr. A. Doerksen. On Labour Day, 1962, a rededication service was held, and the name of the church was officially changed to that of "Full Gospel Church".

Various pastors looked after the mission during the 1960's. In 1964, Mr. L. Rosenfeldt appeared to have been in charge, and in 1967, Reverend Murphy acted as Pastor prior to the arrival of Reverend Ray Forrest in November of the same year. Upon his leaving the following year, Miss Verna Clink again resumed the duties, until Mr. I. Bjorklund arrived sometime in 1969. In 1971, Reverend A. O. Nyssonen became Pastor of the Full Gospel Church, and he is still there today.

During the summer of 1977, additions were made to the old Full Gospel Church, including an Assembly Hall, which could serve as a church, should the present one prove to be of insufficient size some day. The congregation presently stands at some 50 to 60 people.

## **SEVENTY GLORIOUS YEARS HISTORY OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH (Anglican)**

compiled by Ann Martin

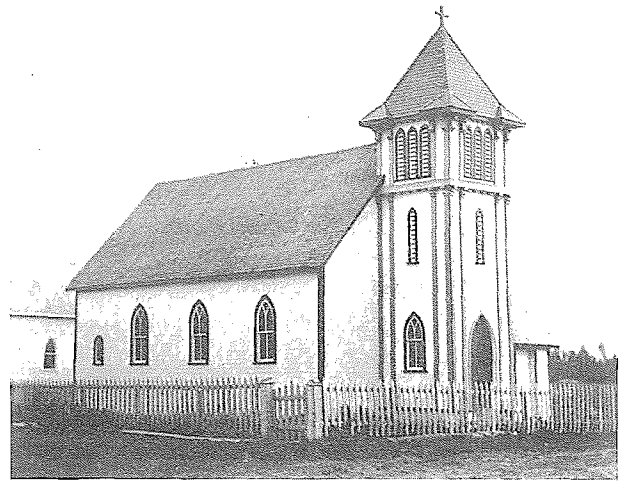
### **1905**

In this year a Wycliffe College student, Mr. W. Ellis, began to gather a congregation in the Village of Whitemouth. He also served the community of Lac du Bonnet, which was situated on a branch line 28 miles from Molson.

Mr. W. Ellis, first visited Lac du Bonnet in May and discovered quite a number of church families. Fortnightly services were held at Lac du Bonnet and Whitemouth.

### **1906**

During this year, Mr. W. Ellis, moved to Lac du Bonnet. Soon, St. John's was built, and the first service celebrated on the 12th August, the official opening was not until 9th September, when the Rev. A.A. Adams, became the Incumbent. The building measured 24x45 feet, and cost \$800 to erect. The money was available with the exception



St. John's Anglican Church.

of \$175. In addition the people raised \$100 to provide pews.

The Rt. Rev. J. Lofthouse, visited the parish on the 11th November, for the dedication service. (Mr. W. Ellis, had returned to his studies in September, hence the arrival of the Rev. A.A. Adams, from Kenora. He was ably assisted by Mr. T. Mitten, of Lac du Bonnet.

### **1907**

Parish life progressed under the guidance of the Rev. A.A. Adams, and Mr. T. Mitten.

### **1908**

Another student of Wycliffe College, Mr. Wallace C. Allison, was given charge of the Mission in the Spring of this year. By this time Lac du Bonnet was cleared of church indebtedness, and was duly consecrated on the 4th October, by the First Bishop of Keewatin, Rt. Rev. J. Lofthouse, and given the patronal name, St. John. Also marking the occasion was the confirmation of 22 candidates.

In all the church had cost approximately \$850, with the interior furnishings amounting to about \$300.

### **1909**

Mr. W.C. Allison, was appointed yet again for summer duty, and ordained to the Diaconate on 9th May, 1909.

### **1910**

In April of this year the Rev. W.C. Allison, married, and was, in June raised to the Priesthood. At this time he was inducted into the Parishes of Lac du Bonnet, Whitemouth and Pointe du Bois.

### **1911**

The new incumbent found it difficult to serve the



Sunday School class - 1912, at old rectory. Harry Park, Cecil Park, Bill Park, Leonard Park, Jack Botchett, Albert Botchett, Fred King, Archie Demeria, Ruth Demeria, Esther Demeria, George Demeria, Ruth Olcen, Elva Fiddler, Harry Fiddler, Ruth Setter, Irene Setter, Wallace Setter, Leslie Setter, Fred Scroggie, Mamie Scroggie, Tom McMillan.

three points. A student, Mr. R.E. Lemon, was appointed to assist throughout the summer months. In the Autumn, the Rev. W.C. Allison, was transferred to the Parish of Dryden, being replaced by Mr. J.B. Clarke, who was given the responsibility of Lac du Bonnet with Pointe du Bois. (It is of interest to note that between June and July, 1911, services were suspended owing to an outbreak of small pox.)

#### 1912

On May 19th, of this year he was ordained to the Diaconate, in St. Alban's Pro-Cathedral, being raised to the Priesthood in June of the following year.

#### 1916

A tragic year for the parish as the Rev. J.B. Clarke, died suddenly on the morning of Good Friday. John Mackie, Esq., the Licensed Lay Reader carried on the duties at Lac du Bonnet. Bishop Lofthouse visited on a monthly basis, until the Rev. R.E. Lemon was appointed to the cure on the 1st October, 1916.

#### 1917

This year saw the addition of Pinawa to the points of Lac du Bonnet, and Pointe du Bois.

#### 1918

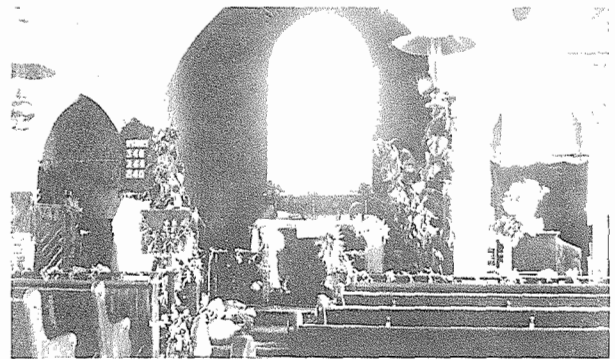
The Incumbent resigned in the first half of the year, having been appointed to serve in the Diocese of Rupert's land. In July, the Rev. L.A. Todd, came, only to serve for one year, before transferring to the Diocese of Huron in July of 1919.

#### 1920

The Rev. L.A. Todd returned in May, staying until May 1st, 1922, when he became Rector of Boonville, Missouri.

#### 1922

Mr. E.R. Adye, another Wycliffe College student, served the parish from May until September. In November, Mr. T.H. Broughton came from Saskatchewan.



Harvest Thanksgiving at St. John's, 1921.



Confirmation at St. John's, 1925. Bishop A. Dewdney, Elsie Dahlgren, Mary Petterson, Ina Malmgren, Lily Zeemel, Rev. T. Broughton, Albert Zeemel, Dora Smith, Margaret Weiss, Holger Malmgren.



Sunday School picnic at Picnic Point, Lac du Bonnet. Teachers Miss E. Blowers, Mrs. C. Anderson and Miss Irene Setter. Rev. Broughton at right.

### 1923

On May 24th, the Rev. T.H. Broughton, was made a priest in the Church of God. Ten persons were confirmed on the occasion. It was in 1923 that the Parish Hall was added to the church building.

### 1930

The parish priest was transferred to the Parish of Keewatin, and the vacancy filled by the Rev. A.H. Gibson. One summer he was assisted by a student Bruce Peglar.

### 1934

It was at this time that a new Mission House was built in Lac du Bonnet. The Rev. A.H. Gibson, resigned in July, and returned to England in October. He was succeeded by F.T. Downing, Esq., a catechist, in October, remaining until June 1935, when the Rev. S. Richardson was inducted into the living.

### 1946

The Rev. S. Richardson stayed until his retirement in June, 1946, being replaced by the Rev. E.K. Bissell, who was priested in the Pro-Cathedral on the 16th of December. On the 19th, 17 candidates were presented for confirmation to the Bishop in St. John's.

### 1948

During September the Rev. E.K. Bissell, left to minister in the Diocese of Huron. Staunchly, the Rev. S. Richardson, came to the fore from retirement to carry on the work of the Church.

### 1950

Saw a change. The student this year came from Emmanuel College. H.W. Brandrick, Esq. A summer appointment.

### 1951

A deacon, the Rev. E.H. Wallace, served St. John's during the summer months.

### 1952

The Rev. F.V. Maxwell, came to the parish in June, from Rainy River, taking the charge of Lac du Bonnet, with Point du Bois, and Great Falls.

### 1954

On Sunday, April 25th, Bishop Hives, the Fourth Bishop, made his first visit to the parish. Eight persons were confirmed in St. John's that day.

### 1957

The last day of August, the Rev. F.V. Maxwell resigned and left for the Diocese of Ottawa. Arrangements were made through the Bishop for the continuity of services throughout September and October, in the three stations. During this period the parish was visited by E. Gaston, Esq., of Kenora, a Licensed Lay Reader. In November, the Rev. W.G. Straw, was appointed incumbent.

### 1960

The rector was indisposed throughout Holy Week. The Bishop officiated at the Palm Sunday and Easter Day services. Later, E. Gaston, Esq., and Miss Margaret Etter, Bishop's Messenger, maintain Divine Services. The Rev. W.G. Straw, was subsequently transferred to Norway House at the end of July, to be succeeded by the Rev. L.C. Fryer, of Rainy River, who took up his duties on September 8th.

The 28th of November, witnessed a Deanery Meeting in St. John's. (It is of great interest to record that the parish had attained a level of self-support during 1959. Considerable improvements were effected to the temporalities. The Church and Rectory, were each attached to the town water and sewerage system, and a church office provided in the parish hall. At the same instant, a new garage



St. John's Anglican church choir, early 1930's. Rev. Mr. Gibson, Mrs. Sherk - organist, Gray Sherk, Aileen Small, Fred Small, Doris Sutherland, Lillian Park, Margaret Madsen, Hilma Fransen, Ray Park, Edythe Waters, Victor Setter and Bruce Peglar, and David Sherk.

was and storeroom was provided, and the rectory redecorated. The sun room at the rear of the house was insulated, and transformed into a kitchen with a round-the-year water supply. This did much to increase the family living space.

### 1971

The parish became vacant with the removal of the Rev. L.C. Fryer, to the Parish of Stonewall, in the Diocese of Rupert's Land. At the request of Bishop Stiff, the Rev. Canon James W. Whitford, Rural Deal of Springfield, and Rector of Pine Falls, undertook to minister to the Pine Falls Pastoral District. This embraced Pine Falls, with Great Falls, Lac du Bonnet with Pinawa, Whitemouth, (Rennie), Point du Bois, et al.

### 1974

During this year of Grace a much needed refurbishing of the church was effected, in no small measure by the untiring leadership of Dr. Walter Ehrlich, who supplied so much enthusiasm and



Christening of Graham Gibson, 1932.



Representing Sunday School teachers, Edith Passek, Mrs. A. Griffin.



Baptism on Mother's Day, 1978 of Vincent Gregory De Paulo. Rev. Canon Whitford officiating. Grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Fred Sellers, Mr. and Mrs. John De Paulo.

practical effort. The Sanctuary, was completely remodelled, and the result stands as a memorial to Bishop H.E. Hives, from a grateful congregation. The walls and ceiling of the Nave, have been recovered.

It was at this time that Canon Whitford asked the Bishop, the Rt. Rev. H.J. Allan, to grant a Lay Readers License to James Martin, Esq. Mr. Martin combines this task with that of Verger.

### 1975

The Parish Hall was enlarged, and a kitchen, two bathrooms, and a new rector's office incorporated. Much the outcome of the unstilted effort of the late Dr. W. Ehrlich.

## ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

by E. Ehrlich

The enlargement of the Parish Hall was a project that required much encouragement and voluntary help but it all came about with hours of free time by Ernie Richmond, Ian Harkness, W. Ehrlich, Julie Bilan, R. Waters, R. and P. McIntosh, W. and Mrs. Shipley, O. Fors, Hart Brown, Bill Schenk (cupboards), Jim Johnson (plumbing), T. and Bertha Okranic, R. Lavoie and J. Bryk (excavation), Bev Richmond, Joan Lesko, Joyce Campbell (painters), stucco at a discount from Clem Relf, A. Urban (electrical) Cliff McGuire worked on installation of the loud speaker system which is a memorial to Frank and Annie Waters.

The A.C.W. purchased the new carpet and drapes for the hall and new carpet for the church. A second electric range came from the home of A.



Waters, and a desk for the office.

Grandpa Sitar kept the workers tidy by picking up and piling debris. Edie Ehrlich poured cups and cups of coffee to ensure no time was wasted at the coffee shops.

Later at the front of the church a new cement ramp and entrance doors were donated by the Russell Funeral Home of Beausejour.

Very sorry if some names are omitted due to lack of memory. Anyone who helped, their services were greatly appreciated.

During the years 1906-1980 many very faithful and hard working Rectors and Peoples Wardens served the church. A complete record of names is not available so memory will have to serve. Mr. William King, the father of Fred and Tom King, gave many years to these duties. Mr. King's exemplary service as caretaker and bell ringer is gratefully remembered. Henry Park (father of Harry Park), R. Emmett, A. Griffin, F. Shewfelt, Arthur Brown, Alden King, J. Sparman, V.C. Hardy, Neil Campbell, Oulton Rogers, W.A. Ehrlich, W. Shipley, N.S. McIntyre (Pinawa), H. McDonald.

There are many who gave their time to keep the church in repair. J. Sparman was one who gave countless hours keeping the various ancient furnaces operating. Following the gift of the present altar by Mr. F. Gauer in 1955, Mr. Sparman built the pulpit to match the altar.

The women - first the W.A., later A.C.W. have worked behind the scenes before and after the first sod was turned. They will ever be remembered and we cannot thank them sufficiently for their devotion and faithfulness to St. John's. One needs only to enter the church to sense their handiwork and labor. Some names... Mrs. H. Park, Mrs. W. King, Mrs. J. Small, Mrs. French, Mrs. Griffin, Mrs. McIntosh and Mrs. Sparman to name a few.

In 1956 a 50th Anniversary was celebrated. Rev. Frank Maxwell was the incumbent at this time.

In 1976 a 70th Anniversary was celebrated, with Canon J. Whitford officiating. At this time a booklet entitled Seventy Glorious Years A.D. 1906-1976 was assembled, using the main facts of this history.

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The Springfield Leader

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Emparons - Nous du Sol

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Folder on Lac du Bonnet.

Copies of all letters written by His Excellency the Archbishop of St. Boniface up to A.D. 1915.

Archives Deschatelets, Ottawa - letter from Rev. Gaston Carriere O.M.I.

Letter from Mrs. Walter Hapko, Secretary of St. Anthony Petchersky's Ukrainian Catholic Parish.

Letter from Rev. Father John Iwanchuk, founder of St. Anthony's Parish, now Pastor of Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Parish, Beausejour, Manitoba.

### Personal and Telephone Interviews

Mr. and Miss Erickson, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Rev. S. Izyk, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Mr. and Mrs. Pete Kulbaba, Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba.

Frère Perron of the Archives Provincial des oblats, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

### With special thanks to

Brother Cyril Morvan of the Franciscan Friary, Winnipeg, Mr. Lionel Dorge of the St. Boniface Archiepiscopal Archives.

# Legion

## MEMBERS OF VILLAGE OF LAC DU BONNET AND R.M. OF LAC DU BONNET WHO VOLUNTEERED ACTIVE SERVICE WITH CANADA'S FIGHTING FORCES

### 1914-18

Harry Anderson  
Albert Henry Cook\*  
Milton Cross  
Frank Demeria  
William Augustus Durie  
Frederick Horrocks  
Ernest King  
Arthur King\*  
John Lewis  
Daniel McLeod  
George McLeod\*  
Donald McCulloch  
G. G. Malcolm, M.D.  
Arthur Murray Mitchell  
John Olsen  
Henry Park  
Thomas Park  
William Park  
Archie Park  
Alexander Park  
Percy Pruden  
Robert Pruden  
Henry Thomas Smith  
Peter Wellington Smith  
Joseph Lawrence Smith\*  
Harry Smith  
Alexander George Sinclair\*  
William Charles Spence  
Donald Frank Sutherland  
Alfred James Sutherland  
William Wellman\*  
Robert Woollard  
John Morgan  
Nelson Handyside  
John Robert White  
Alfred R. L. Olcen

\* Supreme Service

### 1939-1945

Herbert J. Alksne  
H. J. Arsenault\*  
Art. Arsenault  
Marie Arsenault  
Henry G. Bees  
O. A. Bernard  
Louis S. Binda  
C. E. Bloomquist  
Mike Bonkowski  
N. Bouchie  
Joseph Brezino\*\*  
P. E. Bruneau  
R. J. Bruneau  
R.W.L. Bruneau  
S. Bruneau  
A. Buckmaster  
J. Byork  
John Brincheski  
Wm. Brincheski  
R. N. Campbell  
Leo Cardinal  
H. W. Cederlund\*\*  
Arthur Christianson  
R. D. Collins  
J. Chrusch  
J. Curé  
Arvid Dancyt  
Lorenzo A. David  
Sylvio David\*\*  
Victor David  
A. M. Demeria  
N. F. Dobrucki  
G. Demeria  
A. Fors  
J. T. Flett  
Albert Fontaine\*  
O. Fors  
J. M. Fournier  
R.J.L. Fournier\*\*  
Eric French\*  
W. L. French

D. Fournier  
G. Fontaine  
R. J. Gibson  
C. B. Gille  
J. L. Goodall  
E. V. Gustafson  
H. J. Harding  
A. H. Henley  
J. Horbatiuk\*\*  
G. Henley  
Bruce R. James  
John E. James\*  
Frank Jeffrey  
R. Juenke\*  
A. Kowalchuk  
John Kowalchuk  
Edmund P. Karklin  
J. Krowchuk  
Joe Kowalchuk  
A. Lavoie  
J. B. Larson  
E. Lavoie  
J. J. Letain  
L. C. LeVasseur\*\*  
Omer LeVasseur  
David Lloyd  
Henry Lloyd  
Walter Lloyd  
J. Lodge  
W. Lavoie  
O. E. Magnusson\*  
H. McMahon  
Joe McLeod\*  
F. McMillan  
H. E. Moller  
Wm. Monkman  
J. C. Morski  
R. F. Nasstrom  
Joe Okrainec  
Jerry Okrainec  
Dan Okrainec

# 1939-1945

Ted Okrainec  
S.G.C. Olcen\*  
A. H. Olsen  
Wm. Oneschuk  
H. Oder  
A. L. Park  
R. M. Park  
C. A. Parkes  
G. L. Parkes  
J. H. Parkes  
R. H. Pearson  
G. W. Petterson  
Anton J. Pfeifer  
John L. Pfeifer  
Romeo Picard  
E. G. Pitre  
J. C. Pitre  
W. J. Preston  
S. Pudjunas  
S. Rogocki  
R. R. Sellers\*  
Robert Sellers  
Anton Sikora  
Joe Sikora  
Mike Sikora  
F. G. Small\*\*  
Robert Smith  
M. Soroka  
Carl Specht  
L. L. Specht\*  
R. W. Stockburn  
David Swagger  
Alex Sydorko  
J. Sydorko  
Mike Sydorko

E. Taylor  
R. Tinant  
C. F. Tinndal\*\*  
J. Tinndal  
S. A. Tomlinson  
M. W. Torrance

W. Ullestad  
Art Vielleux  
L. Visca  
J. G. A. Vielleux  
Joseph Visca  
Jack Visca  
W. Visca

H. P. Waite  
P.A.G. Walsh  
R. P. Waters  
Leonard Watson\*  
Stanley Wenzowski  
J. Wise  
A. Wood  
Robert Wood  
Wilfred Wood\*\*  
Gordon Weiss  
Albert Weiss

J. S. Zalusky  
Frank Zarecki  
Walter Zarecki  
J. Zalondek  
J. Zahara\*

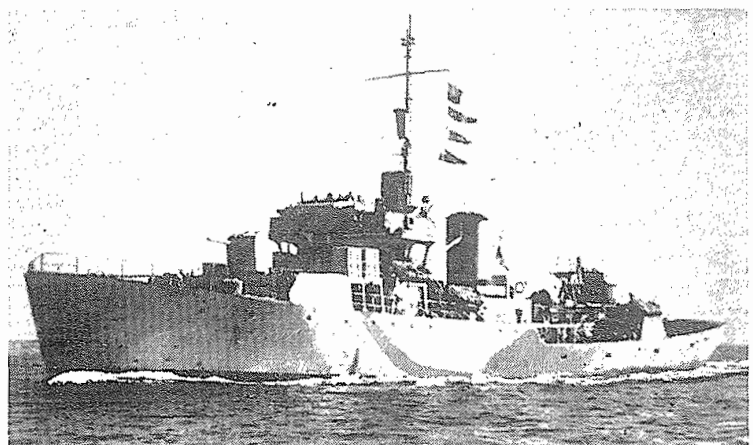
\*\*Killed in Action  
\*Prisoner of War

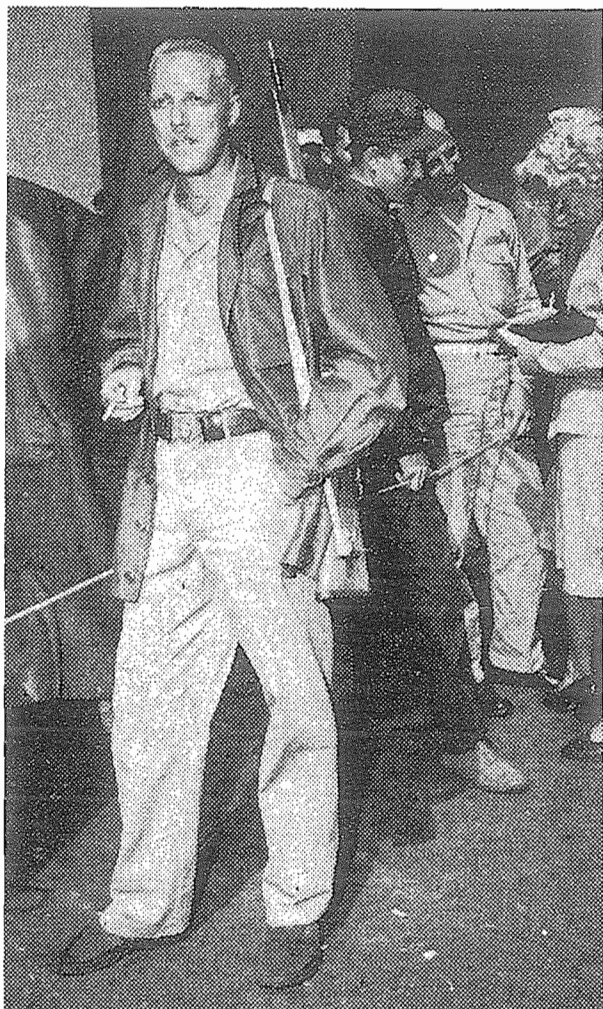


Brezino, J.



*Wishing you a Merry Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year.  
Best wishes to all  
Believe Me XXXXX*





Pte. Stanley G. Olcen of Calgary, and formerly of Winnipeg, captured at Hong Kong on Christmas Day, 1941, walks ashore at San Francisco on the first big lap of his homeward journey. Slung over his arm is a Japanese rifle that was frequently used by brutal Japanese to beat him while he was a prisoner. With him on the US Ozark were 243 other Canadians from the Winnipeg Grenadiers and the Royal Rifles of Canada.

Stanley was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Alfred Olcen who came to Canada in 1893 from Sweden. They lived in U.S.A. and Winnipeg before settling in Lac du Bonnet in 1908. Mr. Olcen worked for J. D. McArthur Co. They had three daughters, Hildur, Esther and Ruth and three sons, Alfred, Hilding and Stanley.

The following list of boys from Lac du Bonnet were captured in Hong Kong:

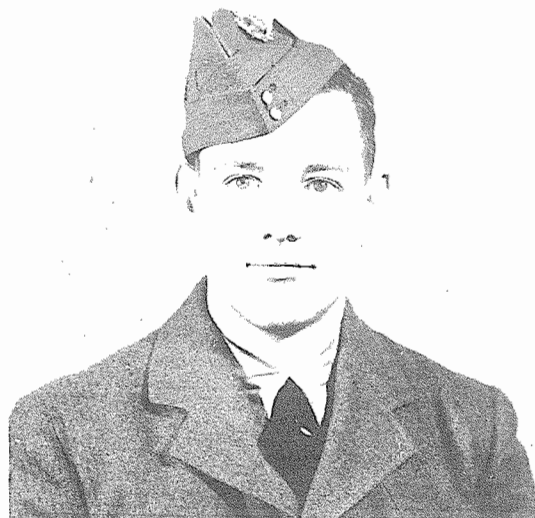
|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Eric French*    | Roy Irwin*      |
| Leonard Watson  | Albert Fontaine |
| Stanley Olcen*  | Ludwig Specht   |
| Raymond Sellers | Joe Zahara      |
| John James      |                 |
| Joe McLeod*     | *Deceased       |



Small, F. G.



LeVasseur, L. C.



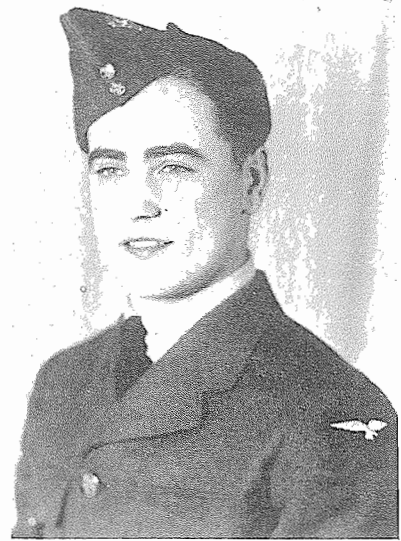
Wood, W.



Tinndal, C. F.



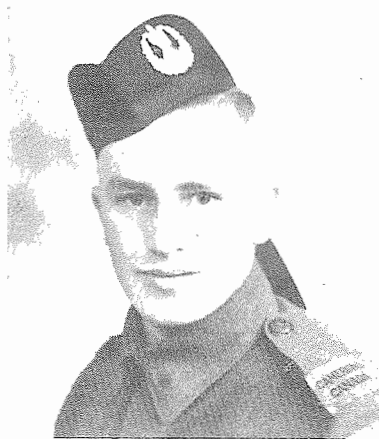
Cederlund, H. W.



Fournier, R. J.



Hendrickson, E.



David, S.



Horbatiuk, A.



Eighteen husky young men from Lac du Bonnet reached Winnipeg Monday evening, and enlisted with the Winnipeg Grenadiers (M.G.). Here they are shown, soon after arrival, chatting with Lieut. L. T. Tarbuth, one of the recruiting officers, and N.C.O.'s of the regiment (right foreground). The recruits, shown seated along the other side of the counter, are: John Stockburn, Stanley Olcen, Glen Demeria, Albert and George Fontaine, Sam Bruneau, aged 18, youngest of the recruits, Stanley, Teleko, Ludwig Specht, Gordon Fiddler, Joe McLeod, Stanley and Cecil Buckmaster, Ray Parks, George Demeria, Leo Novak, Finney Elder, George Dover and Roy Irwin.





ON ACTIVE SERVICE

H-87611 to Sikora m.  
No 69 Tank Transp. Coy.

R. C. A. S. C.

Can Army Overseas.

7-10-43.

Dear Miss Small:

I was very pleased with the letter I got from you. It was really the first letter I got that explained Lac du Bonnet. As I went on through the letter, I could see every little thing just as it is. It sure makes me feel like I would love to be there with my old friends again. There'll come a time when we all come home and all be happy together again.

It seems like many years since I've been to "Good Old Lac du Bonnet," but when I read your letter so I was right there, it seemed like it you know. I don't think it's quite as happy as it used to be is it, till the boys all get back again. We sure are trying to hussy it up a bit. Our folks and friends are all waiting for our return, which we hope will be soon.

I have seen a few of the boys here: Roger Brunson, Lawrence Park, Pete Brunson, two of my brothers, Tony Winkowski, John Lodge, Carl Anderson, and a few others.

I wish you could see this beautiful England, its hills, wide spreading chestnut trees, lovely green grass, beautiful flowers of all kinds. The big English homes and mansions surrounded by big apple trees which grow the sweetest apples you ever seen, and do I love fresh apple pie. Talk about pie, I could sure go a nice piece of this "Bee Belly" pie of Charlie's. I'm sure it's good. I suppose the blue berries are all gone now. I'd sure love to be home during "hunting season." It's a lovely sport, no such sport here. We'll have a lot of it when we hit it.

I'll have to bring my letter to an end now. Thanking the "Lac du Bonnet cigarette fund" for what they have done for me.

My best regards to every one, please. Thank you.

Yours friendly,  
Soldier.

Good Luck.

Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba  
July 15, 1944

Hello Soldier:

Are you ready to hear the news around your own home town?

... During the past two weeks Arvid Dancyt and Russell Waters have been at home on leave. They look like the proverbial cat who swallowed the canary. It seems to me I heard those same boys say not so long ago, "If only I could get out of this dead town". Now, just eating Ma's chocolate cake or blueberry pie, swimming, sailing, having a coke at the cafe, going to the show Friday night and to the Beach dance on Saturday seems to be sufficient entertainment. I bet you could stand a slice of the same stuff, Soldier... Never mind! We're still keeping the home fires burning for you.

One day in Normandy someone saluted Frank Brown and then said, "How's Edie in Lac du Bonnet?" Was Frank ever surprised! The inquirer was Grey Sherk. You can bet they exchanged news about the home town.

It has been reported that Gordon Weiss has been wounded, that Charles Bloomquist has returned from England due to ill health, that Fred Small is now, for official purposes, presumed dead, that George Parkes is missing, that Stanley Olcen, Joe Zahara and Eric French have been heard on Radio Tokyo. Eric's mother has received several letters from amateur radio operators in the United States about a message from him. The fact that he sent his regards to Bill Spence, a family friend, seems to prove that it's authentic.

Everybody worked hard to make Dominion Day a success this year because the proceeds were for the Red Cross. In the morning the kids enjoyed the water sports. There were swimming races, diving contests, a washtub race and a pillow fight on the greasy pole. In the afternoon the baseball games attracted the most attention. The teams taking part were: Landerville (Dobrucki brothers—battery) Lac du Bonnet High School, Grubert's Corner (called the Hungry Nine), Pinawa, C.P. Airlines, Brightstone and Seven Sisters Falls. The Hungry Nine emerged champions. The Lac du Bonnet Girls beat the Brightstone Girls—score 15 to 7. Lac du Bonnet team members are: Mrs. Bill Zikman, Mrs. Dan Malyk, Marjorie Pfeifer, Audrey Ferris, Kay and Evelyn Arsenaault, Lorraine Shewfelt, Mary McIntosh, Lillian (Park) Smith and Rita (Bruneau) Collins.

In spite of the opposition of the Holiday Beach dance, we had a good crowd at the Community Hall. Fred Dufily's orchestra was in attendance. By the way, you guys had better hurry and get back. Things have come to a pretty pass when we gals have to depend on the town fathers for our

dances. One young lady said to me, "Isn't Mr. McIntosh a good dancer?"... I agreed. You see it has taken a war to make us appreciate Mr. Mac's dancing. He doesn't jitterbug though.

Now for the day's proceeds—last but not least.

|                           |               |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Kinsmen's Games and Dance | .....\$236.32 |
| Refreshment Booths        | ..... 201.20  |
| Home Cooking              | ..... 16.75   |
| Rummage Sale              | ..... 170.00  |
| Raffle of Quilt and Bag   | ..... 28.20   |
| Fish Pond                 | ..... 7.94    |
| Tags                      | ..... 232.39  |
|                           | <hr/>         |
|                           | \$892.80      |

Wasn't that a whopping good sum to hand over to the Red Cross? Oh, incidently, the weather was grand—lots of sun and a good breeze to keep the mosquitoes away.

One evening this week I sat on the dock just drinking in the beauty of our river. Can you picture the water absolutely calm, holding in its glimmering sheen the mingled colors of the fading sunset; the trees mirrored along its edge, the bridge silhouetted in the distance, and fluffy cloud banks just above the lush green of the opposite shore? Add to that the planes anchored here and there—could anyone deny that Lac du Bonnet is one of Manitoba's beauty spots?

It's nice to be home on holidays thinking about you and jotting down this and that bit of news for "our boys overseas".

Best regards from everyone.

Sincerely yours,  
Aileen Small



H1837  
Pte. J. Sydorko  
19 CDN Spec. Emp.  
Coy. CA B.W.E.F.  
(France)  
August 31, 1944

Dear Miss Small:

Had two letters from you today. They were both very good. I do greatly appreciate your writing.

Well, I am still alive and in one piece, feeling better, too. I was taken out of the Front August

18th as a casualty. Now I am at a rest area with the Special Employment Company.

I was in action with the Canadian Scottish for seventy days and we had some tough battles but always accomplished our objective.

You may be wondering what France is like. Well, the country view is very much like England. The towns are old-fashioned, those that aren't too badly bombed. Some of them haven't been ruined at all, and with civilians roaming around—women with baby carriages and shopping bags, you would think there was no war on. But personally, I will never forget those naughty shells.

After not getting any mail for two months I feel happy tonight for I got ten letters and five last night, so am very busy answering.

I only wish I could write a letter as good as you can. I would probably write you a little book.

Closing now, thanks with all my heart. Please write again.

Yours sincerely,  
Joe Sydorko

**LAC DU BONNET  
ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION NO. 164  
AND THE LADIES AUXILIARY**

The Lac du Bonnet Br. No. 164 Royal Canadian Legion received its Charter on September 26th, 1945.

Charter members are Messrs.: T. Park, C. W. Nichols, R. Sellers, C. Russell, H. Smith, E. J. Coates, G. Binda, R. M. Park, C. Brown, W. Scott, S. Richardson, F. Brown, M. Fontaine, G. Demeria, G. Fidler, S. Tomlinson, W. Kennard, M. Torrance.

There are no Charter members now active.

The Ladies Auxiliary received its Charter on October 29th, 1946. Charter members are: Mesdames: A. L. Brown, R. Binda, C. L. Levasseur, M. McMahon, L. Tomlinson, M. Coates, D. Russell, B. Park, M. Wade, D. Waters, O. Arsenault, M. Campbell, V. McIntosh, G. Sparman, A. French, E. Abenstein, M. Nasstrom, E. Brown, J. Uhlman.

The following Charter members are still active: Mesdames B. Park, D. Waters, O. Arsenault, G. Sparman, E. Brown (Ehrlich), R. Binda.

First officers of Branch — President: S. H. Tomlinson. Vice-President: Charles Russell. Secretary-treasurer: E. J. Coates.

First officers of Auxiliary — President: Mrs. A. L. Brown. Secretary-treasurer: Mrs. M. McMahon. Executives: Mrs. D. Russell, Mrs. L. Tomlinson, Mrs. M. Coates.

The Branch and Auxiliary were formed to help the Veterans and their families in this area and also

bring the veterans together in closer comradeship.

The first meetings were held either in the Trans Air Building or the Municipal Hall.

On October 9th., 1947 the Branch building fund was transferred to the Memorial Centre of Lac du Bonnet, this was in conjunction with other community organizations who also transferred their funds to the Memorial Centre.

The Legion moved into the Community Hall on March 11th., 1948. This hall was later known as the Memorial Hall and is now the Legion Hall. During these years the Legion was in charge of the outdoor rink, sponsored hockey teams and the skating. The Ladies Auxiliary served coffee, donuts and hot dogs during intermission and also to our teams and visiting teams after the games.

The Legion Hall at this time was the annex to the Memorial Hall and was owned by the Memorial Centre. The Legion paid rent to the Centre each month for the upkeep of the hall.

In the early years of the Legion and its Auxiliary the meetings sometimes had door attendance but the work of the Legion carried on. The Branch has always taken care of the needy veteran, has fought for better pensions for the veteran and worked toward owning their own building in the future. The ladies canvassed for all charitable organizations when asked and also donated to them all. They have also been in charge of distributing poppies since 1948. Methods of fund raising . . . Booth on July 1st, coat checking, card parties, raffles, dances and catering.

The annual Christmas Party for children ten years of age and under whose parents belong to the Branch and/or Auxiliary is an event looked forward to every year. Santa gives each child a gift and lunch is enjoyed by all. In 1950, 103 children attended and in 1979 there were 23. As can be seen by this decline the veterans are getting on in years. Hopefully the sons and daughters who are now eligible to join the Legion will do so and carry on the good work for their Moms and Dads.

In 1953 the Branch and Auxiliary decided to try their hand at acting and put on a play and fashion show. It was well received.

On November 8th, 1953 a solemn and dignified ceremony was enacted in Lac du Bonnet, when the Cenotaph at the Triangle Park was unveiled. This Cenotaph was built by the Branch members using money raised by having a Theatre Night and also donations received from local businessmen.

November 11th., is the annual Remembrance Day Service, terminating at the Cenotaph where wreaths are laid. The Ladies Auxiliary is honored to have its Color Party lead the parade. In 1958 the Legion started holding its annual Remembrance Day Social held on the Saturday before November 11th. The Ladies Auxiliary entered into

the catering business by catering to the first social in 1958 and have been busy ever since.

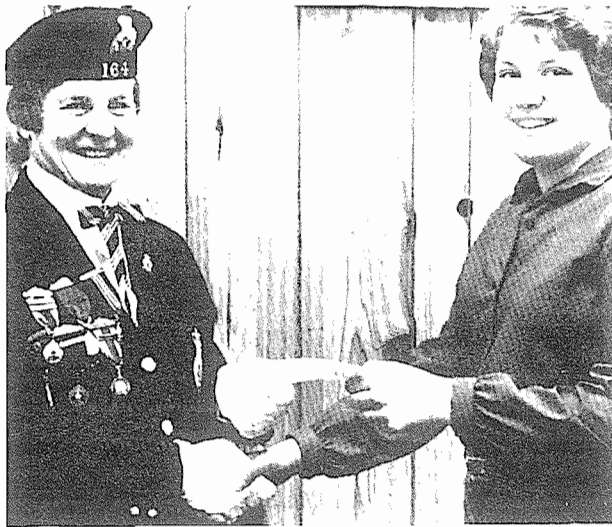
The first team to enter into the Curling Playdowns was in 1959. They have won the Zone and District championships on many occasions but never the coveted Provincial title. The ladies have also done well in the ladies Auxiliary Playdowns, having won the District five times since the ladies started in 1969.

The Ladies District 6 Rally was held in Lac du Bonnet in 1960. Mrs. Dorothy Waters had been elected District 6 Representative so felt it only appropriate to hold her first rally here and it was very successful. She held this office until 1971.

Russ Waters was elected District 6 Deputy Commander in 1955 and served in this capacity until he was elected District Commander in 1969, an office he held for two terms.

The Branch started sponsoring the Cubs and Scouts in 1962 and a few years later the Beavers and have continued to do so. They supply uniforms for all leaders and neckerchiefs for the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers. Over the years the Branch has also sponsored hockey and baseball teams.

Each year the Branch and Ladies Auxiliary donate money to the Lac du Bonnet Community



Physical Education scholarship.

Nola Apsit of Lac du Bonnet is this year's recipient of a \$700.00 scholarship awarded annually by the Provincial Council Ladies' Auxiliary of the Royal Canadian Legion. The scholarship is awarded on the merits of academic achievement, athletic participation and leadership and the recipient must be enrolled in a physical education course at a University in Manitoba or Northwestern Ontario.

In making the presentation, Dorothy Waters, chairperson of the Athletic Scholarship Committee said Nola was chosen from ten applicants and is the second student from this area to receive this award. Collette Gendre was selected in 1977.

Nola, the daughter of Alphie and Gail Apsit, is presently enrolled in her first year of Physical Education at the University of Manitoba.

Bursary, Senior School Awards, The Provincial Council Athletic Scholarship, sponsor athletes to the Peace Garden Athletic Camps, also make donations to the Salvation Army, Red Cross, Heart Foundation, Ability Fund, Arthritis Society, C.N.I.B., Cancer, Library Fund at Deer Lodge Hospital and any project for the Deer Lodge Hospital.

In 1966 the Legion took on the job of cleaning and fixing the stones on all Veterans graves in the cemetery.

The Village of Lac du Bonnet took over the Memorial Hall in 1967 due to the resignation of the Memorial Centre Committee. The Legion was asked to take over the running of the hall and agreed to do so.

Our Centennial project in 1967 was donating swings and teeter totters to Leslie Park. This was also the year the Legion started running the July 1st., bingos in the Memorial Hall and the ladies ran the food concession. Part of the proceeds of this day went to the Arena Fund and part to the Branch Building Fund. Over the years much money was donated to the outdoor rink and then the new indoor Arena.

In 1968 the members painted the inside of the hall and in 1969 the light was installed at the Cenotaph.

The Hall was purchased from the Village in 1972 and since money was needed a "400" club was started which proved very successful during the time of its operation. The hall was enlarged and renovated in 1974 and new tiles were laid on the floor.

During this time the Branch and Auxiliary honored two of its members with the Meritorious Service Medal... the highest honor that can be awarded to a member... Russ Waters received his in 1973 and Dorothy Waters hers in 1975.

In 1976 the Branch awarded Life Memberships to Viv. Hardy, Joe Zalusky, Joe Visca, Walter Terrin, Alex. McIntosh, Joe Binda and Andy Usackis and in 1979 to Ray Enright.

In 1978 the Auxiliary awarded Life Memberships to Mrs. O. Arsenault, Mrs. R. Binda, Mrs. A. Charles and Mrs. D. Waters.

The Auxiliary was honored in 1975 when Dorothy Waters was elected President of the Provincial Council of Ladies Auxiliaries, Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario Command at the Convention held in Winnipeg. She served two terms until June 1979.

The last payment on the hall was made to the Village in December 1976. The hall is now really ours and will be known as the Lac du Bonnet Legion Hall.

On March 15th., 1977 the Branch decided to enlarge the hall. \$40,000.00 was borrowed from

the bank in May 1977. To raise money to pay off the loan the Branch started Sunday night Bingo in the Legion Hall. After a few weeks the sale of Nevada tickets was also started at the Bingo. The Bingo started in April 1978.

We can boast of having one of the finest halls in Northeastern Manitoba, with a capacity of 450 people. There is an air conditioning system and smoke filters. The kitchen is beautiful with a stainless steel commercial fridge and stove. The ladies raise their money through catering so this is a big help in their operation.

November 10th., 1979 at the Remembrance Day Social the Mortgage was burned. In less than two years \$50,000.00 had been raised in Bingo and Nevada sales plus lots of hard work by the members of both the Branch and Auxiliary.

On November 11th., 1979 the Lac du Bonnet Legion and Auxiliary made their debut in a movie called "The Last Farewell" based on the book "Hello Soldier" written by Aileen Oder. The Branch and Auxiliary bought 60 books from Aileen when it was first written and gave them to her "boys" compliments of the Branch and Auxiliary.

The Lac du Bonnet Legion and Auxiliary have come a long way in 34 years and the members can be justly proud of the work they have done, not only with the new hall but the community as a whole, always remembering that we are here to help the veteran and his family and now branching out to the youth of our community. The members continue to live up to the Legion Motto... "SERVICE NOT SELF".

#### **Branch Presidents**

1945-46 S. H. Tomlinson  
 1947 M. W. Torrance  
 1948 W. Kennard  
 1949 A. Hallick  
 1950 J. J. Watkins/R. Freund  
 1951 H. Wells  
 1952 E. Rousseau  
 1953 F. Hanton  
 1954 F. Hanton  
 1955 F. Hanton  
 1956 F. Hanton  
 1957 F. Hanton  
 1958 R. P. Waters  
 1959 R. P. Waters  
 1960 R. P. Waters  
 1961 A. Campbell  
 1962 A. Campbell

1963 E. Sharkey  
 1964 E. Sharkey  
 1965 A. Wood  
 1966 A. Wood  
 1967 R. P. Waters  
 1968 R. Foubert  
 1969 R. Foubert  
 1970 F. Ehinger  
 1971 E. Sitar  
 1972 I. Harkness  
 1973 I. Harkness  
 1974 F. Ehinger  
 1975 F. Ehinger  
 1976 R. Foubert  
 1977 R. Foubert  
 1978 R. Foubert  
 1979 R. Foubert

#### **Ladies Auxiliary Presidents**

1946 Mrs. A. L. Brown  
 1947 Mrs. A. L. Brown  
 1948 Mrs. A. L. Brown  
 1949 Mrs. Sadie Torrance  
 1950 Mrs. Sadie Torrance  
 1951 Mrs. Mary Campbell  
 1952 Mrs. Olive Arsenault  
 1953 Mrs. Kay Rousseau  
 1954 Mrs. Mary Nasstrom  
 1955 Mrs. Alice (Arkinson) Charles  
 1956 Mrs. Dorothy Waters  
 1957 Mrs. Dorothy Waters  
 1958 Mrs. Dorothy Waters  
 1959 Mrs. Dorothy Waters  
 1960 Mrs. Audrey Wood  
 1961 Mrs. Audrey Wood  
 1962 Mrs. Doreen Dancyt  
 1963 Mrs. Doreen Dancyt  
 1964 Mrs. Hazel Campbell  
 1965 Mrs. Helen Semple  
 1966 Mrs. Betty Dancyt  
 1967 Mrs. Alice Puddicombe  
 1968 Mrs. Alice Puddicombe  
 1969 Mrs. Halina Brincheski  
 1970 Mrs. Dorothy Waters  
 1971 Mrs. Gertrude Hardy  
 1972 Mrs. Pat Kost  
 1973 Mrs. Pat Kost  
 1974 Mrs. Nora Malyk  
 1975 Mrs. Nora Malyk  
 1976 Mrs. Mary Sydorko  
 1977 Mrs. Mary Sydorko  
 1978 Mrs. Halina Brincheski  
 1979 Mrs. Hallie Lavoie





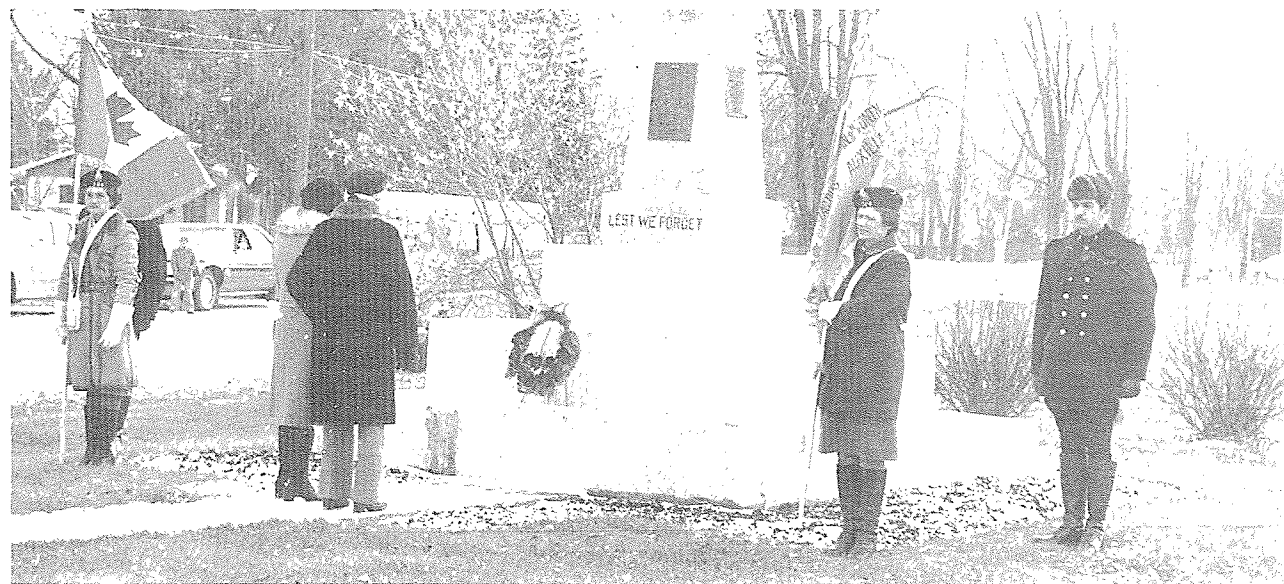
## HONOUR ROLL

Brezino, J.  
Cederlund, H. W.  
Irwin, R.  
David, S.  
Levasseur, L.  
Fournier, R. J.  
Hendrickson, E.  
Horbatiuk, J.  
David, S.  
Small, F.  
Wood, W.  
Tyndall, C.

Parade to Cenotaph of veterans.



Mrs. Olive Arsenault and Mrs. Marie Lavoie placing a wreath.



# Looking Back

## THREE PERISH IN WEEKEND BLAZE

Three persons are dead and two others received injuries due to a raging fire, the worst in the history of the village, which destroyed three stores in the Lac du Bonnet business section on Saturday afternoon.

The blaze caused by an explosion from the furnace, broke out about 1:30 p.m. in the Bakery, trapping the owner, Mike Baldes, 34, and his 2½ year-old son, Michael Jr., who were sleeping on the second floor. Five-year-old Veronica, who was playing downstairs at the time, came very near to

being saved, however, she also perished right next to the front door.

Mrs. Baldes, 28, escaped injuries, but had to be restrained when she attempted to re-enter the building. A third child, Roland, 7, was playing by Champagne's Garage. An employee, Mrs. Ed. Lavoie, also managed to crawl outside with damage only to her clothing.

Mr. Sanford Peterson, a customer in the store, received second degree burns to his hands and face in an attempt to save the little girl. He had her in his arms, but pressure, building up just prior to the second explosion, prevented the front door from



Pictured above is the blazing Lac du Bonnet Bakery and MacLeod's Store shortly after fire broke out on Saturday afternoon. These buildings, plus The Lucky Dollar Store, operated by Paquettes, were all leveled to the ground after a four hour battle by firemen.



Before the fire in 1965.

opening, and when the explosion occurred, Mr. Peterson was blown through the window, but unfortunately, little Veronica wasn't.

Mr. Russell Plischke, who operated the barbershop in the Bakery, was treated for burns to his hands, and had his hair singed off. Mr. Plischke first discovered the fire when he noticed smoke coming out of the heat register. Upon investigating in the basement he found that the rear of the building was a solid mass of flames, and in a moment the entire building was filled with a black smoke.

Due to high winds, it was only a matter of minutes before the flames jumped across the narrow driveway to the MacLeod Store. Manager, Chuck Ries, who had just gone home for lunch, rushed back and within minutes had the entire building evacuated, saving only his books and records.

The flames soon ate their way through MacLeod's and started on the Lucky Dollar Store, operated by Mr. and Mrs. Albert Paquette, who managed to save a few things before having to leave the premises. In the meantime, post office employees were busy clearing out their building in an attempt to save all the mail, records, etc. However, it was at this building that the tireless efforts of the firemen finally took effect, no doubt due to the fact that the post office was a brick structure. Extensive water and smoke damage were caused when the building was saturated by the fire fighters in an undying attempt to arrest the blaze.

#### Several Homeless

The MacLeod building, owned by Mrs. Edythe Ehrlich of Ottawa, had five suites on the second floor, all occupied at the time. Those losing all their belongings included Mr. and Mrs. Bill Loughheed, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hoerig, Mr. and Mrs. Casmir Worona, married only a year, Misses Hilda Schichl and Doris Hebert, and Miss Irma Balod. Miss Balod had called this her home since she was

14 years of age, and nothing will ever replace the keepsakes she must have collected there during the greater part of her life. Mr. and Mrs. Albert Paquette and two boys, who resided behind the store, are also among the homeless. The building they occupied and the post office are owned by Mr. Wilf Gorenstien.

#### Firemen to be Commended

The 20 or more local firemen, under chief, Dickie Campbell, who wasted no time arriving on the scene with their two trucks, were assisted by a large number of local men. Before long they were joined by the A.E.C.L. crew from Pinawa, the air-force brigade from nearby Milner Ridge, and the Pine Falls fire department, under the able leadership of Mr. Bill McDonald. Fire chief, R. A. Blondahl from Pointe du Bois also added to the tremendous fire fighting force, who were severely hampered by the biting wind. Many of the local lads remained on the scene for the entire night to dampen any blaze that might tend to flare up.

#### Coffee a Refresher

A group of legion ladies and members of the Lions club, quickly set up coffee urns, first in the Goodway, then in the Beaver Lumber, to help thaw out the frozen firemen, and to supply them with a little nourishment, a large quantity of sandwiches arrived from the Lakeview Hotel.

#### Sandford Peterson Improving

Mr. Peterson, who has been confined to the Pinawa hospital since the fire, is reported to be improving satisfactorily, but no doubt, will be detained for some time.

#### Started Here October 15th

The Baldes family moved here last fall after purchasing the well known Andy's Bakery, from Andy Usackis, proprietor for the past 25 years. Mike's Bakery opened for business on October 15th and during their five months in business, they worked very hard to build a thriving business.

The destruction of the Bakery and MacLeod's wipes out two very old landmarks in this laketown and pulls the curtain on an era that only the long time residents will remember.

#### DO YOU REMEMBER?

Do you remember when the only road to Seven Sisters was the long way around by Seddons Corner and the road over Julius Muskeg was only one track so you had to watch if anybody was on that one mile stretch and wait, first one on had the right of way. That was on Highway 44, south of the R.C.A.F. cutoff road.

Do you remember when Oscar Peterson opened the first ice cream parlor on first street where Casey's Inn and pub is now? Those were the days

in 1926. We gathered around the little tables and ate a variety of flavoured Ice Cream Sundaes and Sodas and sat around and chatted and compared the news and nobody staggered when they came out of there.

Do you remember when the day was not complete if you did not go down to meet the train in the evening to see who got off and from there to the post office where the boxes had little windows in them and you could see when the mail was sorted and if a letter landed in your box or not?

Do you remember the Winnipeg Electric Steam boat that used to run back and forth between the dock in Lac du Bonnet and the dock across the river with full staff and the captain was Harry Nystedt?

Do you remember when medicine shelves in homes around 1920 contained the following: Vaseline, Iodine, Aspirin, White Liniment, Electric oil, Castor oil, Lydia Pinkham's (a baby in every bottle) and Carters Little Liver Pills? With these on hand you could treat almost anything yourself.

Do you remember when Lac du Bonnet had their own medicine man not associated with the

drugstore? This was Mr. Rosenholm Sr., father of Theodore Rosenholm in his late seventies. He was the distributor of a medicine that came in large 20 oz. bottles and on the label was the name in large letters, KURIKO. It was supposed to be good for anything that ailed you, from headache to constipation, and even for ingrown toenails. It was an internal medicine which could find the spot and it was very few homes that did not have a bottle of KURIKO on the shelf. Mr. Rosenholm lived three miles south of town and he delivered the medicine once a week as to orders.

Do you remember in the early twenties Lac du Bonnet had two doctors, namely Dr. Taylor and Dr. Malcolm and they were busy with house calls all over the Lac du Bonnet Municipality?

Do you remember in the early twenties Lac du Bonnet had two police forces — the RCMP and the Manitoba Provincial police and most of the crimes were just some farmers making homebrew and some town people making a buck selling it?

Do you remember when some houses in Lac du Bonnet were infested with bedbugs and they blamed it on the sawdust pile from the McArthur saw-mill?

Submitted by M.M.

# *Some of our Yesterdays*

by Helen Smith

In the area of public services, Lac du Bonnet has a unique history. Everyone knows that our water system resulted from the initiative of a few private citizens. It is not generally known that one private citizen turned the lights on in our Village.

It is quite understandable if some of us have been naive enough to assume that because the first hydro-electric development in Manitoba took place in our own back yard that Lac du Bonnet enjoyed the benefit of electricity from early days. A little thought brings the realization that supplying electricity to a community is an expensive proposition even when the power lines are within a stone's throw. So with power stations all round, at Pinawa, Pointe du Bois and later Great Falls, beginning in 1906, Lac du Bonnet remained power-less for obvious financial reasons until 1923.

One evening, at that time, Dr. Malcolm, resident physician here, spent an evening with Mr. E.V. Caton, George Lewis and K.C. Fergusson, at Great Falls which had gone into production in 1922. During their discussions, the subject of the supply of light and power to Lac du Bonnet arose. Mr. Caton pointed out that the number of residents and potential users did not warrant the expense to the Company of installing consumer service here. One thing led to another, and by the end of the evening Dr. Malcolm had decided to provide the financing necessary to install a 50 kw. transformer capable of stepping down the power from 60,000 volts to 2300; the necessary wiring, meters, etc. The power was purchased from the Manitoba Power Company and then sold by agreement with the Village on a meter basis. Hans Johnson was hired to read the meters; Miss McCullough, the postmistress, attended to the billing and collecting. And so the lights were turned on in Lac du Bonnet.

In June 1927, during a storm, lightning caused considerable damage to the transformer and a new one was required. By this time, Dr. Malcolm had moved east and was not too interested in re-investing in an enterprise which had not been any great financial success. The Winnipeg Electric

Company, parent of the Manitoba Power Company, agreed to take over, paid Dr. Malcolm his equity in the endeavour and gave service to this community until the formation of Manitoba Hydro in 1950.

## **THE BRIDGE THAT WAS**

by Helen Smith

The bridge which spans the Winnipeg River, roughly two miles north of Lac du Bonnet, gives access to the large areas of the Bird River, Lee River and Pointe du Bois. It is entirely unremarkable as bridges go but there is a far from prosaic story behind it.

The first bridge in that locality, built of timber, was constructed in 1907 to service the hydro development at Pointe du Bois. Tons of construction material rolled over it for years. Tragedy struck on June 30th, 1914, when a fifty foot span gave way just as the City Hydro train was approaching the west side of the river. The engine plunged into the water and the engineer, George Wrighton, was killed. The fireman escaped injury.

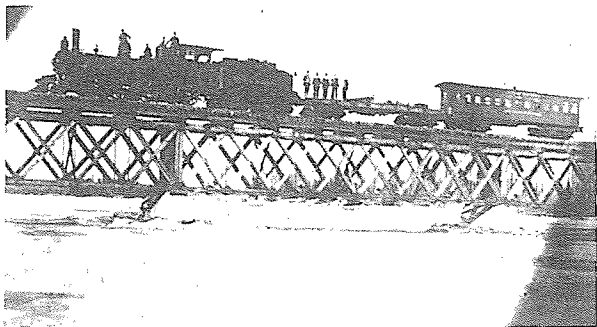
The loss of the bridge created very serious problems for residents of the Pointe and surrounding areas. Until the bridge was repaired, they were ferried back and forth across the river. A steam tug and scow were operated by the Winnipeg Electric Company, as well as a passenger boat capable of transporting a car or truck. The Municipality had cut a road through to the bridge from the corduroy road which led to 'old' Pinawa.

In time, the bridge was repaired and the train again in service. However, because the soundness of the substructure was suspect due to vibration, policy dictated that no passengers should cross the bridge on the train.

An unusual situation now became standard practice. Planks were laid across the sleepers and when the train reached either side of the bridge all disembarked. The engineer set the throttle and all walked across, waited for the train to catch up, whereupon everyone climbed aboard again.

Residents grew accustomed to breaking their





The train was built in Scotland in 1882 and is still in use in the summer months.

journey with a walk across a span eight feet wide without railings over a swiftly moving water. For some Winnipeg residents, it became an 'in' thing to do. An account in the Winnipeg Free Press of June 30th, 1958, recalls how a "sudden summer rain could make the walk very uncomfortable. Often several hundred people turned out for the City Hydro's advertised excursions to Pointe du Bois. The train stopped to unload at one end of the bridge and every person, save one, walked over to wait for the train. The man who stayed behind set the throttle to keep the train moving slowly, then he too got off and the train rumbled across the bridge empty. On a rainy day, the sight of all those tourists running over planks was something to see! . . ." Sam Square, a former superintendent of the hydro plant, related how he "remembers carrying my son across one morning when it was thirty below. He was about two then and we had to get him to the doctor."

This singular traffic problem existed for seventeen years and was responsible for many an anecdote

over the years. There was a daring young man in a Model T who drove his car across the narrow structure bumping over the ties with one wheel in and one outside the tracks; many a courting couple walked over to dances at Larsen's Point when it was too stormy to risk a boat! And then, there was the gentleman whose habit it was to spend one evening a week at the 'pub' and who refused to be thwarted by a risky walk. Following the habitual revelry, he crawled across on all fours when homeward bound closely attended, it must be assumed, by his guardian angel.

A new steel bridge for both rail and highway traffic was built in 1931 by the City of Winnipeg with assistance from the Federal Government, a short distance upstream from the original site. This, in present use, was raised, widened and reinforced when the level of the Winnipeg River was raised in 1952 upon completion of the dam at Powerview.

#### **Author's Note:**

The train, "Old No. 3" shown in the picture was built in Scotland in 1882. It was first operated by the C.P.R. and eventually retired from Winnipeg Hydro service in 1966. The engine is now leased from the City by the Vintage Locomotive Society who use it to pull its' Prairie Dog Central excursion train during the summer season.

Photographs: Courtesy of City Hydro.

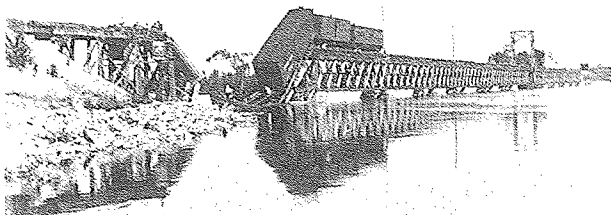
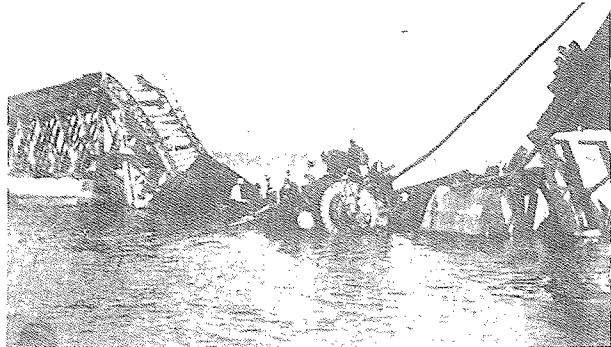
#### **These are our People!**

by Helen Smith

Too often, the achievements of individuals, accomplishments of benefit to their fellowmen and to their country, go unhonored and unsung simply because the memory of man is short. This is the story of the benefits resulting to the Province of Manitoba and many of its citizens through the ideas and efforts of one man, Harold Wells.

Born in Kent County near Chatham, Ontario, Harold went overseas in World War I with the militia of that city. Later released from military duty because of defective hearing, he came west to Moose Jaw where he worked on the ranch of his brother-in-law. Finding ranching too tame for his adventurous spirit, he joined the N.W.M.P. in 1918 only to find that here too his career would be circumscribed by his hearing problem. Learning that the Finger Lumber Company at The Pas was looking for men, he decided to go north. His first impressions of the frontier town of that day can best be described by he who experienced them and this Harold has promised to do.

The Shield country and its trailing fringe of bushland has exercised a hypnotic effect on many



These photos show the train and the 50 foot portion of the bridge which collapsed on June 30, 1914.

a man since the days of the voyageurs. Vast, unconquerable and incredibly ancient, its spell is such that those who fall under it are never again completely free. It demands the utmost in resourcefulness, courage and endurance from those who choose to live within it. Harold was a very young man when he first encountered it and for him, it was a case of love at first sight. Until his retirement, he lived and worked in Manitoba's northland leaving behind his own unique contribution to that rugged country and its inhabitants. The Registered Trapline System, in which he was the prime mover, has been a boon to all who engage in that demanding enterprise and equally of benefit to the economy of Manitoba.

Upon first arriving at The Pas, he was sent to the Carrot River Valley. An accident sent him into town on the day of the annual Dog Derby, an event of some importance in the north, and on that day Harold's fate was sealed. Here was the color, excitement and promise of adventure for which he had been looking. Progress always exacts some penalties. The snowmobile of today is faster and vastly more comfortable than travel by dog team. But a well-matched team is a lovely sight; the alert heads and tails like plumes; the eagerness with which they press against the colorful harness; the high yelps as they dash away across the crisp snow create a special kind of excitement. The spectacle that day was an added inducement to the young man who already felt that this was the country for him. 'The true north strong and free' is more than a line in our national anthem. It is a positive force in the lives of many Canadians.

So Harold joined the Provincial Police at The Pas and learned the lore of the land on long patrols from The Pas to Sturgeon Landing to Flin Flon by canoe in summer and dog team in winter. In 1922, he went to the Dominion Forestry and was stationed at Moose Lake as assistant to C.T. Mitchell whom many Lac du Bonnet residents will remember from his long service here. The Forestry office was later moved to Cormorant Lake where the R.C.A.F. had a summer base. Their planes, Avros, Vedettes and HS2L's provided the first aerial forest patrol. Among the pilots who were stationed there at that time were Sandy McDonald, Lee Stevenson and R. Carr-Harris... Harold's sixteen years with the Forestry, fourteen of which were spent at Thicket Portage (mile 185 on the Hudson Bay Railway) gave him further valuable training in the ways of the aloof country.

In those days, employment with the Forestry was on a seasonal basis and during the winter months Harold turned to a variety of other work. One year, he attended the University of Idaho, another was spent teaching in an Indian school. For many years he worked for Tom Lamb at

Moose Lake becoming overseer of the muskrat ranch there. When the Provincial Government took over its Natural resources in 1931, Harold joined the Game Branch where his intimate knowledge of the country, the people, the fur trade together with his police experience became a tremendous asset. When, in 1935-6, the Department of Mines and Natural Resources developed the Summerberry muskrat ranch, Harold was in charge of the highly successful venture.

From the beginning of the white man's invasion of Manitoba, fur and the wealth it represented had been the lure. In modern times, for a \$2.00 license fee, a man could roam wherever he chose, trapping at his own discretion. This led, in time, to indiscriminate practices i.e. the use of poison bait, carelessly left snares which sometimes trapped valuable animals accidentally whose pelts were wasted not harvested, and a disregard for the rights of others. In 1940, while patrolling in the vicinity of the H.B. Railroad, it occurred to Harold that if each trapper had his own defined area in which to trap many of the difficulties would be solved, both for the trapper and the Department. He submitted a report setting forth his ideas to Inspector L. Phinney at The Pas who, sensing the merit in the proposals, took it up with Departmental authorities in Winnipeg. In time, The Game, Lands and Surveys Branches became convinced the plan should be tried. It was put into effect on an experimental basis among the white trappers at Wabowden, Pickwitonei and Thicket Portage under Harold's supervision. He devised a plan for describing the individual boundaries which were shown on a map attached to the license. This successfully overcame one of the chief obstacles to the assignment of individual traplines.

The plan was an immediate success. The trappers were pleased, the necessity for the enforcement of Game laws was greatly reduced and the economy of the Province benefited by the increased harvest which meant increased revenue. The trappers asked for an expansion of the plan which the Department was now convinced was practicable. The Department of Indian Affairs sent a representative to investigate the usefulness of the plan as it might be applied to the Indian population. Accompanied by this representative, Hugh Conn of Ottawa, Harold made a complete survey of the needs of the Indians throughout northern Manitoba, visiting every reserve and settlement explaining the project. A glance at a map of Manitoba north of '53 will give an indication of the truly prodigious effort required to cover such a vast territory, a seemingly endless pattern of bush and water. It must be pointed out here that the survey would have been impossible without air transport which was provided throughout by the



The organization of the three areas south of '53 consumed Harold's time until shortly before his retirement. The time intervening was spent as a member of the Grand Rapids Fore Bay Commission charged with relocating the Indian population in that area which was made necessary by the Grand Rapids Hydro development.

It would require a book to do justice to the full story of Harold and his beloved project in which there is a wealth of story and anecdote. There is one which will be of interest to Lac du Bonnet readers. In 1952, during the organization of the eastern Manitoba RTL, a banquet for all the trappers of the area was held at Ernie Newsham's Bakery and Cafeteria in Bissett. It was a unique affair, well covered by Winnipeg papers, which included an exhibition of furs and trapping equipment and entertainment by 'trapper clowns' and a fearsome Medicine Man in wolf skin sounding, as one Winnipeg reporter put it, "as Harold Wells might sound if Harold were a Medicine Man." The menu featured beaverail soup which Harold had introduced at the first Trapper's Festival in The Pas, roast beaver, crisply fried flying squirrel and an assortment of jellies sent down by the famous Ma Kemp of Berens River, including her rose petal jam for which she is noted. The evening was a tremendous success.

Harold has been retired for six years now; other hands carry on the work which he began; a new generation of trappers has grown up knowing no other way of life than the RTL system, all unaware of the difficulties which once plagued their fathers or the effort necessary to overcome them. This is progress and the way it is. But the older folk remember and among them Harold's name is still a byword. A visiting writer once referred to him as "The Solomon of the Trap Lines" because of his skill at contentious problems among the trappers. Wells Lake in northern Manitoba, east of Reindeer Lake, was named in his honor for 'Outstanding work in Wildlife Conservation throughout nearly thirty years of service'.

Since his retirement, Harold has made his home in Lac du Bonnet. He spends his summers in his white cottage on the bank of the Winnipeg River cultivating his garden and visiting his many friends. Spare and hardy, still looking capable of putting in a day on the trail, his zest for adventure undiminished, he spends his winters roaming the globe and our winters are enlivened by the colorful accounts of his journeys which he sends to the Leader.

The youthful Harold who stood on the cold, windswept railway platform in The Pas in 1918, thirsting for adventure, found a lifetime of it.



Helen, with granddaughter Merinda, Michael's daughter.

## HELEN POLLITT SMITH

by Edythe Ehrlich

Helen Pollitt Smith (nee Kirkland) came to Lac du Bonnet in 1940 with her husband Hugh P. Smith, a pilot with the Manitoba Air Government Service.

Helen's contributions to our community began with her involvement as a founding member of the Home and School Association of Lac du Bonnet for which she worked tirelessly all the time she resided here.

Helen was an avid reader and a strong advocate of good reading for children and adults and so operated the first Travelling Library from the University of Manitoba from her own home for fifteen years and actively campaigned for the establishment of a Public Library in Lac du Bonnet.

Among her varied interests in local organizations and projects Helen was a very active volunteer worker for the Canadian Save the Children Fund.

Life throws unsuspected curves. Helen eventually learned she had M.S. This did not deter or lessen her interest in the welfare of others and she became an untiring worker for the physically handicapped.

Helen became a founding member and First Vice Chairman of the Manitoba League of the Physically Handicapped, at its inception in 1974.

Helen became chairman of the Transportation Committee which in 1976 was successful in persuading the Winnipeg City Council and the Province of Manitoba to establish the Handi-Transit as part of the Winnipeg Transit System which now provides transportation for all those unable to use the normal public facilities.

Helen, became chairman of the Human Rights Commission of Manitoba, which in 1976 succeeded in persuading the Provincial Government to amend Human Rights Legislation to extend protection to all the physically disabled in the

Province of Manitoba. Thus Manitoba became the first province in Canada to provide this legislation.

As chairman of the Public Education Committee, Helen's task is visiting schools in the city of Winnipeg, presenting a program acquainting school children with the facts of physical disabilities persons may have had at birth or may have acquired in life by accident or disease.

It was only natural with Helen's talent for writing she became editor of the League's Newsletter and in addition has written free-lance for the Manitoba Historical Society and many other papers.

In addition Helen has done volunteer tutoring in English skills in the program for adult illiterates and also served on the Board of Citizens' Advocacy of Manitoba and is a member on the Board of the Society for Crippled Children and Adults.

Helen at present resides at the Kiwanis Centre for the Deaf in Winnipeg. She is a member of the Tenants' Association Committee of the Centre.

Helen's husband Hugh, since retirement as Director of the Manitoba Provincial Air Service, resides in their home at Lac du Bonnet and finds time after his frequent visits to Helen to be active on the Lac du Bonnet Health Centre Board and the local Magistrate. He also writes articles in his spare moments. His garden proves he has a "green thumb".

Their elder son Michael, wife Marlyn and three children make their home in Crystal City. Michael is a teacher at the Crystal City Collegiate. Richard (Rick), wife Marlene and son make their home in Winnipeg. Rick teaches at the General Vanier School.

Helen is an exemplary humanitarian, a courageous and tireless worker for the welfare and betterment of all, especially the young, the underprivileged and physically handicapped.

Submitted by Edythe Ehrlich

## THE PAST AND PRESENT OF OUR WATER CO-OP

by Helen Smith

Very soon, a Lac du Bonnet Company which is unique in Manitoba, possibly in Canada, will cease to exist in its present form. This is the Lac du Bonnet Co-op Water Company which will shortly be taken over by the Village. This public utility is unique in that it was organized and financed by the citizens of Lac du Bonnet, and it has been directed and operated by a Board of elected representatives of those citizens. The Board's record of stewardship has been outstanding.

The Water Co-op began in 1950 with a capital outlay of \$19,500.00, the system has been expand-

ed and improved constantly until today it's worth is estimated at over \$100,000.00.

More amazing still is the fact that during its eighteen years of operation, it has required only two increases in rates charged to the users, from \$4.00 per quarter to the present \$6.25 for unlimited use of water which must constantly meet Department of Health standards.

Before 1942, only a few homes along Lake Avenue enjoyed the luxury of running water which was made possible by privately owned pumps. The present system can trace its origin to 1942 when a group of citizens living on Lake and Park Avenues, between the present Chapman and Smith residences, decided to install a private water system large enough to serve these several homes. The small pumping station was located on the property of Dr. W.S. Ried, the present Bowen residence.

Over the next two or three years, the system was extended to include the property between the Smith residence and Trans Air as well as the Rosenberg residence and the Lac du Bonnet School. Due to the limitations of the pumping station, no further extensions could be permitted on this system.

The rest of the town relied for its water supply on the 'water man', and every kitchen had its 50 gallon galvanized water barrel which held the family's water supply. Deliveries were made as regularly as the householder required by Cliff Bruneau, later Tony Swetz and still later by Harry Parks.

It is Bruneau whom most of us remember from what are laughingly known as the 'good old days'. He and his horse and wagon were the most familiar sight on our streets. The horse was generally considered to be so knowledgeable that had he been able to step out of his traces and pick up the buckets, he might well have made the deliveries un-assisted. Many are the stories told of Bruneau and his horse. One in particular is memorable.

Sometimes on the way home at night, Bruneau stopped at a local spot known as 'the ten-cent store' before inflation. He did so on one very cold winter evening. Time passed. Some of the boys who'd been whooping it up eventually emerged into the frosty night and there before the door they found the patient Dobbin, icicles on his whiskers, his coat glistening with rime. The sight aroused their humanitarian instincts and with one accord they unhitched the horse and led him into the warmth and cheer which his master was enjoying. History does not record the ensuing conversation, but it does record that before the icicles had time to melt, Dobbin was again out in the cold, cruel world accompanied, this time, by his master.

In 1949, the late Fred Dufily and a group of



citizens living along Minnewawa Street, together built another private water system. It soon became evident that if the Village could not proceed with a municipal water system, there would result a number of small systems which could only serve those living fairly close to the river.

A committee was set up to study costs and to determine the minimum required to launch a single system which would supply the basic needs of the community.

The committee came to the conclusion that the support of 100 citizens, willing to invest \$150.00 each would be sufficient to begin the project. They learned that they could purchase a secondhand digging machine which would greatly reduce the cost of installation and the firm of Dufily and Skoglund was willing to begin work.

Although the minimum financial needs were not forthcoming at the time, Mr. Alex McIntosh offered to loan whatever balance was required to expedite matters. It must be mentioned here that if those already on private systems had not agreed to give them up and invest in a village system, the scheme would have been financially impossible.

The committee applied to the Village Council for a franchise to lay the lines down the public thoroughfares. The Lac du Bonnet Co-op Water Co., as it was named, was granted a 30 year franchise with the proviso that, if at any future date the Co-op could not continue to operate as a Co-op, the Village reserved the right to take over the system.

By August of 1950 the work was underway, the legalities completed, approval granted by the Public Utility Board, a contract signed with Dufily and Skoglund for installation in the amount of \$19,275.00. A loan of \$3,000 was obtained from Mr. A. McIntosh.

The first Committee consisted of, president Kiziak, vice-pres., Harry Springman and a committee of J.C. Uhlman, R. McIntosh, C. Hodgkins, R. Freund, J. Sparman, A. Arsenault, M. Kabaluk, J. Petrus, N. McCoy, representatives of the private systems and E. McLeod was appointed Secretary Treasurer.

In 1952, Harry Springman was elected president and a general meeting voted to reduce the board to five members.

In 1954, the newly-elected board consisted of, president H.P. Smith, vice-president, Roy Freund and a committee of E. Lavoie, Arvid Dancyt, E. Dzinkowski and later M. Torrance.

It is largely due to these men, who have given freely of their time and enterprise, that the Co-op has grown to it's present proportions.

The original system consisted of one 4 inch main line running from the pump house at the foot of Minnewawa Street down Lake Avenue and

from the intersection of Lake and Park to the present Allied store. All lateral lines were one and two inch galvanized pipe; no refinery could be afforded on the tight budget. Because of the minimum amount of capital, the system in the beginning was intended to supply water for household use only. By October 1950, some homes and businesses on the main line were obtaining water and the first bills were issued in January 1951.

The original investment of \$150.00 per lot covered one outlet which gave paid-up water rights to one building per lot. The charge for use of water was \$4.00 per quarter.

In 1954, due to the building of the dam at McArthur Falls, the water level of the Winnipeg River was raised 12 feet. This necessitated changing the location of the pump house. Suitable arrangements were made with the Manitoba Hydro and the present pump house was constructed.

It was due to the existence of the water distribution system that the Village was able to negotiate the beginning of the present sewer system in 1954.

By 1956, the Lac du Bonnet Co-op Water Company was officially considered a municipal water system therefore becoming subject to all the regulations laid down by the Department of Health for a public water system. To conform with these regulations, a hydromatic pressure tank and controlled chlorination was installed and in 1957 approval was granted by the Department of Health. Another important addition was the stand pipe installed for the use of the fire truck, allowing the truck to be filled in less than five minutes.

In 1958, the original concept of supplying water for household use only, had been far exceeded. With a building boom in housing and the consequent landscaping, came a demand for a greater volume of water for use on lawns and gardens. This was desirable progress, but it created new problems as the original system had not been designed to handle such a volume. Further planning, which led to increased pumping facilities and new regulations, became essential.

By 1964, the board decided that due to the growth of the town and the ever-increasing demand for an adequate water supply, a start should be made to replace the original small lines with a modern distribution system. This conversion, begun in 1964 will, by the end of this summer have resulted in most of the original lines throughout the village having been converted to large lines. It is planned to carry this conversion to the south subdivision next year. During the next three years, most of the entire system will have been replaced giving Lac du Bonnet a completely modern distribution system. This has been carried out without the necessity of raising extra capital.

With the placement of the new lines, council began the installation of fire hydrants throughout the Village.

To meet the increasing needs of the community and to provide an adequate supply of water for fire protection, the next major step to be undertaken will have to be the installation of an underground water storage reservoir and filtering system.

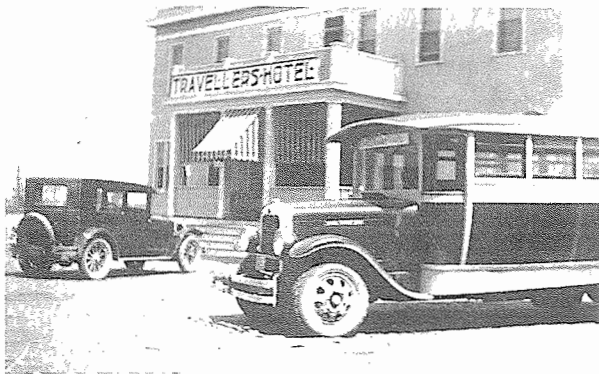
Due to the rapid growth of the system in recent years which has paralleled the growth of the village, the board decided a year ago that the time was past when the future of the system should be dependant on a board of elected citizens. Negotiations were begun, with the consent of the shareholders, to transfer the complete system to the authority of the Village Council. The transfer will take place when a Bill, now being prepared for the next session of the Legislature, is approved.

When that occurs, a unique chapter in the history and development of Lac du Bonnet will be

closed, a chapter wherein it was proven that if the people want an improvement badly enough to work for it, a way can be found to realize their ambitions, who can assess the advantages which the water system has conferred on the Village? How can one judge the full effectiveness of that decision taken by a few citizens who decided that if the Village could not put in a water system, they could - and did.

Now that the days of the Water Co-op are drawing to a close, we should reflect on those original few who had the vision and the boards who have subsequently borne the burden of administration and have guided the growth of this important utility from it's lowly beginning to its present status. The citizenry to whom the Lac du Bonnet Co-op Water Company Ltd. belongs should feel both pride and gratitude for their stewardship. (Turned over to the Village of Lac du Bonnet, January 1, 1970.)

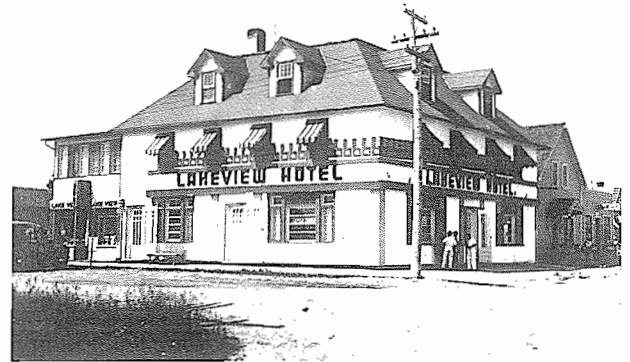
# *Early Businesses*



Travellers Hotel



C. P. R. Station, 1924



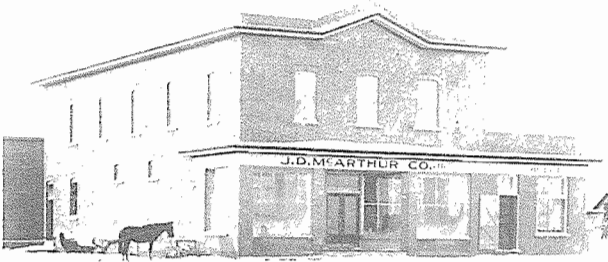
Lakeview Hotel, 1941



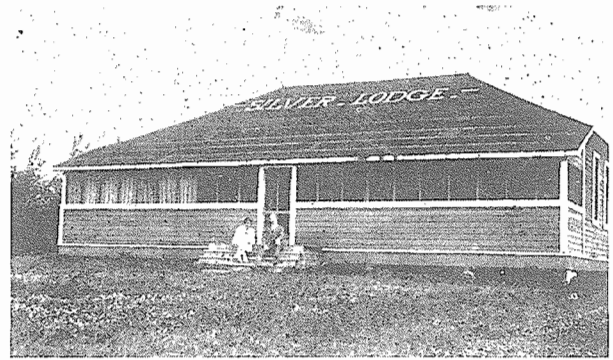
Formerly the R. N. Campbell Store, Ambrose Pharmacy opened in 1949. Miss Linda (Nellie) Ambrose, pharmacist, now owned by Mr. Ken Carson. Mrs. Betty Carson is the pharmacist.



Lac du Bonnet Fur and Trading Co.



J. D. McArthur Co. Ltd.



Silver Lodge  
(A real vacation rest resort)



Joe Sparman's Garage, 1930

# *Economic Development*

## **SOME ASPECTS OF THE ECONOMICAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE LAC DU BONNET AREA**

by Eleanor Stardom

**From graduate studies for Prof. G. Friesen, St. Paul's College, University of Manitoba, 1978**

Lac du Bonnet has been blessed with many valuable natural resources that have determined the development of its economy. Located 75 highway miles north east of Winnipeg, it is situated on the west bank of the Winnipeg River. It is only natural that industries such as agriculture, timber, pulp and paper, hydro-electric power, tourism and mining have contributed to its economy since the turn of the century.

The first commercial enterprise to reach Lac du Bonnet was the fur trade. In 1734, Pierre de La Verendrye became the first European to travel the Winnipeg River route to the west and it subsequently became the major trade route for the Montreal-based North West Company carrying voyageurs' canoes laden with furs from inland posts to the Fort William headquarters then back again in the fall with trade goods and supplies.

Sir Alexander MacKenzie, one of many reknown travellers on the Winnipeg River route attributed the name to "a custom the Indians have of crowning stones laid in a circle with wreathes of herbage and branches."

Constant travel through the area by voyageurs and trappers as well as published reports and journals of other travellers must have awakened many to the potential of the Winnipeg River area with its direct link to Winnipeg trade centres.

In 1901 the first record of industry in Lac du Bonnet appears in Henderson's Directory. The Lac du Bonnet Mining, Development and Manufacturing Company operated a brickworks there as well as owning the land on which the townsite was located. Their complete holdings were purchased that year by Mr. John Duncan McArthur, a man who was considered one of western Canada's leading businessmen and railway contractors and the initiator of most of

Lac du Bonnet's early industries.

By 1919, he had built up the brickworks into a business that employed fifty men and boasted a steam engine fed by a 2,500 gallon water reservoir which supplied power for the operation while other local businesses and homes made do with oil lamps or Coleman incandescent lights.

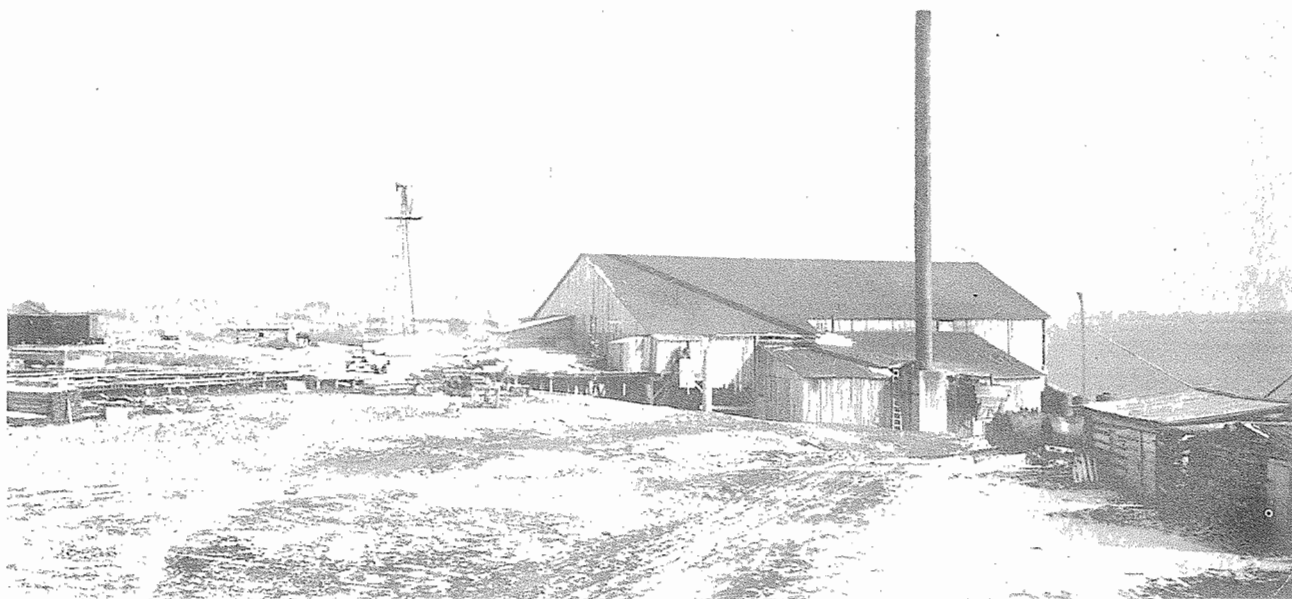
It was the official arrival of the railroad on June 10, 1901 that put Lac du Bonnet on the map. Construction on the CPR branch line from Molson to Lac du Bonnet had begun in 1899 and its completion held out the prospect of a bright future for the town by providing direct access to Winnipeg markets and easy transportation for new settlers.

As well as operating the local brickyard, McArthur extended his involvement in Manitoba's timber industry in 1902 by constructing a sawmill on the Winnipeg River just north east of the present townsite. Logs were brought in from his camp situated near Old Pinawa. Lumber and fuel wood



J. D. McArthur whose fabulous career as a western railroad builder in the first quarter of this century earned him international fame. McArthur Falls, the latest power development is named for him.





was shipped by rail to his lumber yard at Higgins and Princess.

The impetus that McArthur's Lac du Bonnet operation gave to his career was evident when in 1906 he became one of the first directors of the newly formed Beaver Lumber Company in Winnipeg where he served as Vice President from 1909 to 1925.

The demand for lumber for settler's homesteads, towns and railways as well as for urban construction provided an eager market.

In 1918, McArthur's sawmill closed down but he continued to move with the times in securing additional markets for local wood, which was found to be more suitable for the pulpwood paper industry.

He secured pulpwood berths and a permit to develop the Pine Falls power site which would supply the necessary hydro power for the proposed mill. Due to circumstances beyond his control his plans failed. McArthur's death in December, 1925 prevented his seeing the realization of his dream, the formation of the Manitoba Paper Company.



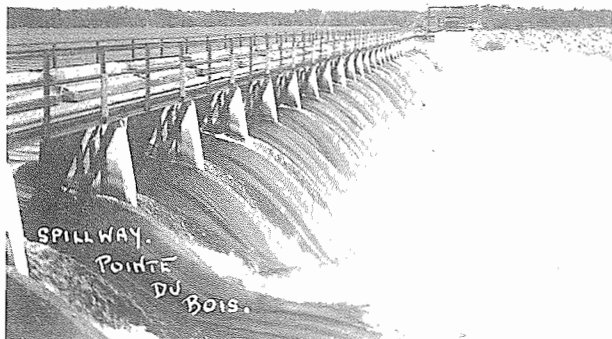
Manitoba Paper Company, Pine Falls, Manitoba.

He had sold the remainder of assets including a 2,000 acre farm and 42 square miles of timber berths to his nephew Alex McIntosh, another Lac du Bonnet pioneer. The success with which McIntosh carried on McArthur's timber industry in the area is demonstrated by his inclusion in a list of pioneers of note involved in the pulp and paper business for his role as a supplier who filled many of Pine Falls' early pulpwood contracts.

Construction began in 1903 on the Pinawa power plant at an initial investment of three million dollars and as the terminal point on the railway, Lac du Bonnet became the centre through which all the equipment, supplies and labour were funnelled. Local residents were an important source of labour during the three year construction phase that boosted both the town's economy and population from 400 to 600 by 1908.

It was during this period that J. D. McArthur extended his control over the Lac du Bonnet economy even further by opening a general store at 1st and Park, a two-storey brick building advertised as the Pioneer Store of Lac du Bonnet selling everything from bricks and hay to food and clothing. There is no record of a store in the community prior to 1905 and if this was the case it would be welcomed by local residents and outside labourers alike. For McArthur's part, it gave him an opportunity to capitalize on the wages of other commercial enterprises as well as his own. His monopoly ended several years later with the arrival of Adelman's general store in 1907 and Daniel Kaufman's in 1908. Never one to miss an opportunity, however, McArthur became postmaster in 1907 and with the Post Office located next to his store, he ensured that every householder would have to pass by his enterprise at least once a week.

In 1908, at an initial cost of \$3,250,000, con-



Spillway, Pointe du Bois.

struction began on what is now the oldest plant still operating on the Winnipeg River. At Pointe du Bois, the first power generated by the plant reached Winnipeg on October 16, 1911 after having provided eight years of almost continuous economic boom to the town of Lac du Bonnet.

In 1914, the railway was extended north to Great Falls, providing another opportunity for local labour and partially replacing the trail linking Lac du Bonnet and Fort Alexander built in 1912. Although this line was used primarily by McArthur's company to move logs from Camp II to Lac du Bonnet, it was a necessary prerequisite to the development of the Great Falls power plant at Little du Bonnet Falls.

Daily train trips to and from Lac du Bonnet gave the town the same status of shipping and supply middleman as well as a source of labour that it had enjoyed with Pointe du Bois.

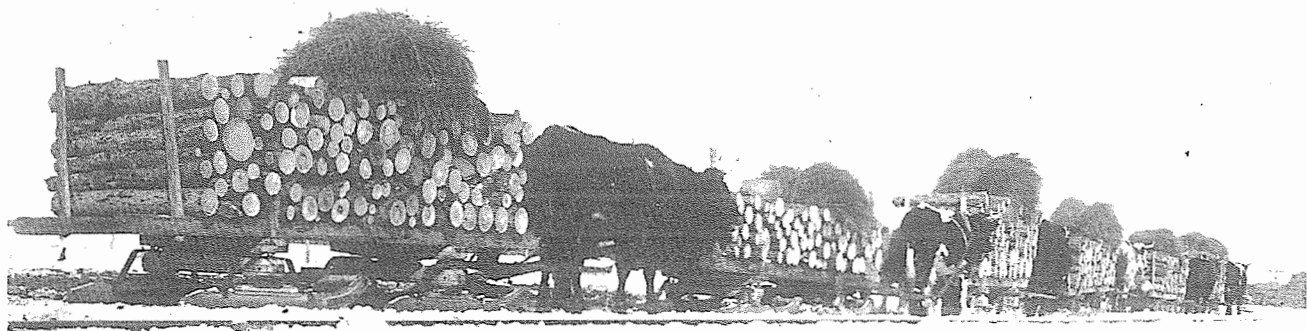
On April 6, 1912, the Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet was formed with Frank Allard of the local business community serving as first Reeve. He approached the Royal Bank in Winnipeg regarding the establishment of a branch in Lac du Bonnet and in 1919 both Lac du Bonnet and Whitemouth became sub branches of the Royal Bank in Beausejour.

Bank personnel spent two days a week at each sub branch returning to Beausejour for Friday and Saturday morning. In 1921, Lac du Bonnet acquired branch status and for forty years, the Royal was the only bank to service the town, progressing from a section of Shaw's Drug Store to their present location on Park opened in November, 1971.

Mr. Bob Emmett, the first Royal bank manager in Lac du Bonnet (1921-1927), remembered that the economy of the town was very hit and miss during the 1920's but just when things were looking their worst, something always seemed to turn up. While McArthur's saw mill and brickyard were closed, there were substantial amounts of cordwood and pulpwood coming into Lac du Bonnet from the Brightstone and Landerville districts,



Mr. Frank Allard and Mr. Omer Lavoie.



Cord and pulpwood coming in from the Red Deer, Brightstone and Landerville districts.

hauled in first by ox team then by horse. Farming did not play a large role in the economy in the early twenties as the land was still being cleared and it was not until 1925-1926 that the first car load of grain was shipped out. As there were no elevators, three homesteaders from the Brightstone area had to go together to make up a car load. Unfortunately, the increased cost of loading and unloading the grain due to the necessity of putting in bulkheads to separate the three lots of grain and the low grade received, resulted in disappointing net returns.

Mr. Emmett confirmed the theory that, as the railhead for Old Pinawa, Pointe du Bois and Great Falls, Lac du Bonnet enjoyed an increase in retail trade. This was especially true on paydays when the local train would bring in over a hundred men from Great Falls alone. The bank would be kept open late that evening and with a total staff of three, they were kept busy cashing cheques and opening accounts.

A new industry that started in Lac du Bonnet in the late 1920's which remains a mainstay to the economy today is the air transport industry.

By 1926, the plane had proven its worth especially in servicing remote areas of the north and, banking on its future potential, James A. Richardson of Winnipeg founded Western Canada Airways Limited.

Lac du Bonnet had three essential elements to support an air transport industry. It was situated on a lake which offered a natural runway of 3.5 miles for ski or float planes and it had a direct rail line to Winnipeg and other supply centres. However an industry needs a market to succeed and it was Lac du Bonnet's location between the newly opened mines in the Red Lake area to the east and the central Manitoba Mines to the north that ensured its success.

It is evident that the mining industry would never have developed as rapidly as it did in these areas without the bush plane.

The rapid exploration of the area's resources that followed Richardson's initiative opened up new centres requiring equipment, food and general supplies that extended the boundaries of Lac du Bonnet's trade area.

As well as providing a market for the air transport industry, the mines boosted retail sales and Lac du Bonnet became a "last stop" where many prospectors purchased supplies before returning to spend the winter in the bush.

The airplane was not the only form of transportation that evolved during the 1920's that affected Lac du Bonnet's economy.

In 1926 the Milner Ridge road paralleling the railroad from Seddon's Corner to Lac du Bonnet was completed. This was described on a current

map as a well-graded road whose upkeep was aided by natural deposits of gravel from the old Lake Agassiz beach ridge. This was to serve as the only road into the town until the highway through Seven Sisters was constructed in the 1950's.

Mr. Emmett recalls that Sparman's Garage, the first in town, opened after the completion of the highway, indicating a growing need for automotive services. By 1931, the extension of the road from Lac du Bonnet to Pine Falls was under construction, opening up new trade areas for Lac du Bonnet service centres.

One business that definitely received a boost from the new highway was tourism. Mr. Emmett remembered that before the road went in there were several summer cottages around the lake and Nels E. Johnson was providing tourist accommodation at his summer resort, Silver Lodge. By the time Mr. Emmett left in 1927 tourists were visiting the area in ever increasing numbers.

By 1936, traffic on the road had increased to the point where two bus lines were running daily between Lac du Bonnet and Winnipeg. Stuart Bus Lines left the town at 4:30 p.m. and advertised connections with the planes to the mines while the Red River Motor Coach Lines Ltd. left at 8:30 a.m. promising a 2½ hour trip to Winnipeg. The fact that there was a high enough demand to support two bus lines during this depressed period again confirms the important role the mines played in buoying up the economy.

In 1937 Lac du Bonnet listed its first grain elevator in the phone book. It was operated by the



Opened December 1934.

Canadian Consolidated Grain Co. and advertised liberal advances, prompt settlement, absolute safety and connections with terminal elevators in Fort William and Port Arthur.

World War II provided the impetus needed to thrust Lac du Bonnet's economy out of the Depression slump. The end of the drought helped farmers have crops to supply the high demand for wheat. Wood pulp was in equally high demand with the result that in April, 1940 a 50% increase was reported in the amount of timber taken out of the Lac du Bonnet district over that of 1939 to fulfill contracts with the Kenora Pulp and Paper Mills and the Manitoba Paper Mill at Pine Falls.

The surest sign of increased prosperity is a rise in the construction business and Lac du Bonnet reflected this trend.

Its climax came in December, 1940 with the reformation of the Board of Trade which had been inactive for over ten years. The new officers included Mr. James Uhlman, President, Alex McIntosh, local lumber merchant as Vice President, Secretary Percival Jones who was associated with the Commercial Hotel and Casey's Inn and Treasurer L. Sinclair, manager of Beaver Lumber.

The culmination of this economic prosperity came on January 1, 1948 when the town of Lac du Bonnet was officially incorporated. Joe Sparman, owner of Sparman's Garage, was acclaimed as the town's first mayor with A. Arsenault, M. F. Brown, former pilot and manager of the Red and White Store, J. W. Carron and M. F. Mikliechuck, another store owner, serving as council members.

Having finally achieved incorporated status, the town set to work to attract some of the province's increasing tourist trade. The abundance of nearby beaches and lakes with excellent fishing were becoming popular with Manitobans and Americans alike and it was felt that their goals would be best achieved by constructing another road to Lac du Bonnet paralleling the old Brookfield Road to Zeig's Corner.

Although the Milner Ridge Road was the first and only road to Lac du Bonnet for thirty years it was soon bypassed once No. 11 was constructed. Although it was designated as a provincial highway in 1961, it was not paved until 1974-1975. The paving of these highways finally provided safe and easy access for tourists interested in camping, swimming, boating, fishing and hunting in the Lee and Bird River areas, many of whom stopped in Lac du Bonnet to purchase supplies, licences and automotive needs as well as food and accommodation. A boom in tourism occurred after No. 11 was paved. Another offshoot of this boom was the air charter business based in and around Lac du Bonnet.

The popularity of the Lac du Bonnet area for

sport fishing was indicated in a 1967 government survey that reported 32,000 fishermen in a 32 mile area from the Pinawa Channel to the mouth of Lac du Bonnet. When the fishing season is over, there is an abundance of moose, white-tail deer, upland game birds and waterfowl to attract hunters.

The increased mobility that resulted from paving No. 11 also contributed in part to the increase in automotive services by 77% from 1956 to 1977 and in food and beverage outlets by 80% over the same period.

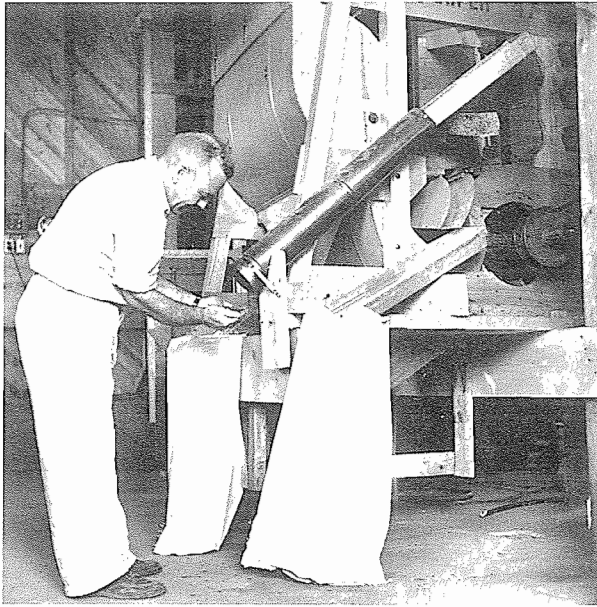
While tourism was once a strictly seasonal industry, the increased use of snowmobiles for family recreation in the 1960's and the recent upsurge of cross country skiing has resulted in many resorts and cottages being used for weekend trips in winter as well as in summer. This would place even more emphasis on Lac du Bonnet as a supply centre as most resort stores still remain closed for the winter.

One little-known business that has operated on a relatively small scale in the Lac du Bonnet vicinity for many years is wild rice harvesting. The area east of Lake Winnipeg and the Winnipeg River, particularly the Whiteshell, provides the most suitable habitat in the province for wild rice which was prized as a food source by both Indian and voyageur. It is usually found in stands along the edge of lakes, marshes and slow moving streams and flourishes best in muddy soil where its dense masses keep out other competitive water plants as well as making access difficult for harvesters.

Local native people are the main source of labour for harvesting as mechanical harvesters are not allowed on crown land. Usually there are two men in a canoe, one to propel it through the rice stands while the other books the stalks into the boat and taps off the heads with a "picking stick". This process is repeated several times in the same stand during the two to three week ricing period until the entire crop is harvested. The average yield



Jack Wade at right.



Jack Wade

is 300-400 pounds a day but it can fluctuate widely due to the sensitivity of wild rice to climatic changes, disease and water level variations.

A second form of harvesting is the mechanical harvester, used by companies or individuals who have obtained a concession for a particular lake that allows them to manage its water levels and harvest the rice.

Due to the high cost of processing, the crop is usually sold unhulled to modern processing plants where it is dried, toasted, dehulled, winnowed, cleaned, and packaged. The largest market is the United States but it is also shipped to Europe and Asia. However, with a growing interest in gourmet cooking shown by the general public, it should have a greater marketability at the local level.

The government of Manitoba views the wild rice business as a means of developing local initiative and economy as well as helping to spread Manitoba's name around the globe.

Another industry located near the town of Lac du Bonnet which has had a pronounced effect on its economy is the Whiteshell Nuclear Research Establishment.

Over the years, WNRE has offered steady employment to Lac du Bonnet residents. Young people, in particular, have received the benefit of on-the-job training in modern skills and trades such as computer science, lab and reactor research and administrative work that offer a viable option to moving to the city. Because of the physical limitations of the Pinawa townsite, some families have chosen to live in the Lac du Bonnet area and commute.

The lack of theatres, restaurants, automotive outlets and hardware stores in Pinawa attracts consumers to Lac du Bonnet for everyday purchases. In addition, the local taxi service has the contract for all trips between Pinawa and the Winnipeg airport, the local bakery supplies Pinawa's grocery store and Osis Building Supply has a lumber yard just out of the townsite limits.

This new infusion of energy into the Lac du Bonnet economy was the main reason the Bank of Montreal established a branch there in 1961.

Thus the location of a growing long-term industry at WNRE was just the impetus needed to end the Royal Bank's forty year monopoly.

What, then, in Lac du Bonnet's economic future? Lac du Bonnet's future role is a continuation of its present status as a service centre for the district.

Its future success lies in its ability to adapt to changes in the character of the area it services.

In 1972 construction on the Bonny Vista Lodge was completed, the first senior citizen housing project in the area. With a business community that has shown itself to be both enterprising and open to change, Lac du Bonnet is assured an active role in the economics of southeastern Manitoba for years to come.



# *Lac du Bonnet*

## *Family Histories*



**LAC DU BONNET'S GRAND OLD LADY  
MRS. AHLGREN**

A picture taken when Mrs. Ahlgren reached her 87th birthday, and was visited by a number of old friends during the day to offer their congratulations and best wishes.

Many bush workers, miners and prospectors can look back to the old days when Granny Ahlgren's door was always open and they were assured of a good meal and warm welcome whenever they arrived in town. Several fellows who in the past enjoyed her hospitality wish to say "Happy birthday Mrs. Ahlgren and thank you."

### **THE JULIUS ANDERSON MEMOIRS** by Julius Anderson of St. George

My dad, Olaf Anderson came from Sweden to Winnipeg with his parents in 1906, to dad's brother Gustave Anderson of 66 Martha Street, Winnipeg. Uncle Gust had a contract with C.N.R., Canadian Northern at that time, later the Canadian National, for so much per ton of coal used by the locomotives from Winnipeg to Edmonton so he had a free pass on C.N. at all times. He hired his own men and paid them. Then for a while he operated a wood yard in later years. Dad worked

for the C.N. when they built the old "Round House" and shops in Fort Rouge. He also worked at the "Old Pinawa" on Lee River or Pinawa Channel as they called it. When mom and the rest of the family came to Winnipeg the 22nd of August, 1910 he was working for Winnipeg Paint and Glass up and until the "First World War".

Then came the war years, no work, no unemployment insurance, no nothing, you either had it or you didn't. I was seventeen years old and struggled along getting the odd job in Winnipeg. Dad and my brother-in-law Leo Bjorkman had made a boat of cedar in Winnipeg and sent it on C.P.R. to Lac du Bonnet and put it in the Winnipeg River and rowed it to McArthur Falls and carried it past this falls and "Grand du Bonnet Falls and Grand du Bonnet Rapids" - the distance of over a mile. They called it Long Portage those days and believe me it must have been long and a tiresome job to lug the boat or canoe and then track back for your grub and mail. Mitchell was our first mailman but he enlisted in the army. I guess he got tired of carrying mail to Fort Alexander as he had to portage Mud Falls and Silver Falls, Pine Falls and Manitou Rapids. Then came the rails to what is now Great Falls. I believe Andy Bruce took over the mail route and we had the handcar to pump to and from Lac du Bonnet. Later Domino Vincent of St. George who installed a "Casey Jones Stationary Engine" with belt and pulley so you'd start the motor and then press on a lever to tighten the belt and Lac du Bonnet "Here I come". I worked in Winnipeg for the Swedish Importing and Grocery Co., corner of Ellen and Logan. Later for City Dairy for \$18.00 a week and 4% of my sales for wages. Milk was ten cents a quart, butter sixty-five cents and buttermilk five cents a quart.

I quit the dairy and took a job building grain elevators in 1917 and received fifty cents an hour. The winter of 1916-1917 dad and Victor Bjorkman cut logs for J. D. McArthur for four cents a log and board. J. D. McArthur had 125 men in camps back of Mud Falls, what is now the farm of Conrad Caya. Matt. Dupont and a Paul Masson hauled or drove the water tank at night to

freeze the ice road. Alex Dancyt was cook and a Pete Rabin helper and Pete Manisto was top loader. The logs were hauled out ten miles, then in spring Mr. Markusson from Riverland would come up and run the Logloader to load logs on the flat cars. Frank Waters was Engineer on the locomotive and Emil Nasstrom was fireman and Jack Thomson brakeman. A man by the name of "Scragge" was conductor. Hope I've spelled it right.

Dad located on SE 5-18-11E and my brother-in-law Leo Bjorkman on NE 5-18-11E. Then began the fun cutting down poplar 75 to 180 feet high and anything from 16-18 to 28 inches on the stump just slashed down to burn and make room for farming. It sounds like a fairy tale now but it's fact and I can prove it. Our nearest neighbor was Chas. Carlson and his brother-in-law Emmanuelle Sandberg and a Frenchman Henri Lefranier and a meti or Indian Joe Bailey.

Then there were the good oldtimers of St. George — the Duponts, Chevrefils and Vincents. Good honest hardworking farmers.

There are so many stories that could be told from this "neck of the woods" that are on my mind, it's hard to put them in the proper place for printing. One story that stands out in my mind is when Mrs. Chas. Carlson came back from a week in Winnipeg. I believe she had been in to the Eaton's "January Sale" as you had to watch for bargains those days in order to stretch your dollar as far as possible and she always did go in to these sales. That was her yearly "holiday" if you can call it that. Well, you had to stay in Lac du Bonnet overnight so the next morning Mitchell, the mailman, harnessed his five dogs and loaded up his mail and stuff and Mrs. Carlson seemed a little impatient so he said "you can start walking if you like, I'll catch up to you." The day was dull and it looked like snow. However, Mrs. Carlson kept walking and looking back. Then it started to snow and a little more and a little heavier. Well, she had covered so many miles that it seemed useless to turn back. Mr. Mitchell must have had a "Sputnick" too many and forgot about Mrs. Carlson. He did not come so Mrs. Carlson just kept on walking. Mr. Carlson was waiting and felt Mitchell should have passed long ago so something seemed to tell him to cross the river and go to meet them. They found Mrs. Carlson stumbling along. Mr. Carlson and his son Eric helped her the rest of the way. I believe she was five or six months pregnant so they gave her a good footbath and rubbed her legs to get the blood circulating properly. Some of the ladies from Great Falls that came for a visit would ask sometime "Don't you find it lonesome here?" Mrs. Carlson would answer "I've been busy all my life, I haven't had time to be lonesome."

I remember Mr. Robidoux. The St. George people hauling hay and farm produce to Lac du Bonnet would stay at Robidoux'. Supper, bed, breakfast and stable room for the team \$2.25. I used to stay at Mrs. Ahlgren's. I don't think she had any trouble getting through the "Pearly Gates" when she left this world. Neither did Mrs. Samwald of Great Falls or Mrs. Camille Lafranier of Broadland. The memory of those kind ladies will live in my book of memories forever. I remember Mr. Carlson going to Lac du Bonnet for his yearly supply of flour - 24 bags, 2 bags a month it took to feed his family with bread and poor mom had to do all the baking.

After the First War was over they found money to start Great Falls power plant. The cofferdam was made at Great Falls in 1918 but come winter everything closed up. Then Sandberg sold his land to a Carl J. Carlson and Jonas Carlson, no relation to Chas. Carlson. Carl J. Carlson was a "Rockman". He blasted the tunnel under the Red River for the Shoal Lake water line to Winnipeg. He also supervised the channel at Mud Falls, also at Slave Falls. Jonas Carlson was a blacksmith. I fell in love and married his daughter Anna in 1926. We had six children, four girls and two boys. God called my daughter Dorothy in 1968 and my most beloved wife May 28th, 1979.

Then there was an Ed. Sandquist moved in so in 1918 the Broadland school was built. Then we cut crib logs for Fraser Brace Co. that erected Great Falls Power house and Dam so we made a little money. My brother-in-law bought a small sawmill and shipped lumber to Brown and Rutherford in Winnipeg for \$22.00 a thousand rough 24-26 planed, knot free spruce that you can't get today, for ten times the price. I remember the old brickyard in Lac du Bonnet, Wellman's Hotel, the sawmill, the boarding house and the side spur where we parked the handcar right where the Walbeck Theatre is now. Also Mr. Letain, the section foreman, Dick Campbell, Hans Johnson, Allard, the butcher, Shaw's Drugstore, Maud McCulloch, Olga, Freda and Esther Simonson.

The Pioneer Store was quite the landmark back in 1914-1916 and all the Ukrainians and their oxteams from Brightstone, Red Deer, Lowland looked like a herd of reindeer with all the horns and it was cordwood and cordwood and more cordwood shipped out of Lac du Bonnet. Just come to think of it, Mr. Carlson delivered the first load of Durham wheat to the first elevator built in Lac du Bonnet. I remember Nils Johnson and Silver Lodge and the Fox farm. Old Pinawa as we surveyed the Lee River road in 1918, George Warrington was surveyor, Jim Forsythe, Transit man, Ed. Peterson, head chainman, Fred Culhane, rear chainman and yours truly, picket man. Axe-

man was Andrew Balod and a Bersin and an Oscar, I believe was a brother-in-law to Mr. Dundas, our teamster. I imagine they are all beyond the sunset by now. Came to Lac du Bonnet on a Saturday night and stayed at Mrs. Lena Ahlgren overnight and started out for Great Falls or the Falls as they said then. Had walked 3 or 4 miles when a man in a cutter and a fast horse passed me. "Oh Dr. Malcolm going to J. D. McArthur's camp, why did you not give me a lift, you so and so."

My brother-in-law Leo Bjorkman, my brother Gust and an Eric Hagglund left the dock at Brown and Rutherford at Louise Bridge in Winnipeg in 1918 with lumber, brick, lime, cement, paint, nails and what have you, for the first school at Manigotogan. They went through Lockport and on to Manigotogan, built the school. By that time Lake Winnipeg was frozen so they had to leave their tools there for someone to haul them across to Riverton to be sent by C.P.R. to Lac du Bonnet. Then Hagglund bought three eight-month-old pups and acquired a small toboggan and Gust more or less trained them to harness. So they started the homeward journey. First night they slept under a big spruce at Black River. Second night they made it to Joe Papineau where the Pine Falls Powerplant now stands. The following morning Bjorkman could not walk down the stairs for breakfast. He had to slide down! Then 12 miles to "Home Sweet Home". Three days travel to get home in those days, now it takes one hours drive.

#### THE ANNIN FAMILY

Father Joseph (usually called Joe)

Mother Katrina (Katie)

Daughters - Freda and Erna

Son - Robert (Bob)

My father and mother, sister Freda and myself were born in the Baltic state of Latvia. My father migrated to Canada in 1927 and after working on farms and logging camps, he managed to save enough money to send for his family. My mother, sister and myself arrived in Montreal aboard the Cunard Steamship and from there travelled by train to Lac du Bonnet, our new home, this being November, 1929. On August 13th, 1930 we were blessed with a brother, Bob.

The first family I recall meeting were the Dancys, who became very good and close friends, and Irma Balod who was a young girl in the employ the Dancys. Father, having preceded us, had made many Latvian speaking friends, which you can appreciate was a blessing, as we were unable to speak a word of the English language, at the time.

Our first home consisted of two rooms, one being a bedroom for all members of the family, which contained beds, a pot-bellied stove for heat, which invariably got too hot and had to be cooled off with a shovel full of snow. At night the fire would go out and we could see our breath when we awakened, it was that cold. I always marvel that we survived. The interior decorating consisted of light brown building paper nailed on with nails one half inch in diameter, in straight rows and close together, which made it very decorative. These nails were particularly colorful when we wakened in the morning, as they would be white with frost from the cold. The bedroom also contained a round oak table, which was only used on special occasions, along with a large two mantle gas lantern. The rest of the times light was provided by a small coal-oil lamp, which cast a lot of shadows and very little light.

Mother, bless her, would start the heater as soon as she wakened, and us children would gather around it to dress for school.

The central hub of the home was the kitchen which also doubled as living room. Furnishings were sparse. One corner was graced with a 45 gallon drum containing water carried from the lake. In the winter one hauled snow to melt for the washing. Those who were more affluent got water from Cliff Bruneau, costing 25¢ a barrel. Another corner contained a homemade wooden storage trunk which also served as a seat. Tables and chairs were of rough unpainted wood. The most luxurious item was the china cabinet. The floors were rough unpainted wood, which mother insisted on scrubbing daily. She maintained you can be poor but clean. The house was located on the main highway (I understand it has been relocated), into town from Winnipeg, the second house from the Anglican church, with Rev. Gibson as neighbor on one side and the Monkmans on the other.

Being the hungry '30's, life was not easy. Work was hard to get and wages were very small. I can remember my father cutting and chopping wood for \$1.00 a day. Most times my father worked in the mines, coming home periodically to visit his family. It was on one such occasion returning to work after a brief visit, that he lost his life in a drowning accident at Bird River, June 30th, 1935.

Being left a widow with three young children was most difficult. To provide for her family she took in washing, which was done by hand and ironed with a sad iron - pretty hot in summer. She also cleaned offices for Wings Limited and what was then Canadian Airways. Though we didn't always eat well, there was always food on the table. Most clothing that us children had were hand-me-downs - any sewing that was done was by hand, having no machine. Though we were

poverty ridden, our home was a happy place. Worked at Traveller's Hotel when owned by Shaplands and Gaudry's, doing laundry.

First year of school for my sister and myself was a disaster. (We started school together for moral support.) Children picked on us and ridiculed us because we could not speak English. We attended school in a one room building just back of the Anglican church and next to the Catholic church. It contained grades one to three. On Sundays it doubled as a church. The only other school contained grades four to eleven at that time, and was just a block from home through some little bushes.

Teachers Miss Molloy, Miss Reid, Miss Nyznick, Mr. Bees and Mr. Smith come to mind. Upon completing a business course in Brandon, I worked a year in Joe Sparman's Garage as bookkeeper, replacing Edith Passek.

As children, entertainment was close and cheap. There was the big hill for sliding, and one cleared a patch of ice on the lake for skating. Summer was spent at the lake swimming. Saturdays you brought soap along and had your weekly bath. It beat the round galvanized tub where water was rationed. We babysat and did odd jobs when available. My brother worked in Bruder's bakery when he was ten, from which he graduated to caretaker of the community hall. I can recall going with mother to dances at Lee River and Lettonia, and sleeping on benches in cloak rooms when you got tired. Teen years were fun - dances at Holiday Beach, Seven Sisters, Hobans Park. Then there were the sleigh rides to parties at Pitre's farm.

In 1941 the family moved to Winnipeg where job opportunities were better.

In 1949 I moved to Vancouver and worked with C.P. Airlines until I got married to my husband Norman, year 1951, who is a construction contractor. Proud parents of two sons and one daughter.

Mother and Freda also moved to Vancouver in 1962. Freda passed away suddenly in March 1964 and mother passed on in August 1969. She is sadly missed - she was a great woman.

Brother Bob is married to a girl from New Brunswick (Dot Estey), 1954. Living in Vancouver and holds an executive position with Western Radio Leasing. Father of three daughters.

submitted by Erna Hunter

### ALBERT AND OLIVE ARSENAULT

Albert Arsenault, born in Bloomfield, Prince Edward Island in 1893, came to Winnipeg 1913, working there for awhile, prior to working with farmers in Ochre River and surrounding districts.



Olive and Albert Arsenault, Christmas 1919 at Pitre's.

He joined the Royal Winnipeg Rifles leaving for overseas. There he met and later married his wife Olive, born in Hastings, Sussex, England.

He returned to Canada and arrived in Lac du Bonnet October 24th, 1919, via C.P. Railroad. Winter had arrived early that year, October 9th and it was quite a shock to see so much snow. The station was half a mile from town and unfortunately we missed the transportation so were forced to walk and later found ourselves following tracks along the river, having missed the road in the dark. Struggling with our suitcases we finally spotted a small light, which turned out to be in Mr. Allard's store. He directed us to Mr. Robidoux and it was there we spent our first night in Lac du Bonnet. Next day Albert set out to find his relatives, the Pitres, who had homesteaded seven miles from town and moved from McCreary while he was overseas. They had not been in town so had not received our telegram of arrival.

Lac du Bonnet was a small village in the bush in those days but the people were friendly and helped us to settle to a new way of living. Albert went into Winnipeg and bought a team of heavy horses from McLean's Stables and put them to work hauling the towers for the power line to Pointe du Bois, also cord wood from the bush surrounding the village.

At that time our neighbours were Constable Ditch and family. They had a baby about our son Hubert's age. Mrs. Ditch was most helpful in advising me to make a gruel from oatmeal to add to Hubert's feeding. Dr. Malcolm had prescribed Nestle's Baby Food but still Hubert cried. Mrs.



Mr. and Mrs. Albert Arsenault. Mr. Arsenault's birthday.

Ditch saved the day!

It was a very sad time for me when tragedy struck the little family. One day Mrs. Ditch accompanied her husband on his journey by canoe to Fort Alexander to pay the Indians their treaty money. The canoe capsized and Mrs. Ditch and the baby were drowned.

Hubert thrived in that little house in town but I fell ill and once again needed a neighbour's help. Grace Setter was my mainstay then.

We spent our first Christmas in Lac du Bonnet with the Pitres on their farm. Memories of that day include a scary one of wolves howling in the night - would I ever get used to this wilderness, such a change from the quiet countryside of England.

The picture of us standing on Raymond's sleigh, taken then is one I treasure.

Through the years we both were active in the community. We supported and served the Roman Catholic Church. Albert served on the local school board, (those were the days when your time was donated) also on the municipal Council and on the first town council. He went with Mayor Joe Sparman to buy the first local fire engine, later taking the fireman's course which was put to good use. Albert sang for thirty years in the church choir. We both were charter members of the local branch of the Royal Canadian Legion No. 164. We were also active in the Red Cross and Home and School Association.

There were eight children born to us.

**Hubert** — Miner, married Lorraine Berthelette, Pine Falls and now live in Powerview, had eight children, the oldest Jacqueline married to Ed Boehn, has two and live in Edmonton. Corrine married Greg Barbour of Moosomin and now live in Edmonton and have two children. Gerald married to Catherine Currie of Moosomin, Saskatchewan and is a welder and lives at Saskatoon. Patrick married to Kim LeRoy. He is a machinist at Pine Falls. Michael, a Commercial Artist in Manitoba. Tanis works in Edmonton and Albert and Collett at school in Powerview.

**Arthur** — Road foreman and married to Adeline Buhay, Brightstone and live in Lac du Bonnet. Have three children: Richard at home and driving a truck; Cameron married to Karen Knox from Pointe du Bois and driving truck. They have two children and live in Lac du Bonnet. Holly married to Don Grewinski. Both work and live in Winnipeg.

**Marie** — Married to Ed. Fountain, an accountant, and they live in North Vancouver. They have two children: Reginald married to Gaye and have one child and live in Kingston. Meryle married to Michael Neale in the army and now in Inuvik.

**Evelyn** — Is a secretary and makes her home in North Vancouver.

**Ellen** — Married to Bev. Seale who owns an electrical business. They have two children, Deborah and Blake. All live in North Vancouver.

**Kathleen** — Married to Thomas Nichol, a petty officer in the navy and their home is in Victoria, B.C. They have two children, Craig and Andrea.

**Maureen** — Married to Glenn Wilkinson and live in Windsor Park in Winnipeg. They have three children. Riley is an electrician, Colleen is a nurse and Timothy works for the Manitoba Hydro.

**Joselyn** — Married to Edwin Norma who works for the B.C. Telephone. They live in North Vancouver and have two children, Bruce and Melissa.

## THE AUGUSTINE HISTORY JOSEPH AND EMIL

The Augustine brothers, Joseph and Emil, arrived in Lac du Bonnet February 1952 to take over the taxi business. They brought their wives and family with them from Winnipeg. Joe and Frances with Tony, three years old and Brenda ten months. Emil and Vera had no family then. All had come previously from Czechoslovakia as children with their parents to Manitoba.

The Augustine brothers worked very hard and eventually had a garage of their own and the Chrysler Dealership to sell cars. This garage was situated and still is on First Street. Both built homes and raised their families. They were always interested in activities in the village and supported



them. Their children went to the local schools.

Joe and Francis had Tony who joined his father at the garage. He married Karen Kelly, who teaches in the High School and they have a young son also called Anthony.

Brenda, their second child, married a RCMP officer and they have three children: Ryan and twins, Cory and Craig.

Jill, their youngest daughter, is taking a course in Winnipeg since completing school here in Lac du Bonnet.

Emil and Vera have three children: the oldest, Linda, is working in Winnipeg. Barry works at the garage with his father. The youngest son, Ricky, works in Winnipeg and plays hockey.

submitted by Frances Augustine

### ATKINSON

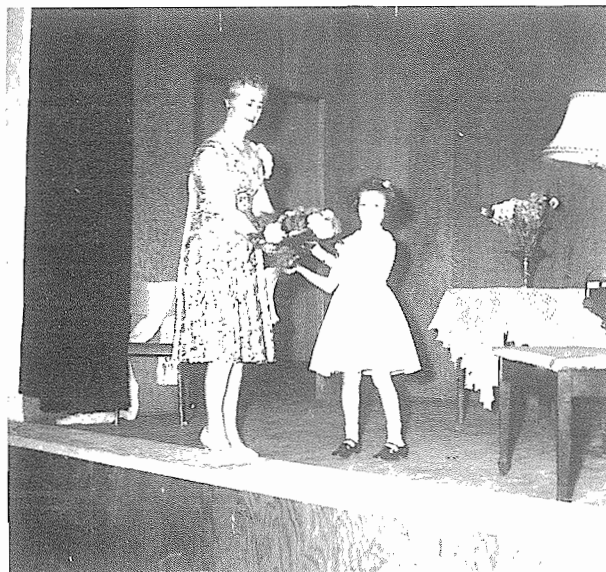
Thomas Gordon Atkinson arrived in Lac du Bonnet on September 1st, 1954 to take over the agency of the C.P.R. from Lou Taylor who retired. He moved into the station with his wife, Alta and son William Gordon who was then fourteen years old. They moved from Murillo, Ontario and were not impressed with the muddy conditions found in the village as sewers had just been installed and the rains came.

It wasn't long before they became involved with activities and Bill took his high school here. Alta took an active part in Home and School Association and served as president for two years. The C.P.R. served a large area which included Bissett, Pointe du Bois and Great Falls where the McArthur Falls Hydro Plant was being completed.

Lac du Bonnet is a town that grows on you and in 1959 the Atkinsons bought the house Ted Coates built on Lake Avenue. In 1963 Gordon died suddenly and Alta moved into this house and continued the music class she had started shortly after moving here. She presented seventeen



Mr. Gordon Atkinson at his desk in the C.P.R. Station 1958.



Mrs. Alta Atkinson receiving flowers from her pupil, Joyce Fryer.

recitals, one each year, before retiring from teaching in 1971. Alta also was elected to council and served for four years. She was organist for the Legion Auxiliary and held office in the Anglican Church Women's group and an adherent of the St. John's Anglican church. Recently she has done quite a bit of travelling and conducted twelve tours for the Pioneer Travel Agency in Vancouver.

Bill Atkinson married Mary Dudka of Pine Falls in 1964 and they live at Summerland, B.C. where Bill is a high school teacher. They have a girl, Melanie, born in 1968 and a boy Jason, born in 1969.

### BINDA

Giuseppe, shortened to "Joe" was born September 21st, 1895 in Gadrezzate, Italy. He came to Canada in 1912 and commenced working for the C.P. Railway. November 1915 he took leave of absence and joined the Italian army and was taken prisoner August 25th, 1917, released November 18th, 1918. He returned to Canada March 1920 and was made section foreman. He returned to Italy and married Rosa Realini December 27th, 1923. They returned to Canada where Joe continued working for the C.P.R. He was section foreman at Rawleigh and Brule in Ontario and moved to Lac du Bonnet October 22nd, 1938 and worked until May 1958 when he moved into his home on Park Ave.

Both Joe and Rosa are staunch supporters of the Roman Catholic Church and active members of Legion and Auxiliary No. 164. They both love gardening and received awards from the C.P.R.

They have two children Louis and Frank. Louis



Joe and Rosa Binda, 50th anniversary, 1974.

was married to Sarah Contini in 1951 and lives in Calgary. He is a geologist and works for an Oil Company. They have four children Marlene, Richard, Roberto and Michael. Frank married Judith Cokenoski in 1960 and they live in Brandon. He teaches mechanics in a school. They have two children Donna and Dennis.

Since this history was written, Joe Binda died very suddenly on May 23rd, 1979.

### BJORK

Kristina (Anderstotter) and Olaf Bjork came to Lac du Bonnet in 1903 from Orsa, Sweden. Olaf had been a soldier in Sweden and was in frail health. However, they took out a homestead 2½ miles north of Lac du Bonnet and farmed there for many years.

Kristina and Olaf brought two small sons with them from Sweden — Arvid aged six and Andrew aged nine. Their daughter Anna (Byman) was to follow with her husband Eric and five children, which they did in 1911.

The three Bjork children were:

**Anna** — see Byman.

**Arvid** — who was a fireman on the old engine working at Seven Sisters, Manitoba. Arvid did many different jobs during and after the depression. He went on trap lines, survey crews and also

was cutting pulp for one winter. Arvid married Violet Masters of Fort Frances, Ontario. They had three children, Jerry, Herman and Audrey.

**Andrew** — worked for many years as a patrol lineman, walking the line from Gordon Lake to Great Falls, Manitoba. He was employed by Winnipeg Electric, later Manitoba Hydro. Andrew married Minnie Cox of Kenora, Ontario. They had four sons and one daughter, Albert, Andrew, Mabel, Gordon and Roy.

Of the children of Kristina and Olaf Bjork none survive.

Surviving grandchildren are: Andrew, Roy, Gordon Bjork and Mabel Halgren (children of Andrew Sr. and Minnie Bjork).

Margaret Marcus, Dagny Shane and Norman Byman (children of Anna and Eric Byman).

Audrey Kuzina, Jerry and Herman Bjork (children of Arvid and Violet Bjork).

### OSCAR AND IDELLA BJORNSON

I am reminded of the book "Roots" as I sit down to write the genealogy from part of the past to the present generation of the Bjornson family.

My parents Kari and Thomas Moland came from Norway and settled in Granit Falls, Minnesota. It was there I was born, one of a family of four children. When I was fourteen we moved to Port Arthur, now known as Thunder Bay, Ontario.

It was in Port Arthur I met my husband where we were married and where our three sons, Bud, Bernie and Jack were born. The year 1935 Oscar joined the Ford Motor Company and we moved to Winnipeg. This was going home to Oscar as he was born in Glenboro, Manitoba and had lived in Winnipeg since the age of six years.

Oscar's parents were Gundy and Magnus Bjornson and they were both born in Iceland. Oscar's mother lived in the Icelandic settlement when the small pox plague took the lives of many of the original Icelandic settlers - she was only three years old at the time but remembered vividly the kindness and loving care given them by the Indian people and she said without them they would have perished.

In 1941 we were blessed with the birth of our only daughter Marlys, this was a happy year but also a sad one. Oscar was approached by the Ford Co. to go to India on war work, in the capacity of a technical advisor to the Indian Government and British Army. It turned out to be a long separation of over four years before he arrived back home.

India was a very troubled area at this time, particularly due to the division of their country and its independence from Britain. Oscar was asked to go back for three more years. Marlys and I went with



him and it was a very interesting few years experiencing a very new and different lifestyle and learning the culture of a new people.

When we arrived back to Canada we were to be transferred to Oakville but our roots by then as a family were in Manitoba. It was at this point Oscar heard Joe Sparman's dealership was up for sale. Lac du Bonnet was just a name to me having heard Oscar speak of it after some business trips out contacting Joe. When we were driving out to Lac du Bonnet, the first time for me, I was confronted by many thoughts, expectations and apprehensions. All I knew of the place was Oscar described it as a nice village on the Winnipeg River. We arrived at Joe's garage on a beautiful day the beginning of December where I first met Joe. Suffice to say you all know Joe and his warm and genial personality which was a good introduction. He then took us to their home where as he put it, to meet his better half (Gunhild) where we were so graciously received. The aroma of freshly baked buns permeated the house. Of course we had coffee and also discovered a fellow Norwegian in Gunhild. I felt subconsciously this could become home to me. The scene looking across the lake looked like a beautiful picture. I fell in love with Lac du Bonnet then and there and so it has remained through the years.

We moved to Lac du Bonnet in January and our first home was three miles out of town - no electricity or water, a first experience for me, but each year I grew to love it more. A village is its people and that speaks for itself in the way I felt about Lac du Bonnet.

Much to our consternation we lost our garage by fire which was a great loss to us. However Oscar had been approached for several years to enter into the political arena so in 1958 he made

the decision to do so and was elected as M.L.A. for the Conservative Party which he represented for three terms. It was a very new and interesting experience getting to meet and know so many fine people of different races and culture. We both benefitted much from this in so many ways.

Prior to entering politics Oscar served on the Village council - was a member of the Chamber of Commerce and a past-president. In 1967 Oscar suffered a severe heart attack that left him with impaired health. In 1970 we moved to Calgary and in 1973 he passed away.

Our eldest son Kenneth (Bud) lives in Pinawa. He married Sylvia Sorenson from Winnipeg and they have three children.

Our second son, Bernie lives in Winnipeg. He married Blythe Reid formerly of Lac du Bonnet. They are the parents of eight children.

Jack, our youngest son, lives in Edmonton. He married Doreen Radu from Regina and they have two girls and two boys.

Marlys, the only one to grow up in Lac du Bonnet, married Ted Carruthers of Calgary, where they live. They have a girl and boy.

I, at present, live in Calgary but wend my way to Pinawa, Lac du Bonnet and Winnipeg every year. As I said in the beginning, "This is where I feel my roots are".

Submitted by  
Idella Bjornson

## BOTCHETT

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Botchett arrived in Lac du Bonnet in 1906 from England. Bringing with them four boys. Bill, Jim, Albert and Jack, the youngest, 6-months-old.

Worked at the Brick Yard during the summer; in the winter he worked in the stables for J. D. McArthur. Also farmed about three miles west of Lac du Bonnet. In 1916 he started working for the City Hydro. On July 2nd, 1924 Mr. Botchett was accidently electrocuted. Mr. Botchett also ran for School Trustee.

They raised 10 children, five girls and five boys. Bill, Jim, and Albert moved to the States in 1922. In 1929 we moved to Winnipeg.

Mrs. Botchett passed away March 11, 1948. There are still six children living, Mrs. Annie Sund, Mrs. Florence Whellams, Mrs. Mary Cameron, Jack, Bill and Jim Botchett.

## GEORGE HENRY CLIFTON BROWN

"Cliff" was born in 1896 in Mille Roches, Ontario. (His father, George Henry came from West Bromich, England in 1886 and settled in Mille Roches. In 1903, he moved to Tyndall, Manitoba and worked in quarrying the Tyndall stone. His mother came from eastern Canada.)

Cliff enlisted in the First World War and was over in France and Belgium with the 1st C.M.R. (Canadian Mounted Rifles), was wounded at battle of Vimy Ridge.

In 1922 he went to Lac du Bonnet and worked for the C.P.R. until he was appointed Postmaster in 1930. A position which he held until his death in 1960.

He was one of the founders of the Social and Athletic Club, a charter member of the Memorial Centre and a director until his death. He was a member of the Lac du Bonnet Legion No. 164; St. John's Anglican Church; the Lac du Bonnet Chamber of Commerce and served on executives of many community projects such as the cigarette drives, Red Cross blood donor clinics during World War 2. He was a member of the Lac du Bonnet "Old Timers Association."

He died December 21, 1960.

**Anna Linnea (Peterson) Brown** — Born in Sweden in 1905, came to Canada with her parents in 1906, arriving in Lac du Bonnet in 1909. (I think they settled on a farm about three miles or so out of town, leading towards Pine Falls.)

In 1927, she married Cliff Brown. "Nea" was active in community affairs. She was First President of the Ladies Auxiliary, Canadian Legion; Superintendent of St. John's Sunday School, an ardent worker for the Red Cross and Institute for the Blind. During the Second War she was involved with the Blood Donor clinics and the overseas Cigarette Fund.

She was also Assistant Postmaster and a member of the Old Timers Association.

Nea and Cliff Brown had three children.

**George Allen Brown**, born 1929, now residing in Lac du Bonnet.

**Verna Lorraine (Brown) Muckle**, born 1931, graduated from nurses training, Victoria General Hospital, Winnipeg, in 1953. Married Ken W. Muckle 1953, have three children, Kenneth G., Adine and Brenda. Now residing in Calgary.

**John Bryan Brown**, born 1939, married to Marilyn Wood in 1968, residing in Edmonton, Alberta. Have three children, Dean, Tina and Nicole.

## EDYTHE M. WATERS, B.Sc. H.Ec. MANNIFRANK BROWN, O.B.E.

I (Edythe), daughter of Annie and Frank Waters, was born in "Old Pinawa" 1913. I once read somewhere that the Indians of North America grew out of the ground, I felt I had come from "The River". I literally lived outdoors with my playmates, never lacking in self-created activities. The River gave us much scope, the beach and water in summer, the ice in winter.

In this secluded hamlet of Lac du Bonnet with many cultures, the school, Church, Guides, Extension Clubs for Boys and Girls, the Social and Athletic Club kept us very happy and occupied.

I completed High School June of 1932. In the fall, very excited yet with a lonely feeling leaving my happy home and playground, I moved into residence at the U. of M. Agricultural College for further education. However, I adjusted to living by rules and bells for rising, studying and retiring. The transition from a country bumpkin to a University co-ed is "something else".

There were memorable years academically, socially, sportswise, "boys", a sorority girl, active on Faculty Council, the U.M.S.U. Womens Association and in my graduating year Lady Stick (President) of the Faculty of Home Economics. My major sports were swimming, hockey and tennis. 1936, I proudly claimed my degree, B.Sc. H.Ec. I had chosen the teaching option.

My career on the Extension Staff (Boys and Girls Clubs) of the Manitoba Government was not long. I married Mannifrank Brown. Born in Winnipeg, 1908 son of Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Brown. A graduate of Kelvin High School, the Winnipeg Flying Club, Frank "barn-stormed" adding up the hours required for a commercial pilot's license. In 1933 he purchased his own plane. On the first flight of a freight contract he made a hole-in-one on the Norwood golf course (engine failure). He almost lost his life. Frank came to Lac du Bonnet to convalesce at his brother Roy's home... Girl meets irresistible Irish boy.

Spring of 1934 Frank was employed by Starratt Airways of Hudson, Ontario, freighting into the far north, mines and power developments on the English River system. He was nominated for the McKee Trophy in 1936 for many hours of flying and rescue of families in the frightening bush fires at Pickle Lake. "Wop" May won the trophy, ironically, rescuing two R.C.A.F. men from the Lac du Bonnet station, who were lost in the wilds of Northern Alberta, surviving on gophers. The cargo of two trips to the north were three goats, two steers and one Bishop.

The Anglican Padre at Trout Lake wanted goats milk for the sick Indians, the steers for breaking up

land, Bishop Lofthouse of Keewatin Diocese was a passenger with the steers. This was in 1938.

Life in Northern Ontario was very interesting, I was often permitted to fly with Frank and thus saw much of the beauty of the north, some so breathtaking. I did not land at James Bay, but saw the vastness of water from the air. As I recall those 2½ blissful years there is a nostalgia about bush pilots and bush flying. June 1939 Frank was accepted by British Airways. By September Hitler had squashed this. W.W. II was declared and all bush pilots were asked to join the R.C.A.F. to train at Camp Borden as instructors. Frank left in October. I packed, rented our home, and mother brought me back to Lac du Bonnet. As we left, I looked back at my lovely home never dreaming we would not return.

Robin Lou Ann was born in Winnipeg, December 27, 1939. She met her Daddy five weeks later in Toronto.

From February 1940 to June 1943 I moved 17 times across Canada with baby and paraphernalia.

Frank's last posting in Canada was Commanding Officer of No. 7 S.F.T.S. at Fort Macleod, Alberta. One happy event here was being host and hostess to the Governor-General then, Earl of Athlone and Princess Alice on an official visit to No. 7 S.F.T.S. I am reminded of the Tea Dances at Government House in Ottawa. After the receiving line, the Earl would waltz diminutive Princess Alice around the ballroom. I remember how tall and straight he was.

June 1943 we returned to Lac du Bonnet. Frank left from Montreal, ferrying a bomber plane to Prestwick, Scotland. In the tactical airforce he commanded 403 Spitfire Squadron "Wolf". Commanding one of the first airfields to move into France after D Day. His last posting overseas was Senior operations officer and deputy director of the air staff at R.C.A.F. headquarters in London.

Frank's citations were: including the French Croix de Guerre with oak leaves and the Order of the British Empire. December 1945 found him reunited with his family in Lac du Bonnet and to meet our son Hart, born February 1, 1944.

Now back to reality, normality, after a lapse of five years. Frank purchased and established a business which he operated until his untimely death March 1959. He also kept up his flying and never lost the art of "greasing" a landing on the water. Active in the community, organizations, working to incorporate Lac du Bonnet to a village, a member of the first council with Mr. J. Sparman our first mayor.

During these years my role was making a home, taking care of the family, active in the many organizations, ten years as a leader of a 4-H Foods club. One team I trained represented Manitoba at



Edythe and Frank Brown, Winnipeg, April 26, 1937.

the Royal Winter Fair December 1948 in Toronto. They brought back the Provincial cup for Manitoba and the Dominion Championship in Foods. The girls were Marjorie Bruder and Jeanne Wold. I spent a great deal of time at the school also substitute teaching. I became Manitoba's first lady mayor 1953. This was news across Canada and many people learned where Lac du Bonnet was on the map. The following five years were very interesting and busy. Studying the Municipal Act at night instead of reading a novel was worthwhile. At this time Lac du Bonnet was changing with improvements such as vapor lights, sewer, paved sidewalks, black-topped streets to mention a few projects. The councilmen were great; Jack Wade, Secretary Treasurer. Later another woman came on council, Maizie Coates, she was excellent as chairwoman of Weeds and Sanitation committee. I must commend Mrs. Ethel David who settled our dog problems and checked out those without licenses.

I returned to University September 1959 to begin a degree in Education. Living in residence as



a Don, another experience. Irma Balod very efficiently and conscientiously managed the business. I taught at the Lac du Bonnet High School, history and English, until my marriage to Dr. Walter Ehrlich, January 1964. Walter and I had been classmates at University but hadn't met in 28 years.

The children grew up here loving the River as their parents did. Both became good swimmers and skaters and water skiers. Robin graduated from Balmoral Hall School for Girls, Winnipeg 1956, a secretarial course followed and she began her career of interesting positions and travelling. Robin married David Whetter in 1965. They spent the next two years in England and Europe, returning to Vancouver where David completed his degree in Architecture, 1970, (the last term the graduating class studied in Venice) and later his masters in International Trade and Commerce, presently a partner with a firm of Architects. Robin works at the University of B.C.

Hart worked from Newfoundland across Canada to B.C. and back to Manitoba. He graduated from University of Manitoba in education, 1970. Hart and Carla Denike, whom he had met in Vancouver, were married in 1969. Hart taught school for three years then went into real estate and formed H.F.A. Enterprises Ltd. Carla is a purser with Air Canada. They have two sons: Rhodes, born March 1976 and Noel, born June 1979. They make their home in Wildwood Park, Fort Garry, where Carla grew up.

The fascination of the River and the memories of growing up in Lac du Bonnet bring my family home frequently.

Edythe Ehrlich

#### **ARTHUR BUCKMASTER - CENTENARIAN** by Elsie Stockburn

Mr. Buckmaster, my father, was born in London, England in 1870, emigrated to Canada in 1890.

He settled in the Qu'Appelle Valley, Saskatchewan on a farm. Later he moved to Whitemouth, Manitoba where he was employed as a bartender in the Whitemouth Hotel for some time. Then he changed to the Canadian Pacific Railway where he worked as a section foreman and his wife Louise operated the section house cooking for the crew, who worked on the section there.

In 1901 they moved to Lac du Bonnet by ox team with their three children and bought a farm on the Eastside of the Winnipeg River and named it Pickerel Point. Mrs. Buckmaster passed away in 1930 a very dear and gentle person, when the

youngest was 12 years old.

The Buckmasters raised eleven children. Two brothers and three sisters have passed on. I'm the only girl left in the family and five brothers.

Mr. Buckmaster gave up farming a few years later and moved to Winnipeg where he lived with his youngest son until he passed away in 1971.

#### **BYMAN**

Anna (Bjork) and Eric Byman came to Lac du Bonnet from Orsa, Sweden in 1911.

Eric was a carpenter by trade and worked on numerous buildings in Lac du Bonnet as well as Winnipeg.

Anna and Eric raised four daughters and five sons. Five children were born in Sweden and four in Lac du Bonnet.

**Anna**, the eldest daughter married John Hammerstedt. They had one daughter and three sons.

**Eric (Jr.)** also a carpenter, married Olga Pommer of Seven Sisters. They had one daughter.

**Andrew**, carpenter, married Lily Kompelein of Newcombe. They had two children.

**Carrie** married Percy Bruce of Selkirk, Manitoba. Carrie had one son.

**Arvid** (carpenter) married Dorothy Vickner of (old) Pinawa. They had three daughters.

**Dagney** married Harry Shane who came from London, England. They had two sons.

**Walter**, carpenter, married Frances McLeod of Thunder Bay, Ontario. They had four daughters and one son.

**Margaret** married Ed Marcus of Pointe du Bois. They had two sons.

**Norman** married Mildred Lodge of Pointe du Bois. They had seven sons and four daughters.

Three children of Anna and Eric Byman survive. They are Margaret and Dagney in Winnipeg and Norman in Calgary.

#### **R. N. CAMPBELL FAMILY**

My parents were Mr. and Mrs. R. N. Campbell (Dick), my mother was Mary Letain. I was born in Lac du Bonnet in 1912. The doctor present at my birth was a woman, Dr. Diamond. She was in Lac du Bonnet for a very short time. I am the eldest, then Marguerite, John, Ritchie and Lorne. John and Ritchie are deceased.

I married Stephen Velie, planner for the Abitibi Manitoba Paper Company, in 1938. I was an R.N. in the Pine Falls Hospital prior to that. We have three sons: Lyle born 1938, single, living at home. Lab. tester in the mill at Pine Falls. Harold (Har-



Campbell's first home on 1st Street.



Grandma Letain's dining room at the section house, 1901.

dy) and his wife Delores Simonson of Fannystelle are both teachers and have three children: Jocelyn, Michael and Robin. Harold has been teaching in Pinawa for about ten years. Stephen Jr. and his wife Susan live in Winnipeg. Stephen is an instrument technologist. Susan's parents live in Winnipeg and her father is Herb Best of Herb Best Beef Ltd.

My uncle Vic Letain in St. Vital remembers the Letain family coming to Lac du Bonnet from Whitemouth by train after midnight. They rode in the caboose. My grandfather, J. B. Letain was the first section foreman in Lac du Bonnet. My grandparents kept several officials overnight who were travelling to Pointe du Bois, Great Falls, police, game wardens, C.P.R. investigators, etc. The two spare rooms were in great demand in those days and grandma gave them excellent meals.

My father was manager of the J. D. McArthur Store, also magistrate. Court cases were held in our livingroom. Some of the staff at the store were Don McCulloch, Jack Hammerstedt, Ray Stoddart of Strathclair, Bill and Allan Cattanaich (one of them died from the flu in 1918) and Mr. McDougall. Dr. Malcolm was one of the earlier

doctors and I can remember he and my father in long fur coats driving with horse and cutter to the bush camps. Drs. E. D. R. Bissett and Taylor, also served the community on many occasions. Dr. Bissett travelled by horse and cutter on the railroad track from Beausejour several times. He is now over ninety and after retiring from the Pine Falls Hospital in 1950, left for B.C. Up to last year he was still practising at Woodfibre near a logging camp.

When my father went into business for himself, where the Carson pharmacy is, the building which he purchased was a bright blue. Speaking to the late Bill Hammerstedt a few years ago, we thought it was called The Blue Store. There was a grand party for the opening of Campbell's Store. Don McCulloch poured tea and J. Hammerstedt poured the coffee, and there was dancing.

One of our earliest school principals was John Mackie, a very stern man who seldom smiled. When he was angry he shouted and we could hear his voice from the other school room. He played the organ at the close of classes with "Now the Day Is Over". Earlier teachers were Misses Hayes, Pearlman, Rose Silver (Teare), Kathleen Campbell and later Miss Simmie, Rita McKenzie, Mrs Hamilton and Mrs (Burridge) Jones.

Early police - provincial: Gibson, Echman, Townsend; RCMP: Ditch, Helm, Spiers, Stewart, Woodcock.

Dan Kopman's pool room, barber shop and hall was located where the K & S Equipment (Choma Building) is now. Jack Park was a barber there at one time. The old hall was used for concerts, basket socials, dances and silent movies. We used to rush to get a seat on one of the old pool tables at the back of the hall; otherwise we had to sit on backless benches. The Lone Ranger serial was the last I can remember seeing there.

Early dentists were Drs. Millar and Dr. Murdoch, offices in the Allard Building.

Remember Mr. and Mrs. Robidoux and daughters Kate and Antoinette (Dolly), son Ross. They had a restaurant and it was well kept, decorated with bead curtains. Kate was the church organist.

Wellman's Hotel, the Woodbine was near the old station. At a later date it was managed by the McDevitt Family. Ray McDevitt married ("Toots") Alice Dupuis.

Where the water ski club is situated almost opposite the old C.P.R. tank, was a dugout where baseball games, races, etc. were held, called "The Pit". People sat around the hillside to watch the games. Lemonade, popcorn and sandwiches were available.

I remember music recitals in the station waiting room - music teacher Professor L. M. Menard, the

Social and Athletic Club, treasure hunts, dancing, cards, amateur nights, tobogganing opposite the school on the river, fireworks on special occasions, school parades and competitions, Sherk's orchestra and summer campers.

Later the hangout for the young crowd was Bill Zikman's barber shop. Music could be heard a block away. Little Green Valley was popular at the time.

I remember that Mrs. Butcher Kent from Fort Alexander used to spend a day at our home measuring everyone in the family and friends for moccasin slippers made of tanned leather. They were nicely beaded.



The Campbell boat, 1909.

I remember November 11th when the townsfolk brought banana crates, boxes, cartons of all kinds to the hill above the dock and built a huge bonfire to celebrate Armistice. I was getting over the flu and stood at the bedroom window watching it.

Jean Campbell Velie



Logs below the mill.



Lumber camp, 1909 — R. N. Campbell at right with Jean's dog Bob.



# High School Stunt Night Feb. 1932

1. Orchestra Selection
2. "Ah" Tragedy - Marguerite Wentz,  
Earl Wentz, Ray Park,  
Harry Laddario

3. ?

4. Box Office - featuring Alice Nasstrom

5. Piano Duet — Wilma Hansen  
Jean Campbell

6. Ballet Dance

Boys  
Edythe Waters  
Thelma Pearson  
Margaret Madsen  
Hilda Krieschman

Girls  
Jean Malloy  
Margaret Pearson  
Phyllis Bloor  
Velma Albekert

7. "Amos" Park and "Andy" Scherk

8. Reminiscences of the Wild West

Aileen Small  
Thelma Pearson  
Marguerite Wentz  
Jean Malloy

Phyllis Bloor  
Margaret Madsen  
Wilma Hansen  
Edythe Waters

Banjo — Alfred Shanko

9. Kazoo Band - "I Miss a Little Miss"  
"Love Letters in the Sand"  
"Happy Days"  
"Hello Beautiful"

10. Finale - featuring the class  
Accompanist - Marguerite Wentz  
Intermission

Dance - High School Orchestra

Editor's Note

These precious documents are the property of Lorne Campbell. His sister Marguerite Proctor owns the silver tea set.

Marguerite's son Campbell is a pilot for Air Canada. He has four children: Cheryl, Steven and twins Jeffrey and Donald. Her son Gary works for General Motors, Toronto. He has two children: Mark and Shelby. Her daughter Mary is a stewardess with Air Canada, lives in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Lorne's (Laurence) family: Richard married to

Bonita Pesche of Winnipeg. Has one girl Caryn, 3 years old. He works at Campbell's Corner Store, Lac du Bonnet.

William - single, manager of Family Fare Store, Winnipeg.

Jack married to Sheila Ross of Winnipeg with Family Fare Store also.

Laurie Anne Marie - single, employed by Family Fare Store in Winnipeg.

Ritchie Campbell had two children, John and Donald. Jean and John are mentioned elsewhere.

Lac Du Bonnet. Manitoba.

November 15/11

Mr. & Mrs. R.N. Campbell.

The President and members of the Lac Du Bonnet Skating Club feel that they cannot allow the occasion of your wedding pass without putting on record a testimonial of our sincere esteem, and we also want you to accept our kindest wishes for your future prosperity and happiness.

The long residence of Mr. Campbell in Lac Du Bonnet, the many evidences we have had of his interest in our interests, have greatly endeared him to us, his geniality and generous disposition has been in constant evidence, and we must hope that Mr. and Mrs. Campbell may long continue as residents of Lac Du Bonnet.

The graciousness of Mrs. Campbell, which all of us have been aware, always has made her a favourite with the young ladies of Lac Du Bonnet, and a union such as this can only be productive of the happiest results, and make us know that our wishes expressed will certainly become a reality. We beg to add, that the highest honor in the gift of our skating club, that of Patron, has been conferred upon Mr. Campbell

We beg to remain

Yours very truly

The Lac Du Bonnet Skating Club

*For Edw. Taylor  
Secy. Treas.*



Mr and Mrs R.N.Campbell.

Our opening words to-night must take the form of an apology for coming thus uninvited within the charmed circle of your new home, but we come hopeful that by virtue of the sentiments of honour and esteem which mark our errand here, we may be forgiven this rude intrusion upon your evening peace.

The hand of Fate is sometimes harsh, often cruel, always mysterious, but we have come to celebrate the movings of Fate in one of her bright and happy moods - the Fate that drew a little maid from Europe and a venturesome boy from old Ontario, set them down together in Lac du Bonnet and so entangled their destinies that henceforth their destinies are one. We have watched Fate's progress, as she unravelled her plans, with neighbourly interest, and have surmised, as neighbours will surmise. But Fate, a few days ago, took us by surprise when she brought the romance of our story to a climax, so that not until to-night were we prepared to put in tangible form our feelings of joy and satisfaction<sup>th</sup> at this new household, than which no other in our midst claims our kindlier interest, had sprung into being. Firm be its foundation and happy be the lives of its members.

In this new country to which most of us come as poor adventurers, luck sometimes plays a part. Fortune may smile on the unworthy and pass by the good. The strength of our country is in those who have come to it with the clear vision and the stout heart, vision to see the reward of perseverance and the heart that is patient under stress of long and arduous labour. To such the country owes her wealth, and upon them she showers her best rewards. These are the true nobility of the West, and to this high<sup>d</sup> order belong our present host and hostess. Each toiled for the future, yet each had time for the making of friendships ties and forwarding in the development of our new community.

While still in your youth you have encompassed both wordly success and happiness, with the high promise of many useful years to come. May your influence ever be potent for good among a people who have learned to look upon you both in your former spheres for their model and inspiration.

Scenes and people shift with the times and in a few years but a remnant of us may be in this place to visit your comfortable fire-side and watch with pleasure the progress of your household. However, we hope to leave with you the memory that at this joyful period in your lives a few old and tried friends came to rejoice with you and congratulate you upon your mutual good fortune and wisdom.

Were we as rich in gold as we are in good wishes on your behalf we should be able to present you with some souvenir of this occasion in closer proportion with your merits and our ideas. But we know that you will see in this small memento the spirit of the gift rather than its intrinsic value, and we trust that your table may some day shine with many a piece of more precious ware. Nor do we wish for you alone all these good things of life, we hope that with the increase of your wordly goods many a little stranger to our sphere may come to share your prosperity and to brighten your home.

Our brightest hopes and wishes are with you in this auspicious beginning of your entwined careers. May the best day that is past be worse than the worst that is to come.

From a few of your

Lac du Bonnet Friends.

T.A.Wellman.  
J.C.Scroggie.  
J.F.Cattanack.  
Chas. Wellman.  
Geo. Fleming.  
C.Morgan

J.Duncan.  
F.A.Cattanack.  
D.Ellis.  
Hans Johnson.  
Jack Small.  
G.Beltrame.

W.C.Roberts.  
G.W.Botchett.  
W.G.Smith.  
W.Wellman.  
E.M.Taylor.  
A.Hunt.  
Harry Nysedt.

## DANCYT, ALEX

Alex Dancyt was born in 1890 and raised on a farm in a small town near Riga, Latvia. Looking for adventure as a young man, he decided to immigrate to Canada. He arrived in Montreal in 1913, journeyed westward by train and finally settled in the Lac du Bonnet area. Alex's livelihood in these early years consisted of labouring and cooking in bush camps in the Lac du Bonnet area as well as J. D. McArthur's brickyard and sawmill.

Alex's future wife, Alvina Arro, immigrated with her foster family from Estonia, a neighbouring Baltic state of Latvia. The Arro's first settled in Brazil, South America, and then moved to the Bird River area. At that time the river was the "highway" and nothing was thought of a fifty mile round trip by boat to Lac du Bonnet to shop for groceries. The winter brought a change in mode of travel to horse and sleigh.

Alex and Alvina were married on September 6, 1918 in the Lac du Bonnet Anglican Church by Reverend L. A. Todd. They first lived with friends in Lac du Bonnet and eventually moved into their own home which was a two room rented shanty on Second Street. Sons Arvid and Herbert were born in 1923 and 1925 respectively, both in Winnipeg.

Alex's move to Lac du Bonnet constituted a change in his work opportunities. He laboured for the local blacksmith, Mr. Albekeit, until he was able to establish his own business, a bakery called the Cozy Corner. It was located next door to the blacksmith's shop which is now the Coin Laundry on the corner of First Street and McArthur Avenue. Alex depended on the Maple Leaf Milling Co. to give him flour on consignment due to his insufficient finances. He hired a baker from whom he learned the art of baking and then had to let the man go, again due to financial strain. Fortunately, the Great Falls and Slave Falls power plants began construction at this time and Alex secured the con-

tract to supply bread for both construction camps. Long hours of hard work were necessary to fulfil these contracts, but the rewards enabled Alex to construct a more modern bakery on Park Avenue in 1926. A small groceries accompanied the bakery. In 1929 he built a dance hall, "Aleda Hall", adjacent to the bakery. It was a busy place, being used for badminton, dances, concerts and the first talking movie in Lac du Bonnet.

The hall was closed during the Depression never to open again. Its interior was remodelled to ac-



Alvina and Alex Dancyt, 1940. Lee River Bridge.



Mr. and Mrs. Alex Dancyt's first home on 2nd Street, Lac du Bonnet, 1920.



Dancyt's Red & White Store, built 1932.

commodate a store that Alex named the "Red and White Store". It dealt in general merchandise. In 1940, the bakery was leased to Ed Staris and eventually was sold to Andy Usackis. Frank Brown purchased the Red and White Store in 1945 and Alex went into semi-retirement.

Never able to stay idle for long, his next business venture took the shape of a general store and locker plant which was constructed on Third Street in 1946. This he operated in conjunction with his youngest son, Herbert and was appropriately named "Dancyt and Son".

Alvina Dancyt passed away on January 30th, 1953, after a lengthy illness. Alex was remarried in 1956 to Lil Rosenberg (nee Peterson), widow of the late Art Rosenberg of McArthur Falls and Lac du Bonnet. Forced to retire due to ill health in 1977, Alex sold his share in Dancyt and Son to his grandson Curtis Dancyt. The store today is operated by Herbert and his son Curtis.

In his leisure time as a younger man, Alex was an avid curler and had a hand in organizing the first and second curling rinks in Lac du Bonnet. He was president of the Curling Club during the 1944-45 season.

Alex's eldest son, Arvid, is an engineer with the Manitoba Government Air Division in Lac du Bonnet. He married Doreen Drawson of Winnipeg in 1947. They have three children - Carol, Norman and Karen. Carol is married to Dennis Kabaluk and they have two children - Craig and Lisa. Karen is married to Laurent David of Lac du Bonnet, while Norman is single and resides at home.

Herbert married Betty Lange of Whitemouth in 1953. They have three children - Corinne living at home; Curtis married to Connie Voisey, formerly of Churchill, residing in Lac du Bonnet. Their son, John Curtis, was born November 2nd, 1979. Calvin married to Karen Towle of Lac du Bonnet and presently living in Winnipeg.

## DOW

Mr. Paul Dow, wife Elizabeth, daughter Lorraine, and son Lawrence moved to Lac du Bonnet in 1936. Their other son Gordon was working in Winnipeg. Lawrence went up north first as a radio operator for Wings Ltd. and then worked in the mine at God's Lake. When the war broke out, Lawrence who was born in New Jersey, joined the U.S. Navy where he remained until the close of the war.

Paul Dow, inventor of the "Dow Key" and the "Dow" coaxial relay was a pioneer in the history of communications in Canada and the U.S., from a private radio-telegraph network for James Richardson in 1928-29 to providing world-wide broadcasting for CJRX and to his work with Wings Ltd., providing communications with the north country and with the "bush" planes flying there.

Mr. and Mrs. Dow and Lorraine moved back to Winnipeg in 1941 where Paul was Superintendent of No. 5 Air Observers School.

Gordon Dow, now of Mesa, Airzona, retired, married Doris Wishart of Portage, had one son Murray and now have one grandson, Andrew.

Lawrence Dow and wife Binnie live in Santa Maria, California.

Lorraine married Ramsay McIntosh of Lac du Bonnet in 1946. They had three children: Leslie, Scott (deceased) and Paul.

Leslie resides in Calgary, is married to Malcolm Boyd. She has two children, Kristin and Scott.

Paul is presently in the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Guelph.

## ERNIE DONIN

I was born near Port Leba, Latvia in 1904. A relative, Ed Anson, helped me to come to Canada in 1929. They did not take tradesman then so I worked on Ed Anson's farm in Letonia.

The next year I came into Lac du Bonnet and I set up a shop making doors and windows and in my spare time some caskets. I also worked with John Rosenberg building houses, making sidewalks for the village.

When the war broke out in 1939 I worked for the Department of Transport finding water for the airports. They asked me to buy my own "rig" for water searching, Mr. Charlie Osis was my partner. I drilled for water for many airports.

After the war I drilled for water for places, like Crystal City and Manitou. They could not find water but I was successful. Now water searching has become a full time summer job. I operate the shop in winter.

In 1970 I attended a convention in Brownsville, Texas on the coast and found fresh water wells for them. I went to Mexico to find water, I found water in the desert too.

My shop burned a few years ago, all my tools and factory machinery were destroyed. I had to give up my cabinet, door and window business. I still look for water when I get a request.

My method of water divining is a gift which I cannot explain. I feel the water in my system as I walk the stream.

I never married. My brother Adolph lives with me, another brother Mike lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I have a niece in Florida.

I have enjoyed living in Lac du Bonnet, there is no better place to live. I like the fresh air and water.

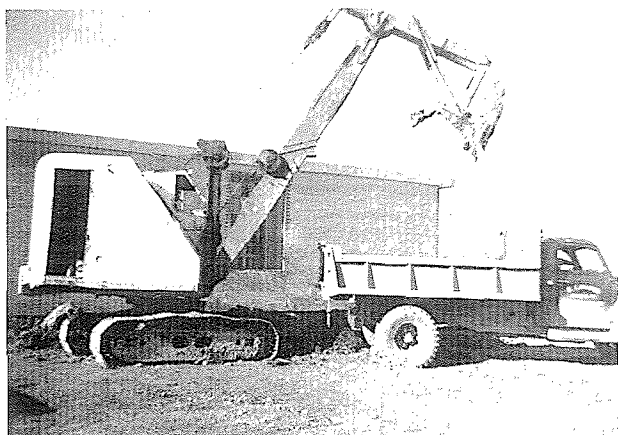
Submitted by  
Edythe Ehrlich for  
Ernie Donin

#### DUFILY - ALFRED (Fred)

Fred and Eva Dufily came to Lac du Bonnet from Kennedy, Saskatchewan in 1934 on August 1st with Eva's mother Mrs. R. St. Laurent. Rented the only house that was available at the height of the great depression for four dollars per month. Fred and six of the neighbors got running water installed in 1948. Then the people in the Village wanted the water. Fred bought a backhoe digger and began installing water pipes in the village of Lac du Bonnet.

Fred was a well-known violinist - in 1935 he had an orchestra, played for dances in Lee River Hall, weddings and parties. Before Fred had his plumbing contracts he worked as a mechanic for C.P.A. Also as a chauffeur for Dr. Reid for three years.

He also became chairman of the Lac du Bonnet School Board from 1943 until he passed away in 1961 at the age of 48.



Fred Dufily's outfit working on the new extension to Park Ave. School about 1953-54.

Eva was a telephone operator when there were only 42 phones. Later at the end of the year there were 75 phones. She operated the Lakeview Coffee Shop for four years.

The Dufilys had two daughters: Eileen who married Roy Kaiser. They have three sons, Gordon 18, Fred 16, Richard 13 and one daughter Colleen 7. They reside at Manitou, Man.

Margaret married Jim Van Der Heagan. They have four daughters, Cheryle 15, Mechell 14, Lisa 13 and Patricia 4 and a son named Mark, 9 years old. They live at Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan.

**EDYTHE BROWN, B.Sc., B.Ed.**  
**WALTER A. EHRLICH, Ph.D., F.A.I.C.**

Walter and I were classmates at the University of Manitoba, 1932-36. After an interval of 28 years we met again and were married January 3, 1964. Walter's parents came to Canada from Oklahoma, U.S.A. and settled near Canora, Saskatchewan. Following high school, Walter came to the University of Manitoba, graduating B.Sc. AG. 1939, M.Sc. Ag. 1946, Ph.D. University of Minnesota, 1952. His career in Manitoba was with the Provincial Soil Survey, Department of Agriculture honorary lecturer at the University, later Director of the Soil Survey Department of the University of Manitoba. He became a leading authority in soils classification and genesis making his contribution to the Soils Map of the World (F.A.O. UNESCO), also contributing to the book Soils of Canada as chief editor. He wrote many papers on soils for journals and books.

October 1964 Walter took the position of co-ordinator of soils for Western Canada, C.D.A. Ottawa, later to become Director of Soil Research for Canada. This was a demanding position but very interesting, involving a great deal of traveling in Canada, U.S.A. and abroad. Fortunately, I was most always included in these travels. A conference in Australia became a tour around the world in 1968 of 4 months.

The 8½ years in Ottawa were very interesting, eventful, exciting, being where the action is. And there was great scope for voluntary work. Walter took early retirement in June, 1972. Like a bird to its nest we are back to Lac du Bonnet and the river, among old friends and neighbors and new friends, and near to both mothers. Following the refurbishing of the house and an addition to it facing the river we settle down to community work. Walter became rector's warden at St. Johns and active in the renovations there, also myself. Walter also became chairman of the Lac du Bonnet Health Clinic Board devoting most of the waking hours of a year to finally, with the hard work of his



committee see the first stage of a temporary clinic. Two trailers joined to provide working space for a doctor and his staff, on Allard Street, January 14, 1974.

Walter, the soilsman was not happy until he had his "Kitchen" garden of one acre in operation on



Edythe and Walter Ehrlich at the St. Matthews church, January 3, 1964.



Walter Ehrlich and Annie Waters at Lac du Bonnet, August, 1964.

the old Zahara farm, owned by my mother. I almost rued the day I had met this Aggie student. I'll never freeze, can or pickle again. Our winters were spent in Florida.

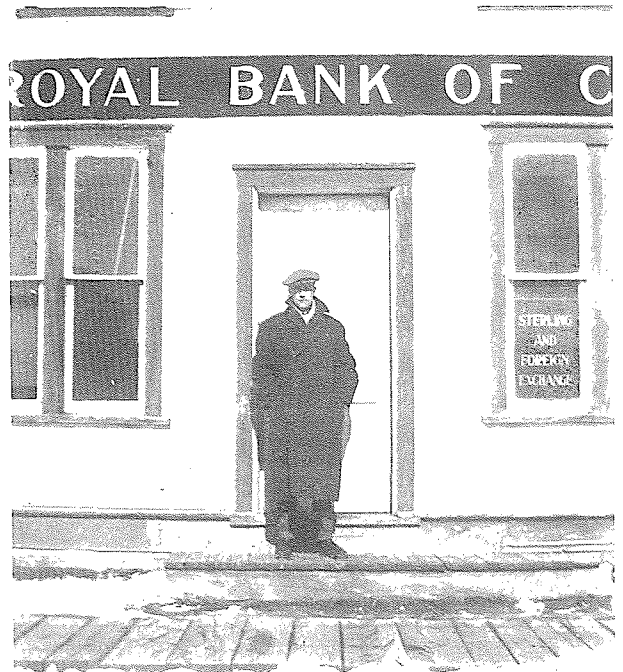
The beautiful retirement did not last long. Walter passed away at age 66 in 1975. Life throws many curves. I am still in my home at Lac du Bonnet and will be for some time I hope. I have been travelling to the places we hoped to visit together. The summers are beautiful here and the winters are warm in Florida. My mother passed away in 1974. Walter's mother will celebrate her 97th birthday, August 25th, 1979.

I must add to these histories a new grandson, Noel Thomas Frank Brown, son of Hart and Carla Brown, June 22, 1979.

Submitted by Edythe Ehrlich

### THE EMMETT FAMILY

In 1921 the Royal Bank of Canada opened a branch in Lac du Bonnet with a staff of two. Robert E. Emmett, "Bob" was the first manager. He was born in Gravesend, Kent, England in 1895, and came to Canada in 1912, sailing from Liverpool in April of that year on the Allan liner "Victorian" which was in the mid-Atlantic at the time the "Titanic" was sunk by an iceberg. He received his early education in Calcutta, India, and later at Bedford School in England.



R.E. Emmett.

Soon after coming to Lac du Bonnet, Bob was joined by his mother and they lived on Church Street in the house owned by Dr. Malcolm and formerly occupied by Mr. Mackie, who was principal of the local school. In 1923 Bob was married to Isobel Hamilton who was the daughter of Thomas and Mary Hamilton, who homesteaded in the Crandall, Manitoba district northwest of Brandon.

Mrs. Emmett Senior was born in Calcutta, India in 1868. Her father, Captain C.S. Mills, left Scotland in 1857 to enter the service of the Honourable East India Company (comparable to our Hudson's Bay Co.). He retired at the end of the last century when he was in command of the company sailing ship the "Sarsati". Her eldest son and Bob's only brother died of wounds in France in 1918.

Bob retired from the Bank on pension in 1954 after being manager of the St. James Branch, Winnipeg for 22 years.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Mr. Emmett has been a wonderful source of information and of pictures for this book. Of his first days at Lac du Bonnet he remembers buying a camera and renting a rowboat from Hans Johnson, so impressed was he by the beauty of the river and its surroundings. He would row across it to Moules, Ongman's or Revienami's, sometimes taking Don McCulloch or Bill Hammerstedt with him for company.

Bob boarded with the Jack Parks who had rooms in the Allard Building. One morning very early he heard a cry of "Help! Help!" coming from the river. He rushed out only to meet Bill Hammerstedt who had heard it too, from upstairs at the Pioneer Store. Mr. Kronberg who couldn't swim was clinging to an overturned canoe (he'd been out fishing). Bob rushed towards the row boat but Bill said, "Let's use my motor boat". And so to the rescue!

That old gang of mine.

Back row: Hans Johnson, Nap Wilson, John Hammerstedt, Esther Simonson, Vera Ongman, Bill Hammerstedt.

Front row: Mrs. McCulloch Sr., Bob Emmett, Maude McCulloch. Taken by Don McCulloch, 1921.



Back row: Isobel Emmett, Edna Hamilton, Mr. Fox, teacher from Red Deer, Mrs. Sherk and Lillian Shapland.

Front row: Mrs. Emmett Sr., Miss E. Blowers, Grey Sherk, Mrs. Williams and ?



The house where the Emmetts lived in Lac du Bonnet.



Pioneer Store — R.E. Emmett - 1st manager of the Royal Bank, Macdonold - C.P.R. conductor, Mrs. McKay, Katie Campbell - school teacher, Beulah Campbell - Pinawa, and Norman Lee - son of Sam Lee - manager of store.



Don McCulloch

Mr. Emmett remembers the kindness of Leslie Shapland in arranging for their transportation via C.P.R. Rail to Beausejour in October, 1921 to join the Order of the Masons. They travelled by hand-car. Near Molson they saw a train coming and hastily lifted the vehicle off the track. It slid down a steep grade. The task of getting it back up was tremendous but they were eventually on their way again, arriving at the meeting when it was half over.

Neither of them dreamed that Bob would become Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba A.F. and A.M. in 1955 and Grand Historian from 1964 to 1975 during which time he completed "The History of Freemasonry in Manitoba from 1925 - 1974." the previous history was written by M.W. William Douglas.

Mrs. Emmett, the former Isobel Hamilton, after graduating from the Winnipeg General Hospital in 1918 worked for Dr. Boyd in the Children's Hospital as a lab technician.

She taught home nursing to a Red Cross class in the school at Lac du Bonnet. Mrs. Shapland offered a bedroom at the C.P.R. Station for demonstrations. The girls in that class say today they still make their beds the hospital way Mrs. Emmett taught them.

She also shared her knowledge of design with them in her home. She had received recognition at Brandon Fairs and at the Winnipeg Sketch Club for her pottery and water colours.

After viewing the film "A Last Farewell" Mr. Emmett wrote to Aileen requesting a copy of her book "Hello Soldier". This led to a splendid visit in his lovely home where the history book was discussed, and much news exchanged about folks from "away back when". "Bob" (which he insists on) likes to recall the many happy times he had in Lac du Bonnet over 50 years ago.

#### MR. AND MRS. ARTHUR FOURNIER

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Fournier were both born and raised in Gaspé, Quebec. On a suggestion from his brother Louis, who had come west some time earlier, Arthur Fournier, his wife Alexandrine and their three very young children set off for the district of Lac du Bonnet by train in 1912.

Their first home in Lac du Bonnet was a small log shack attached to a chicken coop situated near the Winnipeg River bridge, on the property which is presently owned by their grandson Rene Lavoie. After six months, they moved to Landerville where they lived for the next 16 years. The family raised a few animals on their homestead but farming was not their only means of livelihood. Arthur was employed by City Hydro in 1916, working on the



Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Fournier, January 24th, 1965.

railroad in the Lac du Bonnet to Pointe du Bois areas for a period of 25 years, retiring in 1941.

In 1928, the Fournier family moved back to Lac du Bonnet where Arthur and eldest son Evangeliste built the house Arthur and his wife retired in, located on McArthur Street. The house is now owned by their son Evangeliste and his wife.

After his retirement, Arthur set up his own launching railroad with a cable car to get aircraft in and out of the water for the Trans Air Base in Lac du Bonnet.

Arthur Fournier was an active member of the Roman Catholic church, a church trustee and a member of the Fransiscan Fathers.

Alexandrine became a midwife for the Lac du Bonnet area and later an assistant to Dr. Woods in all home deliveries and still later assistant to Dr. Reid. She was of great help in her dedication during the influenza epidemic of 1918-19. Mrs. Fournier was a life member of the Royal Canadian Legion and a very active member of the Roman Catholic church. Socially, she played the accordion at house party square dances.

Mr. and Mrs. Fournier had a family of 15 children, one of whom was an adopted son and four of whom died at a very early age. A son, René was killed in action in World War II, October 1942 and a second son Donald died in 1960 - the result of World War II injuries. Of the remaining children, Evangeliste, George and May all stayed in Lac du Bonnet; Malvina and Mitch reside in British Columbia; Eugene (Joe) lives in Regina, Saskatchewan; Bertha in Pine Falls, Manitoba; Rita in Winnipeg, Manitoba and Jim in Stonewall, Manitoba.

Arthur and Alexandrine celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1958. They remained residents of Lac du Bonnet until their deaths in 1966 and 1968.

Fournier Family  
Submitted by Joanne Lavoie

THERESE  
MARRIED OCT 24, 1961  
ALAN BRUCHANSKI } TIMMY  
WENDY  
ANGELA  
RAQUEL

EUANGELISTE  
MARRIED OCT 1, 1960  
LAURENTINE DAVID } LOUISE  
MARRIED OCT 6, 1962  
GEORGE YLONEN } LISA  
TANNIS  
DOLENA

IRENE } RANDY  
MARRIED MAY 26, 1962  
DENNIS CHAMPAGNE } KEVIN  
DWAYNE  
KRISTY

DAVID } AMY  
MARRIED SEPT 7, 1964  
KARLA HOLLAND } KRISTY

MALVINA  
MARRIED APRIL 14, 1960  
CRAIG STEVENSON } CRAIG  
MARRIED  
INGRID LYNCE } DARREN  
KEVIN  
JAMIE

DOLENA } TIANA  
MARRIED  
HAROLD THOMPSON } SEAN  
JASON

SHELACH }  
MARK (TWIN)  
IAN (TWIN)  
MICHAEL

GEORGE  
MARRIED JAN 21, 1957  
JOSEPHINE LAVOIE } JANEEN  
MARRIED JULY 27, 1953  
LEONARD BYMAN } SHELLY  
BRENDA

DENNIS } CRAIG  
MARRIED JULY 5, 1958  
SHIRLEY VANASSE } MICHAEL

LEO (TWIN) } MICHELLE  
MARRIED SEPT 14, 1963  
MIA TERRA } BRUCE

LEONA (TWIN) } KIMBERLY  
MARRIED NOV 4, 1961  
GLENN SCHWARTZ } GARNET

PAT }  
MARRIED DEC 7, 1968  
TERRY FURLONG

MITCH  
MARRIED  
CHRISTINE ROBINSON } CHRISTOPHER } MELISSA  
MARIA } CHRISTY  
DANIEL BOULANGER

BERTHA  
MARRIED AUG 21, 1960  
LAWRENCE FRAYNE } NOEL  
MARRIED  
ASTRID WOLFF }  
MERRILY } CELINA  
KERRY

ARTHUR FOURNIER  
BORN APRIL 4, 1881  
GATAP QUINAC  
DIED JUNE 5, 1966  
LAC DU BONNET, MAN.

ALEXANDRINE MARIN  
BORN JUNE 30, 1896  
GATAP, QUEBEC  
DIED APRIL 27, 1967  
LAC DU BONNET, MAN.

DONALD  
BORN DEC 17, 1916  
DECEASED 1960

GLORIA (MAY)  
BORN MAY 17, 1917  
DECEASED APRIL 30, 1979  
MARRIED OCT 18, 1932  
PAUL LAVOIE } RENE  
MARRIED OCT 20, 1942  
JUDY MURIECHUR } LORI  
TARCEY  
SHARON }  
MARRIED JAN. 14, 1979  
DAVID McDONALD } MICHAEL  
ANGELA

RENE  
BORN APRIL 30, 1920  
DECEASED OCT 30, 1962

EUGENE (JOE)  
MARRIED APR 8, 1960  
JOYCE MACLEAN } ROBERT  
MARRIED  
TANGLIS Boyle } LINDA  
MARRIED APRIL 27, 1977  
JOHN DIXON } SHARON  
MARRIED JAN. 14, 1979  
DAVID McDONALD } RICHARD  
MARINA  
RAYMOND

RITA  
MARRIED AUG 15, 1953  
GORDON BAXTER } PAUL  
MARRIED JUNE 21, 1975  
JULIE PRYCE } NICOLE

TANNIS }  
DAVID  
THERESA  
ROGER

JAMES (ADOPTED)  
MARRIED JUNE 3, 1961  
BETTY EBERLE } DEBBIE  
DONALD  
DELLA  
DARRYL

4 ADDITIONAL CHILDREN DIED VERY YOUNG.





Second prize-winning garden at Seven Sisters Falls - home of J. Fransen.

### FRANSEN

John Fransen was born in Smoland, Sweden in 1889. He came to Winnipeg, Canada in 1911. Hanna Engstrom was born in Warmland, Sweden in 1889. She came to Winnipeg in 1911 also. They met in Winnipeg and were married. After the First World War they went to Lac du Bonnet and lived in a log house. John went to work at Pointe du Bois. Then they bought a homestead 3½ miles south of Lac du Bonnet where he built a log cabin. Groceries were difficult to carry over a rough terrain. A 100 lb. bag of flour was indeed difficult to carry on his back.

Then John went on to the Winnipeg Electric Company at Pinawa in 1920. From Pinawa he went to the power plant at Great Falls, his wife and only daughter temporarily housed in Lac du Bonnet for one month in Mrs. Algren's stable, where passers-by must have been astonished to hear someone practicing the piano.

Eventually John built their home on an acre lot past the school, working on it one summer and weekends while at Great Falls, generally walking to Lac du Bonnet and skiing in the winter. Finally a Ford was bought from J. Sparman and used over a difficult mud road to Great Falls. He worked also at Pine Falls for brief intervals when it was slack at Great Falls. Then, later on to Seven Sister Falls Generating Station where "Jack" Fransen was jack of all trades.

Upon retiring in Winnipeg in 1958 he and his wife resided with their daughter Hilma and grandsons Grant and Garth. Both John and Hanna passed away in 1969 three months apart.

Hilma Solar (Daughter)



Mr. and Mrs. Fransen beside the house in Lac du Bonnet Jack built.



Mrs. Walter French, 1942. Courtesy of E. J. Richmond.

### FRENCH

Walter William French, born December 8, 1882 in Bexhill, Sussex, England. He died in Calgary, Alberta May 13, 1967 and was buried in the Field of Honour, Burnsland Cemetery, Calgary, Alberta.

Annie Elizabeth French, born A. E. Wappet, on July 4, 1884 in Appleby, Westmoreland, England. She died on June 5, 1978 in Calgary, Alberta and is buried in Burnsland Cemetery, Calgary, Alberta.

They were married in 1909 in Bexhill, Sussex, England. They had three children, all born in Bexhill; Alice Marion born December 15, 1911 and died January 15, 1973 in Calgary, Alberta. Walter Leslie born in June 1913, Eric William, born in January 1921. After W.W.I. and Grandpa were discharged from the British Army, the family came to Canada in 1922. They went to the Lac du Bonnet area first. However work was not plentiful so they moved to Winnipeg. They later moved back to Lac du Bonnet, and Mr. French went to work for the Winnipeg Electric Company Power Plant in Great Falls. He remained there until he

retired in 1951. However the family built a home a mile and a half east of the town. To my knowledge it is still there, a green shingle home with white trim. The children all married. Alice Marion married Ronald William MacDonald of Birds Hill, Manitoba in November 1933. They had three daughters: — Janice Ronald, Gail Patricia, and Lorna Fern.

Walter Leslie married Rhoda in England during the World War II about 1943. They live in Willowdale, Ontario. He served in the P.P.C.L.I. and left Lac du Bonnet after his bride came from England in 1946. No children.

Eric William married Jean Sydorko of Lac du Bonnet in the fall of 1949. He died in Winnipeg in April 1950. He is buried in the Field of Hanour, Brookside Cemetery, Winnipeg. He served with the Winnipeg Grenadiers from September 18, 1939 until his discharge in January 1946. He was a P.O.W. in Hong Kong. He died of treatment received there. They also had no children.

The only grandchildren were Alice's three girls. The first two were born in Lac du Bonnet in the family home. Lorna, the youngest was born in Fort McLeod, Alberta while her father was stationed there with the R.C.A.F.

There was also one nephew of Mr. French's who came to Canada when the children were sent out of London during the Blitz of 1940. He is Brian Booth. He attended high school in Lac du Bonnet. Joined the Tank Corp and served overseas during World War II. After the war he returned to the area and married Jessie Wilcox of St. George, Manitoba. They have three children and live in Tuscon, Arizona, U.S.A.

We recall drinking water that came from the river. Grandma carried two pails up the hill with a yoke over her shoulders. We also remember Indians setting up their tents in the back of the house. They came by boat to sell their fish and would camp for a day or two in our yard. Most were from the Birds Hill area.

Grandma read tea cups and cards which she learned to do as a child. She said she used to visit a gypsy camp on her way home from school in Appleby and they taught her. She attended the Anglican church as often as she could. She was a life member of the Canadian Legion. During the war she gave blood every three or four months. She always tried to help anyone in need. No one was ever turned away.

Alice, the oldest of the French children had a fairly good voice and entertained by singing at various town functions.

We lived in the Lac du Bonnet school district No. 1235. We had 1½ miles to walk. The only transportation was the bus once a day from Winnipeg.

There are three great-grandchildren: Ronald Walter Hamilton age 10 years, son of Janice, Byron John Ellett age 9 years, son of Gail, and Kelly Patricia Morrison age 2, daughter of Lorna.

Janice and Gail both attended school for awhile in Lac du Bonnet, then moved to Winnipeg after World War II.

As to what we are all doing now - Walter Leslie works for the transit system of Toronto. Gail is a happy housewife in the Bonavista area of Calgary. Lorna is also a housewife in Lethbridge, Alberta. Our Dad, R. MacDonald is retired and married again in Calgary, and I, Janice Hamilton, am manager of a Real Estate Firm and also live in the Bonavista area of Calgary.

### **FRED GAUER**

**Father — Henry Gauer**

**Mother — Lydia Gauer (nee Handel)**

My paternal grandparents came from Austria and emigrated to Canada from Odessa in 1889, my maternal grandmother came from Germany in 1871, my grandfather from Austria in 1873. They settled in Winnipeg.

They travelled by ship to Montreal and then on the Countess of Dufferin train. Their first home was a small bungalow heated by wood heaters, and water came from a well.

My paternal grandfather was a contractor and my mother's father owned a butcher shop and many years later apartments on Jarvis Street.

My father attended Dufferin School and did odd jobs. He joined James Richardson and Sons in 1902 to 1945. He retired for one year and then formed his own grain company and carried on until his death in 1960.

I first visited Lac du Bonnet in 1924 on summer vacation and of this year am a permanent resident.

### **GRANOVSKY BROS.**

I came to Lac du Bonnet with my step-father Samuel Ostry in 1909, having purchased the business of Dave Kaufman.

In 1914, my step-father sold me his share of the business.

In 1915, Bill Hammerstedt came to work for me.

In 1919-20, my step-father and I decided on a venture to open a wholesale dry-goods in Winnipeg. We went to England, made connections and opened The Western Day Goods Importing Company. This venture did not last long as my step-father, in 1922-23, purchased the interests of J. D. McArthur and came back to Lac du Bonnet. I con-



tinued on my own with The Western Dry Goods and left the managing of the Lac du Bonnet store to my brother, H. J. Granovsky who became my partner in 1923.

In 1924, we heard that a paper mill was under construction in Pine Falls. I walked from Great Falls to Pine Falls, purchased a piece of property from one of the farmers and immediately proceeded to put up a building with living quarters above the store.

John Hammerstedt came to work for me at this time in Pine Falls.

In 1925 I had the opportunity to purchase the building at 90 Albert Street and transferred my business of The Western Dry Goods to the new premises. It was about this time in 1927 that my step-father decided to retire and my brother and I, under the name of Granovsky Bros., purchased all my step-father's interests in Lac du Bonnet. We moved from the old store to the new premises and operated under the name of The Pioneer Store. Now we had the three businesses going with my brother in Lac du Bonnet, myself in Pine Falls and using Western Day Goods as an outlet for purchasing and selling for the two stores. I was in Pine Falls until 1939 when we sold the store and buildings to Mr. A. L. Sunde. My brother remained in Lac du Bonnet until 1940 when we sold the Pioneer Store to Bill Hammerstedt.

I was married in June 1926 to Mina Shaen of Winnipeg and we have two daughters, both living in Winnipeg. One daughter is Natalie Neuman and she has one son Allen - 21 years old who is hoping to enter Medical College this year. The second daughter Yhetta Gold is Executive Director of Age & Opportunity Bureau. She has three children, the oldest Joshua is 24 years old and has taken up Education. Susan is 21 years old and is also hoping to enter Medical College this year. Peter has just turned 19 years and has finished first year University.

S. Granovsky

#### PAUL HAAGENSON

Among the early settlers to come to the community of Lac du Bonnet were Paul and Martha Haagenon. My mother and I came here from our native land, Norway Europe in the year 1907. I was three years old at that time. My dad was here before us, no doubt working hard, earning money for mother's and my passage across the great Atlantic. Dad built a cottage on 3rd Street where he owned a lot. Three sons and a daughter were born to them at Lac du Bonnet. Of this immediate family only one son and one daughter survive. The son, Hilmer and his family reside in B.C., Canada.

I, the eldest daughter (Barbara) in Lac du Bonnet district. The other three children passed away at a very tender age.

After a few years dad took up a homestead south of town, where, no doubt he hoped to make his permanent home, but the dreadful flu epidemic around the year 1918, claimed him. Mother had passed on before, both at a young age. Their stay in the new land was short. Surviving them besides their children are two grandsons, Robert at Lac du Bonnet, Gerald at Port Hardy, B.C. Also a granddaughter (Beryl) in B.C. There are many great-grandchildren as well as great-great-grandchildren.

Dad worked at various jobs. At Pointe du Bois when the power house was being built there. He also worked at The Pas. Long ago there was a brickyard at Lac du Bonnet, my dad and many other early settlers were employed there.

I remember the sawmill, the logs being floated on the river. I also remember the great fire when the sawmill burned. There was much feed grain and hay, owned by the McArthur farms, destroyed in that fire as well. It was a frightening night, everyone in fear of the wind shifting and blowing toward the town. Luckily this didn't happen.

In the year 1914 part of the bridge spanning the river collapsed as the train going between Lac du Bonnet and Pointe du Bois was crossing over, the engineer losing his life.

Another thing I remember was the steeple of the Anglican Church being built. I cannot recall what year that was.

The people I remember from long ago are numerous. Almost all have passed on. Some have descendants in the district.

The town of Lac du Bonnet was small in the early nineteen hundreds. There were no roads, a lot of swampy land. Transportation was by ox team, dog team and horses. One mode of transportation we did have though was train service to and from Winnipeg. How enjoyable it was to travel to Winnipeg to visit friends and go shopping in Eatons.

We had enjoyable times in the long ago. There were picnics in summer. Always a celebration on July 1st. School picnics at the end of the school term. I remember well the first school and many of the teachers.

There was always the river, where we could go swimming or trying to. The annual school concert in December was always looked forward to, especially by the children.

There were dances for the grownups as well as other entertainment.

In winter the youngsters had the hill leading down to the river for sliding. Some of us had sleds, some used staves from wooden barrels and some slid down on pieces of cardboard. No matter what the equipment, we had fun. Good clean fun. We

were naughty though, when we didn't find the hill slippery enough, we poured water to freeze. Needless to say the grownups were angry with us. They had to go up and down the hill to fetch water from the river. I remember them chopping steps to make getting up and down easier. We youngsters didn't like this a bit. The very idea - ruining our beautiful sliding hill.

I recall one Sunday morning when we almost had a tragedy in our family. Dad had gone to the river to carry home water. There were holes chopped in the ice from which water was dipped. Somehow, dad slipped and fell into the icy water. Luckily he was able to save himself from drowning. When he came home and told us what had happened, we were shocked to think what might have happened. Needless to say we were glad to have him home, none the worse for being in the icy water.

I could go on and on, telling about the people and events, many humorous, many tragic. It would be tiring and I must leave space for others.

Sent by Mrs. A. Sundstrom  
eldest daughter of  
Paul and Martha Haagenon

## HALLIDAY FAMILY HISTORY

The Halliday family originated in the valley of the Annan River in Dumfriesshire, Scotland. On February 22nd, 1815, a proclamation was published at Edinburgh which set forth the government plan "to encourage settlers to proceed to the British Provinces of North America. A grant of one hundred acres of land will be secured to each family, all male children, will be entitled on attaining the age of twenty-one years, to a similar grant. Axes and other necessary implements will be furnished, land will be appropriated for a church, and the maintenance of a clergyman and a schoolmaster."

On May 26th, 1815, John Halliday left his schoolmaster position in Hutton Parish, Scotland ready for embarkment. Glasgow was to be the port of embarkation. It was during his stay in Glasgow that John Halliday was appointed schoolmaster for the settlers and the necessary instructions were forwarded to the Governor of Canada.

The ocean voyage in 1815 was somewhat less than a pleasure trip. The ship ran into a terrible gale which lasted 24 hours, the passengers were seasick. Off the banks of Newfoundland the weather was cold and foggy. Whooping cough broke out among the children and a number of them died. Sixty-two days after leaving Scotland the "Atlas" arrived at Quebec. The emigrants were now immigrants.

The Scots had become Canadians. Word was "the settlers have this moment arrived with their knapsacks and axes". A new life in a new land had now begun. None of the immigrants would be fully aware of the degree of difference they would find between the old and the new. They were now to live in the scattered bush settlements. They first settled on the Scotch Line, then moved to Cornwall and from there to Brockville, Ontario. The venture that had begun for him in May 1815 in the established civilization of Scotland, had completed another stage in its history when in July 1816 the Scots schoolmaster became a pioneer settler in the Canadian bush.

The Hallidays are now seven generations Canadians. A family history is not static until it fails through the death of its surviving member. That point is still apparently some distance off for this history.

William Duncan Halliday came West with his father John and sister Annie before 1900. William was born in Springtown, Ontario in 1874, he moved with his parents to Renfrew, Ontario. First they settled in "Rat Portage" now known as Kenora, Ontario; from there to Whitemouth. His father John Halliday worked in the logging operation in Whitemouth. However in 1900 his father and sister moved back East and settled in Chapleau, Ontario. William ventured on to Lac du Bonnet. He came from Whitemouth via birch bark canoe, he told us some interesting stories of Whitemouth in the early days.

He married Frances Ethel Sutherland of East St. Paul and settled on the homestead located three miles N.E. of Lac du Bonnet. He had 160 acres, the land was cleared, a log house built. In 1918 a new house was built which remained on the farm until 1947. Clearing the 160 acres of land took up most of early 1900, other jobs were taken to provide for the family.

He was foreman on the Pointe du Bois railway being built from Lac du Bonnet to Pointe du Bois, he was also conductor on the Pointe train.

In 1917 he was secretary-treasurer of the Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet until 1923. In 1913 he was also secretary-treasurer of the Lac du Bonnet School District No. 1235. One of the early teachers was Miss M. Dobson at \$60.00 per month. He owned a livery barn on 3rd Street. He and his son Jack drove Dr. Malcom to outlying areas, also the school inspector to various schools, would rent out horse and cutter to go to dances at Riverland, Pinawa (old Pinawa) and Brookfield. Drove prospectors to Gem Lake, Long Lake and other mines in that area, via Bird River, hauled in freight to these mines, as Bird River is the door to valuable mineral deposits, one can still see the old bush roads leading to these mines.

In 1933 William opened an office on 3rd Street, issued marriage licences. One story he told was about an elderly gentleman who came into the office. He told dad he wanted a licence. Dad asked him if he wanted a fishing licence. "Oh no", he said, he wanted a marriage licence. It was the office of the wartime prices and trade board, also the ration board, filled out mining claims, also old age pensions. He had the contract to build the local government wharf and was the police magistrate for a number of years.

In 1970 a cairn was erected on part of the homestead in memory of the late W. D. Halliday, by the Lac du Bonnet Boy Scouts under the leadership of Scout Master Irvin Grabke.

Francis, the wife of Wm. Halliday died in 1922 and William in 1962.

The family of Wm. D. Halliday consisted of:

Kathleen who married Wm. A. Creaney, lived in Ireland after being widowed, returned from Ireland and lives in Lac du Bonnet.

John married Norma Hawkins, they have seven children: John, Joan, Barbara, Joyce and Janice (twins) and Mavis and Beryl.

Margaret married Charles L. Cherry. They have five children: Laverne, Kathleen, Beverley, Lynne, Donald.

Stella married Wm. Hammerstedt, William died in 1978 and Stella still lives in Lac du Bonnet.

Stancil married Stanley Cupit. They have two sons and live in Vancouver.

Earl never married. He lived in Vancouver and died in 1973.

They all attended school in Lac du Bonnet.

The Hallidays lived on the farm at Halliday Beach which is 3½ miles from town and had to walk some days, also came on the hand car which Mr. Specht owned as he worked as supervisor on the track. There were the neighbours: S. Thompsons, Petersons, Kreishmans, Bymans, Spechts and Botchetts who all attended Lac du Bonnet school. We moved to town during the winter, to be close to school, then back to the farm in summer.

Submitted by Stella Hammerstedt  
(nee Halliday)

#### JOHN ALEXANDER HALLIDAY

by Norma Halliday

My husband John (Jack) Alexander Halliday, the elder son of Mr. and Mrs. William Duncan Halliday, was born in Lac du Bonnet on July 24, 1906. He received his school education in Lac du Bonnet and resided in Lac du Bonnet all his life. After leaving school he worked at several jobs; construction at Slave Falls, freighting for Sam Baker, diamond drilling for Boyle Bros. at Central



Jack Halliday Jr. unveiling the cairn erected in 1970 on his grandfather's homestead by the Boy Scouts of Lac du Bonnet. Jack was raised on this farm. He was a Boy Scout leader for several years and took an active part in the club.

Manitoba Mines, Wadhope, Manitoba and Jackson Manion Mines in Eastern Ontario.

I, Norma Elizabeth Hawkins, was born in Winnipeg, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fredrick Hawkins of Winnipeg. I received my public and high school education in Winnipeg. My father's parents Mr. and Mrs. Fredrick Hawkins Sr. came to Winnipeg from Chelsea, England in 1882. My father was born, educated and lived in Winnipeg all his life. He worked for C. P. R. as a trainman for forty-eight years until his retirement. My mother's parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Pilling came to Winnipeg with their young family, two boys and one girl from Merriton, Ontario about 1900. My father and mother were married in Winnipeg in 1907. I have one sister Doris Shaw and one brother Lewis Hawkins, both living in Winnipeg, and one brother Carl, deceased 1956.

I first came to Lac du Bonnet in 1930 visiting with friends, the Louis Gaudry family, who at that time owned and operated the Tourist Hotel. My father was a very good friend of Louis' and came to Lac du Bonnet often to go hunting.

Jack and I were married in Winnipeg on July 9, 1937 and took over the Halliday homestead in the spring of 1938. The homestead is located on S28 T15 R11E, 4 kilometers north east of the town of Lac du Bonnet. As a tribute to the fact that this was the first homestead taken out in this district, the Boy Scouts of Lac du Bonnet erected a cairn on the property on July 18, 1970. We farmed the homestead, and various years during the winter months Jack worked out on temporary jobs. We had seven children born to us, one son and six daughters, including twin girls, Janice and Joyce.

John (Jack) Douglas married Janice Lin Sytnick of Lac du Bonnet. They reside in Lac du Bonnet and Jack is employed by Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd., Pinawa, Manitoba. They have two children, Holly and Gary.

Joan Elizabeth married Raymond Robert Lesko of Lac du Bonnet. They reside in Lac du Bonnet and have two daughters, Lori and Lana.

Barbara Doris married Lee Schwery of Des Moines, Iowa, U. S. A. They reside in Lathrop, Missouri, U. S. A. and have two children, Gregory and Sabrina.

Janice Mae married Lorne Barnes of Ashern, Manitoba. They reside in Abbotsford, B. C. and have three children, Tannis, Jeffrey and Warren.

Joyce Kathleen resides in Lac du Bonnet and is presently taking a Business Administration Course at Red River Community College in Winnipeg.

Mavis (Bonnie) Stancil married James Whiting of Richmond, B. C. and have two children Oona and Jamie.

Beryl Norma married Douglas Silvester of Saturna Island, B. C. They reside in Richmond, B. C. and have two children, Shane and Charlene.

After Jack's accidental death in March 1963 while he was employed on construction at Pinawa, Manitoba, we remained living on the farm for a couple of years. Shortly after that I purchased Albert Arsenault's house in Lac du Bonnet and rent the farm out.

All my children obtained their public and high school education in Lac du Bonnet.

My whole family has been very active in the community of the town. They have belonged to and still belong to many of the organizations. They have all been members of the 4-H Club, Jack in the calf and tractor clubs, and the girls in food, sewing and craft clubs. Joan was a 4-H leader for five years. We are members of St. John's Anglican Church. I take an active part in the A. C. W. Rebekahs, Eastern Star, Legion Auxiliary Pioneer Club, and the Hospital Auxiliary.

Submitted by Norma Halliday

### **WILLIAM LOUIS HAMMERSTEDT**

William L. Hammerstedt was born in Bolnes, Sweden in 1898. He arrived in Canada in 1906 with his parents, brother John and sister Annie. They settled in Winnipeg in the Point Douglas area, lived for a time in Elmwood. He received his education at the Argyle school in Winnipeg. He worked with his father, August on the construction of the Mormon church in Cardson, Alberta.

In 1915 William came to Lac du Bonnet and worked for J. D. McArthur. Later for Granovsky

Brothers. He later became manager of the Pioneer General Store, along with partner Joe Sparman. In 1960 the Pioneer General Store, on First Street was demolished by fire.

He married Helga Olsen in 1927. They had two sons, Roland and Murray. He was predeceased by his wife in 1944 and his son Murray in 1945. Roland is married and he and his wife Ann and son Derek live in Keewatin, Ontario.

William was a member of the Vasa Order of America. His father August was a pioneer member of the Vasa Order. William was instrumental in organizing the youth group of the order for which he received a medal from King Gustav of Sweden.

William was interested in sports and was active in curling, hockey, baseball and badminton. He helped organize Lac du Bonnet's first curling rink in 1933. Hockey was played in the 1920's on a rink on the river. The snow was removed and a rink made. There was a building there to put on your skates and a stove to keep you warm. The baseball diamond was located half a mile N. E. of town in the pit. Everyone enjoyed the games. He purchased property in the Bird River district from George and Lucy Dawson where he spent his leisure time.

In 1960 he married Stella Halliday in Vancouver, B. C. and on their return to Lac du Bonnet they established the Pioneer Store on Third Street, and were in business until 1973. Stella started work for the Pioneer Store under the management of Granovsky Brothers in 1935, which was later managed by William Hammerstedt and Joe Sparman. She worked there until 1960, then she and William managed their own Pioneer Store on Third Street until 1973.

Being in the retail business in the early years was something different; a general store meant just that: hardware, clothing, shoes, butcher shop, etc. Most of the items were bulk: sugar, coffee, tea, spices, brown sugar, cookies, candies. Most customers bought flour and sugar in 100 pound bags. Molasses came in wooden barrels; the customers brought their own containers and they were filled with a ladle. On a cold day we had to use a cup. Rice came in 100 pound bags, also dry beans and peas. The peas were purchased from St. George. They grew the best peas in the country and they had acres of them. The cheese came in round wooden crates and they were aged in the basement of the store for months for those who preferred old cheese. The crates had to be turned over every so often for the oil to regenerate through the cheese. There was always a crate of limberger cheese, which had to be buried under several boxes, but one always knew it was there. There was always a round block of cheese on the cutter and when you cut a piece of cheese for a

customer there was always a piece for a sample. There were barrels of kerosene, and the customers brought their coal oil tins that had to be filled and when they lost their top off the tin one would use a potato so it would not spill.

Horses and wagons were used to deliver groceries and to bring the freight from the station. There would be a carload of flour, bran, salt and they were stored in the warehouse. There was also wild rice which at times exceeded a thousand pounds or more, but it was not the price it is today. The years previous to 1935 the stores were open every night until nine o'clock and during my early recollection there were no coffee breaks, or days off during the week. That came years later. Eggs and fresh dairy butter were purchased and exchanged for groceries. Potatoes were brought from the farmers and were stored in a large potato bin.

There was also the lumber yard, it was located next to the Pioneer Store, later owned by Beaver Lumber.

William was one of the organizers of the 1st of July picnics which were a big event in the early years. The first picnics were held at Picnic Point; then later in the Community grounds. There was boat and horse racing, sailboats, swimming and surfboats which drew a large crowd.

Submitted by Stella Hammerstedt

### PETER HANSEN

I was discharged from the Danish army in 1918. Went to England and visited London for three months hoping to get passage on a ship to Australia but due to the soldiers returning home it was impossible to get passage so stayed in England for a while. I sailed for Canada arriving in St. Johns, New Brunswick on April 5th, 1920. From St. Johns I went up to Scarborough, Ontario and

worked on a farm for a year. Then went down to Rainy River, Ontario where I worked on the C. N. R. extra gang for about four months. Went

## 85th birthday celebrant



1917 — PETER HANSEN — 1979

A long-time resident of the Lac du Bonnet area, Peter Hansen, celebrated his 85th birthday on November 10.

The photo on the left was taken in 1917 when Peter was in the Danish Army (Cavalry — 1916 - 1918). The photo on the right was just prior to his 85th birthday. Pete is wearing the same uniform he wore 62 years ago.



Peter Hansen — 1930 home.



out west to Edson, Alberta and worked in the coal mines there for about six months, after which I went down to Arizona and worked in the Globe Miami Copper Mine two years. I met John Hammerstedt in Winnipeg in 1925 and talking about different places to live, he told me about Lac du Bonnet. Said it was a wonderful place, lots of Swedes out there. I went out to have a look around. I liked the area so I purchased the N. W. ¼ Sec. 36 Tsp. 14 Range 10 EPM from the Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet for \$175.00 which included tax arrears and legal expenses. It was raw land with some muskeg and a lot of bush. My first job was to cut down white poplar logs and started to build my shack. It was 16 feet by 26 feet, made of logs six or seven inches in diameter. It had windows two feet square covered with some kind of celluloid that was cut off a roll with a pair of scissors. One door, mud floor, the roof was poles and moss, tar paper and more poles. That roof leaked. The shack was banked up with earth, had mud chinking that had to be replaced every fall but it was cool in summer and warm in winter.

Two of three years later I got some rough lumber and shingles and put a real roof on the building and new windows with real glass. Two thirds of the floor was covered with six inch shiplap, building paper partition and ceiling. It wasn't a bad place after all. The sign over the door is hewed from an eight inch log, the letters are made from split willow sticks and spells Utopia. What a name for my first home in Lac du Bonnet. The sign is still around the building somewhere today. I moved in on Saturday, December 13th, 1930 and existed there for fourteen years.

On December 13th, 1978 I will have lived alone on this land for forty-eight years. I took the pictures of the shack myself with the aid of a timer. No doubt there are people living in the district which started life in a smiliar hut.

In 1931 we dug a well and hit water on February 24th. It was a flowing well that produced about seven thousand gallons. On the morning of February 25th when I got up there was three inches of water in the shack and the yard was flooded. We had to get busy and dig ditches to get rid of the water and try to control the flow of the well. In 1932 I sold dry poplar in Lac du Bonnet for \$1.50 a cord and paid a dollar to haul it, which didn't leave me very much but I had to cut the trees down to clear the land anyway.

I volunteered for the army in 1940 but was turned down. They said I was too old. I went to work repairing and building grain elevators for the Pool and N. M. Paterson & Sons, Ltd. In 1943 I went out to British Columbia for the winter and worked on a pile driver, building bridges on the Skena River. I returned home in the summer and went to

work again building and repairing grain elevators. I worked on the Seven Sisters Power Plant and the Pine Falls Power Plant. Then I went back to Elevator work for a few years. In the meantime I built a barn on the farm, some other buildings and a frame house. I built the house in 1944 and had electricity installed in 1954. At 10 a.m. on February 25th, 1954 we turned on our first electric lights.

I spent most of the summers on heavy construction work, mostly building and repairing grain elevators, returning to Lac du Bonnet for the winter. In 1958 I went into Winnipeg in July to see if I could get work on construction or elevator work but there were no jobs available so I came back to Lac du Bonnet and have been here ever since, working around the farm, doing gardening and some improvements. I planted quite a number of trees. At the present time I have 364 growing trees that have done very well. And it is home.

#### VIVIAN AND GERTRUDE HARDY

Vivian Clarkson Hardy was born at Winnipeg March 12th, 1897. He was the third of five boys born to Robert Johnston Hardy and Agnes Hossack Hardy. Both his parents were early pioneers coming to Manitoba in the early 1870's. Viv attended Machray public school and St. John's technical school. Always sportsminded he was a member of the Ex-Norquay lacrosse team, champions of Winnipeg. He enlisted in March of 1916 and left immediately with the 11th Field Ambulance of the R. C. A. M. C. He served overseas until 1919 when he was invalided home. After his discharge from the service he entered the University of Manitoba. Two years later he started his career as a teacher and for forty-one years he was a member of this profession. His first teaching was done in this area, first at Riverland and then at Brightstone. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Manitoba in 1938 while teaching in St. James Collegiate.

In World War Two he enlisted in June 1940 and was called up in July 1941. He became an air-drome control officer in the R.C.A.F. Later he was transferred to education and spent the remainder of his service teaching mathematics, theory of flight and aircraft recognition to pilots and navigators. After three years and eight months his service terminated at Suffield, Alberta where he was setting up tri-service classes, he returned to civilian life in March 1945 and resumed civilian teaching.

Gertrude Verne (Jenkins) Hardy, elder daughter of William Henry Jenkins and Gertrude Verne



Smith-Marshall was born March 31st, 1903 at Listowel, Ontario and went to public school there. In 1910 the family moved to Port Arthur (Thunder Bay). After several moves we went to live in Montreal. World War One broke out in 1914 and early in the fall we went back to Port Arthur to our home. Dad reopened his business but by 1916 he had an opportunity to go to Winnipeg where he and my mother remained until they came to Lac du Bonnet to live with us in 1956. I graduated from Kelvin school in 1919 and entered the University of Manitoba that fall.

In November of 1919 I met Vivian Hardy while attending University. We enjoyed working together on various projects and eventually we went out socially and by the summer of 1920 we became engaged and were married a year later. Following our marriage Viv worked for his father who owned the Central Dray and Express Company. In January 1922 he was given a permit to teach at Fort Ellice school near St. Lazare. We returned to Winnipeg at the end of the school term. Viv entered Normal in September 1922 and after graduation his first school was Riverland. Other teachers in the same class were Howard Standing at Buchan School; Bill Billyard at Great Falls; Bob Robertson at Brookfield.

The Hardy family arrived in Lac du Bonnet August 17th, 1923 on the famous Muskeg Express. Our family consisted of the two of us and our small son Billy. We were greeted by Turi Peterson, secretary of Riverland School District. He escorted us to the dock where we boarded Hans Johnson's boat, already loaded with our goods and chattels. We disembarked at a small dock near Riverland Hall close to the teacherage. The teacherage was two rooms equipped with a cook stove of ancient vintage. Before too long the house had a large kitchen, a dugout cellar and a screened porch added, which gave us more space.

We found that transportation was a problem. At that time the bridge across the river was a railway bridge for the "Toonerville Trolley" from the Pointe. We had one hair-raising experience crossing this. Thanksgiving in 1923 was held November 11th and teachers also met at that time in Winnipeg. On our return we found the section foreman, Pete Specht, waiting for us with a railway jigger. I sat on our suitcase which had been placed on the jigger, held my squirming son while my husband pumped the jigger. It was pitch dark and raining. We reached the other side of the bridge successfully. Looking down was a frightening experience. Old-timers will remember that the bridge had no sides or walkaway. We were met on the other side by a neighbor with a horse and buggy and delivered safely to the teacherage, cold, damp and probably hungry.

Riverland was a friendly community. We enjoyed making friends who were kind, hospitable and helpful. The old teacherage and original school were on the riverbank opposite Riverland Hall and K.J. Erickson's small store. The hall was the social centre of the community. Old and young spent happy times dancing to Pete Lindgren's music. With the river as a road we had need of transportation in order to be independent. Our neighbor "K.J." showed us an old rowboat half buried in a creek. It was dug out, dried out and brought over to the small beach beside the teacherage. Here oakum, tar and hard work produced "The Fox" which gave us mobility. At Christmas time we went to Winnipeg for holidays and bought a Heintzman piano, old but with a good tone. We arrive back to find the piano (in its box) in a snowbank in front of our home.

With spring breakup came the delights of boating, fishing and swimming. Washing clothes was an experience in itself. At that time a large expanse of flat rock extended out from shore. An accommodating crack made an excellent place for a fire to heat the water. The good old washboard was used, then the clothes were dipped over the side of the rock and rinsed in the beautiful soft river water. One day while washing clothes I heard a gurgle, turned around to find little Billy disappearing in three or four feet of water. He was easily rescued by grabbing his hair and pulling him to the top of the water. He was a first rate water baby and decided he had enjoyed a good bath.

We had a marvellous summer and in the middle of August 1924 we moved to Brightstone, crossing the river by Hans Johnson's famous boat. Our piano was loaded on the boat with the rest of our goods. We were met by two wagons, the piano was loaded on to one and started on its way across the swamp. The horses decided that a run-away was a fine introduction so the piano swayed and bounced until the horses were brought under control. We arrived at the Brightstone teacherage and settled down for a three year stint in the community. The corduroy road across the swamp was not conducive to many trips to town. Once a month we attended teachers' meetings in Lac du Bonnet, visited friends, and bought our supplies for the months ahead. Teachers from surrounding schools nearby, gathered at our cottage and we all travelled together by wagon in summer and sleigh in winter. Eventually we bought a horse named "Dora". She was a good saddle horse and we made good use of her. We located a high old-fashioned cutter for winter use. Our adventures with our four-footed friend would fill several pages.

Experiences at Brightstone were many and varied. Both my husband and I had medical training of sorts and it came in very useful in a com-

munity that was isolated (no telephones and poor roads.) We had several epidemics of diphtheria which caused one death. Eventually the carrier was found, treated, and the disease disappeared. Rheumatic fever and pneumonia were troublesome during winter months as was flu. There were quite a few babies that arrived via "Mrs. Teacher's little black bag".

These were very difficult times for the people of Brightstone, Red Deer (Springwell) and Lander-ville. Cash was very scarce. Cordwood was plentiful and our friends and neighbors eked out their farm living by cutting and hauling their wood to town. The price of wood was very low and often the storekeepers would only give merchandise for the wood that was brought in. Flour was the principal exchange. We often paid cash to our neighbors for flour. Scribblers and pencils were



Teacherage at Riverland — 1923.

bought from my husband at school and here the medium of exchange was sometimes eggs, butter, milk or cream and even chickens. An I. O. D. E. Chapter from Winnipeg provided the school with a large kettle, enamel mugs for the entire number of pupils, also cocoa and sugar. Cocoa was made for the noon lunch. The parents provided the milk each day in their turn. Our piano was transported over to the school each Christmas in time to teach the children songs and plays for the Christmas concert. With sixty-five children in a one-room school the concert was lengthy. No child could be left out. How we ever crammed an audience in as well as performers is hard to understand. Santa always came regardless of lack of space. We went to Winnipeg for summer vacations as my husband was working towards his University degree. Our families were always curious as to the attractions that drew us back in the middle of August. We were "home" in the little four-room cottage. Our oldest daughter, Vivian, is a Brightstone product who was born at the Winnipeg General Hospital. When word percolated through to Brightstone that she had arrived the kids were elated to get a holiday from school.

In June of 1927 we regretfully packed our belongings and set out on a new venture. The next twenty-five years were spent teaching in several places. One was Arden, where Gertrude June, our second daughter arrived. Our next stop was at Wingham near Elm Creek. Here Patricia Louise put in an appearance. Our next move was to Selkirk where we hoped to settle for a long stay. In



Brightstone School, 1925-26. V. C. Hardy, teacher.

1932 a Winnipeg friend knew we would like to go into the city though we had little hope at that time. In 1932 teachers were lucky to have a job. A phone call from a friend resulted in a move to St. James where we bought a home and settled down. By 1939 the war disrupted many people's lives and ours was no exception.

In June of 1940, Bill, now 18 years of age enlisted in the Royal Canadian Engineers. In July his unit was shipped to Camp Borden. Early August found him in England in the middle of the blitz. My husband promptly enlisted in the R.C.A.F. and was called up early in July of 1941. His first posting was as control tower operator at Paulson (near Dauphin). Later he was transferred to education and spent the remainder of his service teaching pilots and navigators who were being upgraded in order to carry out their duties. In the spring of 1942 the call went out for V. A. D.'s and I joined the Red Cross nursing corps. I was the first Red Cross V. A. D. at Deer Lodge Hospital and spent almost four years there. In May of 1944 Vivian, our daughter, enlisted in the Wrens and was called up on her 18th birthday. The war years were busy years and we did what we could for the war effort. We had "open house" for the boys who were far from home. Our son in England was well treated, (also in France) and it was a privilege for us to return the hospitality. With the end of the war our family was reunited and resumed their various activities with Viv back teaching, Bill to Agricultural College and the girls completing their education: Pat taking her R. N., June training as a Dental Nurse and Vivian married.

Early June of 1952 found us back in the village of Lac du Bonnet, in the teacherage on 5th Street with Viv principal of the school. By this time our family was grown up and on their own. Bill was married to the former Jean Guppy of Prairie Grove, Vivian Roberta was married to Harold Allen and living in Dartmouth, June was married to Capt. E. K. Staite, C.A.D.C. and living in Carman. Patricia had gone to Arizona to nurse in a small industrial hospital in the beautiful White mountains. Two months later Pat found South Westerners were very persuasive, resulting in marriage to Ted Allen of McNarry, Arizona.

We found the little teacherage very comfortable with running water — cold only — but what a blessing after living where the water pail was boss. Stories of life here are many.

In the winter of 1954 a telephone call after midnight awakened us. The power was off which was unusual. The phone call was an S. O. S. for help as the caller informed us that Rousseau's house at the corner of Fifth and McArthur was burning. All people on the street were being alerted, the men to help fight the fire and the women to help in any

way they could. The Rousseaus had escaped in their night attire. The wind was almost gale force from the west and it seemed as if the whole block of houses would go up in flames. Our Mayor, Edythe Brown (now Ehrlich) was on the scene urging families to get out of danger and also to rescue as many household effects as could be moved. The teacherage was the last house on the north side in the block and was in no immediate danger. Everyone worked hard to prevent the fire spreading. Just when the fire was at its height, the wind dropped suddenly, the house fell in, and the rest of the block was saved.

By 1954 the school population exploded and more space was needed. Four new classrooms were added on a split level design. There was some doubt that all four rooms would be needed when school opened in the fall. Pupils poured in and more new furniture had to be installed and two new teachers had to be found to take charge of the extra classrooms.

During the six years that my husband was principal we had many teachers pass through the school. There are too many to mention with the exception of Mr. Jacob Norquay who taught for many years and who died some years ago when he was over ninety. Mrs. Myrtle McLean who was a primary teacher of great ability, mothered all the little ones even to spanking the seats of naughty little troublemakers. Also of note was Miss Jean Grey of indeterminate age. She was referred to on many occasions as "Queen Mary" partly because of her regal bearing and partly because her hats were duplicates of the Royal Lady. Miss Grey was a teacher of the old school and believed that cleanliness was next to Godliness, manners and morals were top priority. She had a small sweet singing voice and her pupils were always on key. Her classroom was well disciplined and her pupils well taught.

In 1955 we bought the house and property that we are still occupying on the riverfront. In 1956 my parents came to live with us. My father, William H. Jenkins was 84 years of age and my mother, Gertrude V. was 81. Dad was an invalid for several years and died in November of 1958. Mother lived with us until her death in 1969. She would have been 95 the following May. My parents were of pioneer Ontario stock. Dad was born at Bluevale, near Wingham, Ontario where his father had settled in the 1850's. My grandmother Hannah Gray was born in 1831 near Oshawa and married my grandfather in 1858. A family of ten boys and three girls resulted from this marriage. The pioneer history of my father's family would provide a book on its own. My mother was the youngest of 11 children. Her parents Robert Marshall and Sarah Little came from Yorkshire to

Canada about 1850, and settled at Thorndale, which is now part of London, Ontario. Both sets of grandparents came to this country by sailing vessel and spent seven to nine weeks on shipboard.

We have lived here in Lac du Bonnet a total of 32 years. We have taken part in Community affairs to the best of our ability. Viv curled, so did I as long as possible. We are both members of the Legion, Viv a life member. We have taken an active part in St. John's Anglican Church and for several years Viv was president of the Chamber of Commerce. Now our activities center around the Senior Citizen's Pioneer Club. We still travel as much as we can and as our children are scattered around the continent it gives us a variety of places to visit. In 1971 we celebrated our Golden Wedding Anniversary. We enjoyed a second honeymoon to England and the Continent. In August of 1971 old friends and relatives gathered to help us celebrate. Only one grandson out of 19 grandchildren was missing as he was on duty in Germany with the American Forces. Our great-grandson at three weeks old, was brought from Texas to help us celebrate. Beginning with our anniversary that year our close neighbors, Joe and Gunhild Sparman, Ernie and Glad McLeod and within the year Viola and Alex McIntosh became members of the 50th Anniversary club. Where would you find four neighbors celebrating in such a short space of time — only in Lac du Bonnet.

In reading over the above I realized that I had not mentioned the fact that I joined the Coronation Rebekah Lodge in 1958 and am a charter member of the Lac du Bonnet Rebekah's. Centennial



Golden Wedding of Vivian and Gertrude Hardy, 1971.

Rebekah Lodge was formed in February of 1966. Also my husband and I both were members of the Lac du Bonnet Curling Club. We are no longer able to curl but we are still interested in what goes on in the sports activities of the younger generation. There has been much improvement in the sports facilities in our town and the curling rink and the Arena are a credit to the whole community.

William Johnston Hardy, our oldest child and only son is with the Federal Government (Department of Justice) and lives in Ottawa. He is married to Jean Guppy, R. N. and they have five children. Their eldest is Christopher William Hardy followed by Robin Clarkson, Eloise Jean now married to Robin Harber, Charles Claydon, and Michele Kathleen, the youngest, who is still at school. Vivian Roberta, who was born while we were at Brightstone is married to Major Ray Ratcliff, now retired from the American Air Force. They live in Cairo, Georgia and have three sons: Harold J. (Hal) who is married to the former Dorothy Langley, lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico; David, who is married to Antoinette Carver lives at Austin, Texas and Robert William married to Susan Richardson. Bob and Sue live at Rockford, Illinois, Hal and "Dot" have three children: Michelle, Renee and Mathew, David and Toni have two, David Jr. and Cathleen which gives us a good start on the great-grandchildren.

Gertrude June, our third, married Dr. Eric Staite. Eric died very suddenly in January of 1975. Their six children are Dauna June, Ellen Lorraine, Nancy Dru, Paula Erin, Eric Marshall, and Ian Howard. Nancy Dru is married to Rick Paquin and lives at Brockville, not far from the family home where her mother and Dauna live. Paula is married and lives at Parksville, B. C. Her husband is Robert Mueller. Ellen is in Ottawa, Ian at college and Marshall at Toronto.

Our youngest daughter married Ted Allen, who was born and raised in New Mexico. They live at Milan, New Mexico where Ted owns and operates a moulding plant. They have five children: Mila Louise, Theodore Hardy, Alysia Jean, Mary Joan and Glen Mathew. Mila, Alysia, Marcy and Matt attend the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque and Hardy is married to Tami Caudhill. They live a short distance from their parents and Hardy is employed by his father at the plant.

Our children think Lac du Bonnet is a home away from home and enjoy visiting here meeting old friends and making new ones. The clan expect to be here in force in 1981 when the 60th anniversary rolls around. Hopefully it will be another happy occasion and we are all looking forward to being together with relatives and friends.

We have had many happy times here, made

many wonderful friends and have enjoyed watching the progress made by the community, country as well as the village. It has been interesting to see pupils of yesteryear become solid citizens of our town and to trace family resemblances from father/mother to children and to grandchildren. Sometimes there is a certain amount of amusement and amazement too when harum scarum kids of long ago become staid, very proper members of the community. One thing is apparent, there is never a dull moment in our very beautiful town.

Submitted by Gertrude Hardy

## TRIBUTE TO V. C. HARDY

### SOMEONE I ADMIRE

by Beverley Rushton XA

I was in Grade IX at the Lac du Bonnet Collegiate when I first met Mr. Hardy. He was a substitute for my homeroom teacher. My class was very pleased with this slight change because we thought we would have a study period instead of our regular, dull and boring history class. Much to our amazement we found him to be a wonderful history teacher and we enjoyed the class greatly.

Prof. as I shall call him, started the class with a review of our history that we had taken. With his great knowledge of the subject he played Walt Disney as he made our imaginations capture the reality of the history which we thought of as being dead and unnecessary to learn. Conflicts seemed real and we could see the reason for them; we saw why wars were caused between two or more countries; and why countries had been anxious to establish colonies, besides a host of other facts. All of this made us want to learn and read the treasures hidden in the abandoned pages of our textbooks.

He also substituted several times while I was in Grade X. One of the most memorable occasions was while we were taking up the American Revolution. For once the class was alive with discussion; questions and comments upon which Prof. interestingly and satisfactorily gave his point of view. His vast knowledge made it seem as if he had lived through it all or had seen it through a crystal ball. As a result of his clarity in presenting events the shadows upon our history were removed.

This does not, however, mean that our regular history teacher was not eager or capable to teach us history because I feel she put very much work into planning our lessons so as to make them more clear to us and thus easier to learn. It is just that Prof. had an unusual talent in presenting the same facts, a talent most of us wish we could acquire.

## THE HAUBNERS

by Bob

Mother and Father (Mabel and Henry) came to Lac du Bonnet with their children, Bob and younger Ken, during November of 1924. They occupied the old yellow painted frame house that stood opposite the school and to the rear of the barber shop and pool room. This latter, father had acquired from Jack Parks so that he could embark on his own business.

The barber shop and pool room were installed in an old unpainted frame building with a hall as part of the structure wherein occasional dances were held and movies shown. These entertainments didn't last, for heating was a problem and since I bucked the wood for the stove, their passing was not a sorry day.

Later father moved his establishment up the street to the new hotel built and operated by Mr. Shapland, the ex-station agent. This was a vast improvement. The space was roomy, new, and comfortable, and there were no stoves to fire. The family prospered in these times until the dirty thirties when all suffered severe financial reverses. The



Father, Henry Haubner; a friend, Mother, Mabel Haubner; brother Kenneth.



Bob, left, back; Ken, right, back. The school band at Hallowe'en.



family got by but the strain on father seemed to accentuate his long standing asthmatic condition. He died in January of 1935.

His widow was not one to lose spirit in a tragedy and mother promptly took in boarders. These were men from Western Canada Airways, but this did not curtail her main outdoor hobby, swimming. Most every day when ice permitted she went for a swim and was known to have broken the first autumn ice to get in. Mother later moved to Winnipeg where she suffered death from an automobile during August 8, 1939.

Ken and I attended school at Lac du Bonnet



Stanley Olcen, Bob, banker?, Eric Hammerstead. On front steps of Shapland's Hotel during construction.



A Western Canada Airway's Fairchilds.

and completed our education there to the then highest available level, grade 10. Ken joined Princess Patricia's Light Infantry and on discharge took up residence in Toronto. He is now in Pineview Nursing Home, Smith Falls, Ontario.

Father had great ambitions for me and saw to it that my practical, academic and musical education was not overlooked. A saxophone started me in the dance band business with Pearl and Bill Scherk and Gus. We played Riverland, Silver Lodge and of course the home town. I still have the old horn.

For practical education he was instrumental for getting me on a prospecting crew up the Bird River on the construction gang during the building of Slave Falls, with Andy Grierson digging gravel up at Pointe du Bois, and latterly with Manitoba Forest Service at Lac du Bonnet and Rennie. The Service was very good. They kept me in summer employment to the extent that I was enabled to complete Engineering training at the University of Manitoba. With my wife Sylvia we are now retired in Victoria, B.C.

R. Haubner

## GORDON EDWARD HIRST

Gordon Edward Hirst, born in Otto, Manitoba and married Loreley Vigdis McLennan of Riverton. They moved from Riverton, Manitoba in August 1953 to Lac du Bonnet. Gordon Hirst was foreman for the clearing of bush along the shorelines for the Manitoba Hydro Electric Board. They had ten children, all of whom were born in Riverton. Gordon Hirst passed away November 25th, 1960.

**Allan** married Mayme Johnston of Crandall, Manitoba. They had three sons: Robert, Murray and Dana. Robert married Lorraine Helgason of Selkirk, Manitoba. They have a son Robert Bradley. They all reside in Crandall.

**Myrtle** married Victor Helgason of Arnes, Manitoba. They have two sons and one daughter: (Jerry and Kelly), Patsy married Bill McKetchen of Selkirk. They all reside in Selkirk, Manitoba.

**Ronald** married JoAnne Ripat and live in Lac du Bonnet. They have two daughters, Ruth and Peggy, and one son Douglas. They all reside in Lac du Bonnet.

**Rosalie** married Stan Szmerski and live in Lac du Bonnet. They have one son, two daughters and two grandchildren. (Shelly and Colleen), Lorne married Patsy Bonekamp. Grandchildren's names are Clayton and Jamie.

**Arnold** married Joan Quirt formerly of Cockrane, Ontario. They have one daughter Debbie and reside in Kincardine, Ontario.

**Glen** married Blythe Rudy and live in Lac du Bonnet. They have two sons, Calvin and Grant,



and one daughter Shannon. They live in Lac du Bonnet.

**Hazel** married Bob Pohl of Pointe du Bois. They have one son named Jayson. They all reside in Toronto.

**Beatrice** married Allan Holm and live in Lac du Bonnet. They have two sons and one daughter. (David and Mark) (Gaylene). They all live in Lac du Bonnet.

**Marlene** married Durwood Rollins of Pipestone. They have two sons, Gary and Darcy and one daughter Dena. They all live in Lac du Bonnet.

**Laurel** married Jerry Torgerson of Kamloops, B. C. They have one daughter Shelene and one son Shawn. They all reside in Ponoka, Alberta.

The Hirsts have 25 grandchildren, three great-grandchildren: Jamie, Clayton and Robert.

Loreley remarried Ralph Bogle on March 24, 1962. Ralph was from White Rock, B. C. He worked at Beausejour R.C.A. Base. They now reside in Kamloops.

#### MARIA AND HANS JOHNSON As I Remember Them

It was on a bitterly cold January morning in 1937 that I started out from Winnipeg to Lac du Bonnet on the Stuart bus. I had been hired as a substitute teacher for Jean Fletcher who taught Grades One, Two, and Three at the Lac du Bonnet School. As I had never been very far from the city before, I was a little frightened. I sat behind Mr. Stuart and as we rode along he pointed out some of the landmarks and made me feel a little better.

I will never forget the beautiful scenery as we turned off the main highway at Seddon's Corner. A mass of evergreens was growing close to the winding highway and scattered over the branches were clumps of snow which looked like cotton bat-



Coffee party at Mrs. Hans Johnson's.



Lac du Bonnet school teachers, 1941. Margaret Daly, George Chidley, Jean Reid, Theresa Nysnyk, Alleen Small took this picture (other member of the staff).

ting. The snow was pure white and sparkled like diamonds in the sun. The scenery looked like a Christmas card!

As we approached Lac du Bonnet I noticed just a scattering of little houses. How small the town seemed! I was to stay at the home of Hans and Maria Johnson. After a few directions from Mr. Stuart I finally arrived on their doorstep. In answer to my knock, there stood a lovely lady with gray and white hair swept high off her forehead and twinkling blue eyes. She was immaculately dressed in a lovely blue cotton dress which matched her eyes. Mrs. Johnson looked me over and noticed my auburn hair and hazel eyes exclaimed "You could be my daughter!" (The Johnson's had no children). Forty-three years have passed since then and I have never forgotten those words. What a lovely way to be welcomed! Mrs. Johnson escorted me to my room which was on the second floor facing the Winnipeg River. The pine trees grew thick outside my window and through them I had a beautiful view of the river. During the summer the full moon would make a path of gold which would later turn to silver across it. In the middle of this path could be seen the little forestry planes. What a beautiful sight!

Maria and Hans Johnson arrived in Lac du Bonnet from Sweden in the early 1900's. Mr. Johnson owned and operated Johnson's garage which was located close to their house facing Main Street. Mr. Johnson was a quiet man but could be quite stubborn at times. When this happened Mrs. Johnson had a favorite name for him. She called him "Jonas". It was quite a joke.

He disliked the winters intensely and always said that he would move to Vancouver where he

wouldn't have to shovel any more snow. Mrs. Johnson wouldn't hear of it and would abruptly change the subject. This was always a bone of contention between them.

Every day, at three o'clock sharp, Hans would come home for coffee. You could set your watch by him. Jean Reid lived at the Johnson's too and Mrs. Johnson called us, "her girls". We were always invited for coffee if we happened to be at home. She was an excellent cook and baked some of the most delicious Swedish cookies and pastries that I have ever tasted. Jean and I sure looked forward to those afternoons.

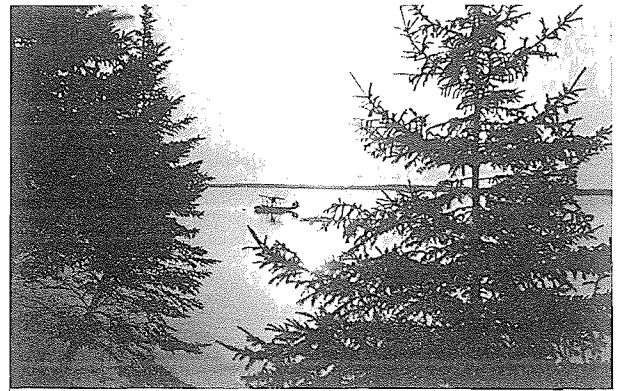
Mrs. Johnson had a circle of friends who met once a week at each other's homes. Some of them were Mrs. Olsen, Mrs. Fanum, Mrs. Hammerstedt, Mrs. Sparman, Mrs. Fransen, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Waters and Mrs. Cederlund. Mrs. Johnson would put her knitting bag over her arm and off she'd go. Wherever she went "her girls" were always expected too, after school was out. We never failed to turn up. We had such good times with those wonderful ladies.

Mrs. Johnson was a happy, kind, loving person. She was always bursting with energy and in-

terested in everything around her. She was 70 years old when I arrived but she acted like a person who was twenty years younger.

Mr. Johnson was one of the few people in town who owned a car. On Sunday afternoon he would take us for a drive. Sometimes we went to Whitemouth to visit the Petersons. They owned the only restaurant in town. Mrs. Peterson would read our tea leaves or coffee grounds. We enjoyed those visits very much.

The five years I spent living with the Johnsons



"The path of gold" — courtesy of Allan Hunt.



MR. AND MRS. HANS JOHNSON FAREWELL PARTY — 1947

First row: L to R, Esther Peterson, Mabel Rowe, May Wade.

Second row: Mrs. Arvid Bjork, Mrs. Annie Hammerstedt, Mrs. Malmgren, Mrs. Wanda Peterson, Mrs. Wellman, Mr. Hans Johnson, Mrs. Hans Johnson, Mrs. C. Anderson, Mary Nasstrom, Mrs. Nicoline Olsen, Mrs. Anna Magnuson, Mrs. E. Larson.

Third row: Mrs. A. McIntosh, Mrs. C. Brown, Mrs. R. N. Campbell, Mrs. Ernie Larson, Mrs. Annie Waters, Mrs. J. Kelly, Mrs. A. McIntosh, Mrs. H. Fanum, Mrs. Bill Peterson, Mrs. Arvid Bjork, Mrs. B. Malloy, Mrs. C. Brown, Mrs. K. Creaney, Mr. R. Malloy, Mrs. Cederlund, Mrs. C. Fors, Wm. Hammerstedt, Mrs. Gus Wickman, Mrs. Joe Sparman, Mr. John Hammerstedt, Mr. Joe Sparman, Mrs. E. Nasstrom, Mr. Wm. Creaney, Mr. Cederlund, Mr. J. Small, Mr. W. Kennard, Mr. Wm. Halliday.



Theresa Nysnyk with Mr. and Mrs. Hans Johnson.

were very happy ones. In 1941 I left the Johnsons and Lac du Bonnet to get married.

When the Johnsons were in their late seventies I heard that they had sold their home and moved to Vancouver. Knowing how much Mrs. Johnson valued and loved her friends, her home, and Lac du Bonnet it must have been a terrible wrench for her to leave the place where she had spent the best and happiest years of her life. But knowing how devoted she had always been to her Hans I wasn't surprised that she finally agreed to go. Although I can almost hear her calling him "Jonas!"

My life was the richer for having known the Johnsons and whenever I visit Lac du Bonnet I always drive past the "Johnson" house. This brings back such happy memories. It was pioneers like them who helped make this country what it is today.

Sometimes Mrs. Geo. Wood joined them as did friends from Riverland and Brookfield such as Mrs. Lindquist and Mrs. Gustafson. A Scandinavian custom was to celebrate names' days instead of birthdays so that was a day Mrs. Johnson or whoever would surely know that company was coming!

Theresa (Nyznyk) Kuryk

## Mr. and Mrs. Hans Johnson Fifty years Married

Mr. and Mrs. Hans Johnson of Lac du Bonnet celebrated their golden anniversary July 4th and spent the day touring the country visiting familiar scenes and places.

They came to Lac du Bonnet in 1903 and Hans remarked "When we came here there were only four small shacks on the townsite."

Mr. Johnson was employed for the first two summers in the local brickyard and the following fourteen years in the sawmill.

In 1919 he commenced running boats on the Winnipeg River and conveyed endless prospecting parties, etc. up and down the stream. He continued this service until 1927 when aircraft arrived here. (A garage and blacksmith business followed.)

Mr. Johnson disposed of his business interests in town in 1945 and started on his well-earned retirement after having served the village faithfully for a number of years. His civic duties included school trustee and chairman of the Village council. The congratulations and best wishes of the whole Community are extended to this fine old pioneer couple.

WSK

Archives, Springfield Leader  
July 15, 1947

## HISTORY OF WILLIAM KING AND SOFIA SUSANNA HILL

William and Sofia came from Worcestershire, England in 1906 with a family of six boys and settled in Lac du Bonnet. William worked for J. D. McArthur in the brickyard. He was also caretaker of the little one-room school and the Anglican church where he served as the People's warden. Sofia was one of the first presidents of the W. A. She was also called upon to perform two funeral services when there was no minister available. Two of their sons served in the first world war and one, Arthur, made the supreme sacrifice. William died in 1939 and his wife Sofia in 1941 and both were buried in Lac du Bonnet.

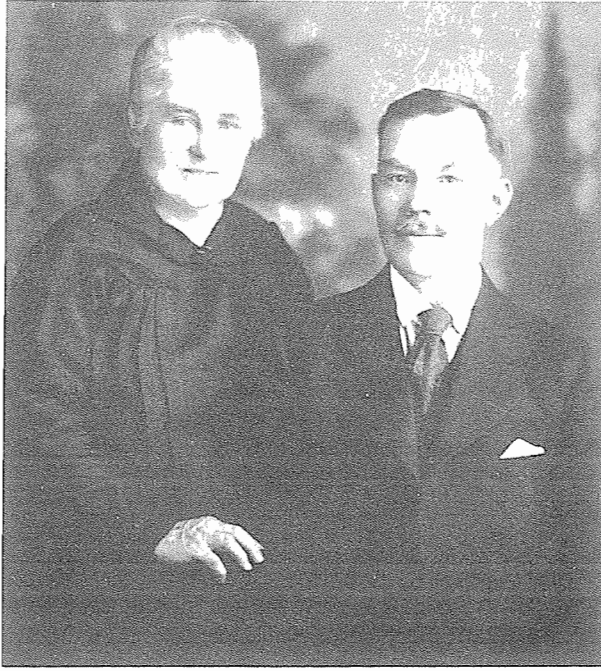
Their eldest son, William, was married and lived in Winnipeg and they are now deceased. Of the seven sons, two died in infancy.

**Ernie** served overseas in the first world war and was married and settled in Regina and had one son called Allen, who is also married with two children.

**Arthur** — was killed overseas.

**Tom** — married Dora Muriel Smith the 4th of February, 1930. He worked at the government air service until he retired. They had seven children.

**Fred** — Married Edith Rose Smith the 25th of November, 1929. He worked for the Winnipeg



Mr. and Mrs. William King.

Electric and later the Manitoba Hydro until he retired. They had seven children.

Submitted by:  
Dora and Rose King

### TOM AND DORA KING

One cold winter evening in the year 1908 the big "Iron Horse" came puffing and snorting into the station of Lac du Bonnet. Among the passengers were a couple who hadn't been married very long but were coming here to make their home. The man was tall and husky and strong as he was used to this kind of country, but I often wonder what the woman's thoughts could have been as she hadn't been out from London, England very long. They were going to stay with my dad's people for awhile until they got a little place of their own built. Two years later this little place was where I was born.

One of my earliest memories was coming outside on a beautiful spring day. My dad was standing by his wood pile and I saw steam rising from the big pile of chips that had gathered during the winter. I bent down and picked up a handful of chips and the aroma was so lovely I am sure no perfume counter anywhere could have been better as there was the smell of about every tree in the forest all mixed together. I guess my sister and I were fortunate compared to some as anytime we needed anything my mother would just write home to England and in a few weeks a parcel would come with all kinds of goodies in it, even down to shoes or boots as my grandfather had a shop

where he made and repaired shoes. I don't remember being bored as there always seemed to be something to do. I didn't mind the haying season as I liked going to the meadows where dad cut his winter's supply of hay. The hay always smelled so sweet and it was fun seeing what nice coils of hay we could make and the hayride home in the soft summer evening. There was lots of fun too at Christmas time and other holidays going to neighbors' homes where the men nearly all brought along their violins to play for dancing and the women outdid themselves by bringing enough food to feed an army. We received lots of reading matter from England and I always remember the day when my dad and mother opened one of the papers and there were the awful words in ugly black print "Country at War." What a time that was. All the women went around with stern white faces as in spite of their tears and pleading most of the men were bound to join up, many of them never to return. Our lives were changed as my parents decided that while dad was away we would live in Winnipeg.

This was very nice and we stayed there until dad came home, which took some time as he had been wounded in the foot and had to stay in hospital in England. Dad didn't like Winnipeg and we came back to our little home in Lac du Bonnet. It was quite fun for about a week, then I started to miss our friends in the city and we had so far to walk to school out here. In the winter we would be half frozen by the time we got to school, then we'd have to hurry to get home before it got dark. It was nice when we got a ride home on the sleigh as there was hay on the bottom and a warm quilt to cover us. The sweet sound of sleigh bells as the horses seemed just as anxious to get home as we were and went along at a fine speed which really made the bells ring. I liked to poke my head out from under the quilt as the sight was really worth seeing. High overhead was the sky like blue velvet all covered with lovely shining stars, the bells ringing and maybe my dad would be singing some kind of song and stamping around to keep his feet warm. We had chickens on the farm and they were all our pets and nearly every one had a name.

Of course we went to school, had a boyfriend and eventually married. Then came the years of minding and tending babies as they came along. People would ask if my sister and I were having a race, but it ended in a tie as we each finished with seven. Of course, they and their dear little ones are our pride and joy. I guess I can't even say "little ones", as some of them are monsters (hope no one takes this the wrong way).

I've had all summer to write this, but couldn't seem to get started and now feel as if I could keep going, but I must pull my mind back to the present



if I am to write down my children's names.

My first child was a little girl called Iris Evelyn. She is now married to Gerald Norman and they live at Mafeking. Norman is a conservation officer. They have four children: Leonard, who is married and has two children; Sheila, who lives at home. Carol who lives in Dauphin and Donna who married Carl Yellowega and they live at The Pas.

Another girl called Emily Doreen who married Alex Orvis and they have four children: Richard, married and have four children; Darlene also married to Marvin Clark and have one little girl; Bobby and Cathleen, both unmarried.

My first son Jerry was married to Joan Heskin. He worked for Transair and was killed in an accident at work. They have three children, Sherry, Ward and Warren.

Elaine married Garry Wold and they have four children: Michael, Sherry, Vincent and Mitchell.

Brian is still at home.

Barry married Crystal Seibert and live in Winnipeg and have a daughter Helen.

Linda married to Richard Karklin and have three children: Kathleen, Steven and Stewart.

Wendy married Gerald Hoffman and they have three children: Lisa, Tracy and Dustin.

And now as the sound of bells and all the other good times and things fade into yesteryear, I will conclude by saying that any of us "Old Timers" that say:

"Them were the good old days" and really mean it.

Submitted by:

Dora King

## FRED AND ROSE KING

I was born in 1911 at the two mile siding where we lived until daddy joined up in 1914 and went to war. We moved to Winnipeg with my two sisters. My sister Daisy died while daddy was overseas. I attended Linwood school in Winnipeg and in 1976 my sister Dora and I attended the 60th anniversary of Linwood school. I remember the terrible flu epidemic when so many died in 1918, also the paralyzing strike in 1919. Daddy was wounded and lost half of his big toe. After he came home we moved back to Lac du Bonnet. I went to school in the two-room schoolhouse and Kathleen Campbell was my first schoolteacher and Dr. Malcolm cared for us. I quit school when I was 15 as my mother was bedridden with rheumatism for three years. It was during this time I started going with Fred King who had also attended the local school. He was very involved in sports such as hardball, hockey and curling. He worked as a carpenter for Mr. Rosenberg and helped building many homes in-

cluding Dr. Wood's home which is now the Lutheran Church parsonage.

I can remember the old C.P.R. station down by the elevators when everyone walked down to see the train come in. I also remember the night that I walked to town and saw the town for the first time lit up by electricity. Because of so little communication we knew when we saw a wreath on the front door of a house when a death had occurred there. I was christened by the first Bishop Loft-house and confirmed by Bishop Dewdney. Fred also was active in all church affairs and when we were to be married we decided to go to Winnipeg but our minister, the Rev. Broughton, walked down to our farm and asked if we would reconsider and be married in St. John's Anglican Church as register showed there had been no marriages for twenty years. We were married on November 25th, 1929 with my sister as bridesmaid and Robert Lodge best man. We had a small reception at Mrs. King's home.

We were married at the beginning of the depression and lived upstairs at Fred's parents' home. Fred was lucky if he could get a cord of wood to cut by hand for 60¢ and carried water from the lake with a shoulder yoke and two pails. After our first child was born we moved into two rooms of Mrs. King's small shack, with Dora and Tom living in the two back rooms. Looking out the back door you could see people from Brightstone bringing in cords of wood by oxen. Then Fred got work with the Winnipeg Electric company and was working under Glen Oakes at Great Falls. While there my first child was born, Rosalie Joy. She later met and married Percy Wardrop of Whitemouth. They later moved to Wawa, Ontario and now have four children: Sylvia, Cameron, Barry and Shayne. Our second child, Frederick, Henry, William (named after the three fathers) married Carol Hoffman of Morris, Manitoba. They have two children: Heather and Michael. They reside in Thompson, Manitoba. Our third child: Shirley Daisy, married Allen Dales. They have five children: Beryl Ann, Ian, Kevin, Cynthia, and Lesley. They reside in Winnipeg.

Our fourth child: Arthur Lawrence married Shirley Ann Thompson and have an adopted son Robert. Arthur is in the airforce at Trenton. Our fifth child: Allan Keith married Rose-Marie Reimann of Whitemouth. They have two children Karen and Kevin and they reside in Winnipeg.

Our sixth child: Kenneth Leslie married Sandra Mychasu of Grandview, Manitoba. They have two children, Sherry and Nadine. They reside in Pinawa. Our seventh child: Dennis Earl and family lives at Beausejour and he works at Pinawa.

In 1941 we moved to Seven Sisters and Fred worked for Manitoba Hydro as patrolman. We liv-

ed there for 30 years and retired and moved to Lac du Bonnet in 1972.

Submitted by:  
Rose and Fred King

### **P. H. KLASSEN AND FAMILY**

In 1952, Peter and Susan Klassen and five daughters, Hildegard, Linda, Evelyn, Sylvia and Idella moved to Lac du Bonnet where Peter took over the Imperial Oil Dealership from Oscar Bjornson.

Within the year of arrival on a cold January day a fire destroyed their home on Second Street. They lost many of their most treasured belongings. They lived temporarily out of town for six months and then moved to McIntosh Street. Over the course of years, two more children were added to their household — their only son Richard and youngest daughter Darlah.

The Klassens were involved in Lac du Bonnet. Peter was a member of the town council for many years. Susan served on the executive for the local P. T. A. Their six children were active in 4-H, Luther League, water ski club, Cubs, Scouts and Air Cadets.

In time their four oldest daughters were married. Hildegard married Eugene Obirek and they reside in Lac du Bonnet with their three sons and daughter (Elliot, Trevor and Susan. Linda married Alan Zasitko and they live in Calgary with their two children Rhonda and Cory. Evelyn married Erik Tagesen and they reside in Bird River with their children Sheila, Tracy and Ryan. Sylvia married Nestor Schur and live in Edmonton with their two children Tammy and Wayne. Idella lives and teaches school in Thompson. Richard is working in Lac du Bonnet and Darlah is completing her grade twelve in Winnipeg.

Peter retired from Imperial Oil in 1969 and in 1973 moved to Lee River to enjoy peace and quiet. This was wishful thinking on their part as even today with all their children away from home they now have eleven grandchildren ... all of which, with their visits, keep everything far from being peaceful and quiet.



Standing: Aileen Kreishman, Alvina Dancyt, Margaret Boikman, Katie Annin, Jennie Kreishman, Mrs. Matilde Stradsin.

Seated: Julie Drawson, Mrs. Lena Rosenberg, Mrs. Minna Kalnin.

### **KREISHMAN, Jennie and Julius**

Jennie and Julius Kreishman arrived in Canada in 1907, having travelled by boat and train from the Riga area of Latvia.

They settled in Gimli first, then in 1910 moved to Inwood where they lived until 1923. That year they made their final move to Lac du Bonnet. Farming gave them their living — growing grain and raising cattle. Life was a constant struggle with each member of the family having to do his or her share of the work on the farm. Some of the older children had to leave for the city at the age of 15 to make a living for themselves and also send money home to assist their parents.

Julius Kreishman spoke English, German, Latvian and Russian, while Mother Jennie spoke German and English.

The family was large in number. Margaret, Max, Elsie and Elvy were born in Latvia. Elsie died of diphtheria at the age of 16 while attending school in Teulon. The rest of the family were born in Canada as follows — Bill, in Gimli; Fred, Mary, Freda, Hilda and Eleanor in Inwood.

All of the children born in Canada attended school in Lac du Bonnet. Usually they walked the mile and a half required to get to school. Alternatives were hitchhiking or enjoying a ride when Father Julius hitched up the horse and buggy.

Travel in the early 1900's was by oxen and sleigh or wagon to be replaced later by the horse. At that time we considered the horse a tremendous improvement over the oxen!!!

The Kreishman's first home was a two room





KREISHMAN FAMILY — AUGUST, 1960

Left to right: Bill, Margaret, Eleanor, Mary, Elvy, Max, Hilda, Fred.

house in Gimli, then a one room shanty in Inwood, eventually replaced by a larger modern farm home. In Lac du Bonnet, the family lived in a two storey frame house on the shore of the Winnipeg River, approximately 1½ miles from town near the present hydro home.

Max Kreishman and his wife, Aileen (nee Kalnin), lived in the same house until 1972. Max worked for the Winnipeg Hydro and shortly after his retirement, he and his wife moved to Winnipeg.

Life in Lac du Bonnet holds many pleasant memories for the Kreishmans — school and friendships; concerts and socials; Mother Jenny playing the piano; in the later years, family reunions. Saturday night was often the highlight of the week when dances were held in the Riverland Hall, Lettonia Hall (then located in the present Wendigo area), or Holiday Beach. Young and old alike thought nothing of walking miles to a dance if they had no method of transportation.

Some of the Latvian women in the area formed a sewing club that met regularly in each home respectively to share news, sew, knit or embroider.

Following is a brief history of the Kreishman family:

- Father Julius died in 1932 and Mother Jennie in 1960.
- Margaret Boikman (husbands Andrew Kalnin and John Boikman deceased) lives in Vancouver. Margaret has three daughters, Irene, Connie and Gladys. The Boikmans resided for a number of years in the house presently occupied by P. Romanyszyn.
- Max, deceased 1975. Wife Aileen presently living in Winnipeg. They have a daughter Lorraine.
- Bill, deceased 1965, lived in Hamilton.
- Elvy Dawson, retired, formerly of Winnipeg, resides in Bonny Vista Lodge, Lac du Bonnet. Husband Alfred deceased 1957. Elvy has a daughter Doreen and son Donald.
- Fred Kreishman and wife Hildur (nee Winberg)

reside in Vancouver. They have two sons, Mervyn and Fred Jr..

- Mary, deceased 1977, was married to Melford Wold, lived in Newcombe and Lac du Bonnet. They have four children — Norman, Norma, Irene and Curtis.
- Freda, retired, married to Charles Rudolph and living in Nanaimo, B.C. - one son Dennis.
- Hilda, retired, married to William Raby, and living in Richmond, B. C. Children include son William Jr. and daughter Anita, also son Gordon, deceased.
- Eleanor Lemaire lives in Balmertown, Ontario. Husband Edward deceased 1969. She has two sons, David and Eddie. Eleanore is presently employed at the Balmertown Post Office. There are twenty-eight great-grandchildren.

### ALEXIS AND AMELIE LEMAIRE

My parents, Alexis Lemaire and Amelie Husson both came from Belgium separately in the late 1800's.

They settled in different parts of Manitoba. They met in Whitemouth, Manitoba in 1897 and were married the following year in 1898 on January 17th which was an unusual day as there was no snow at that time.

My brother Rene was born on October 30th, 1898 and the following year in 1899 they started making plans of moving to Lac du Bonnet as rumours were spreading that homesteads would be available in the near future.

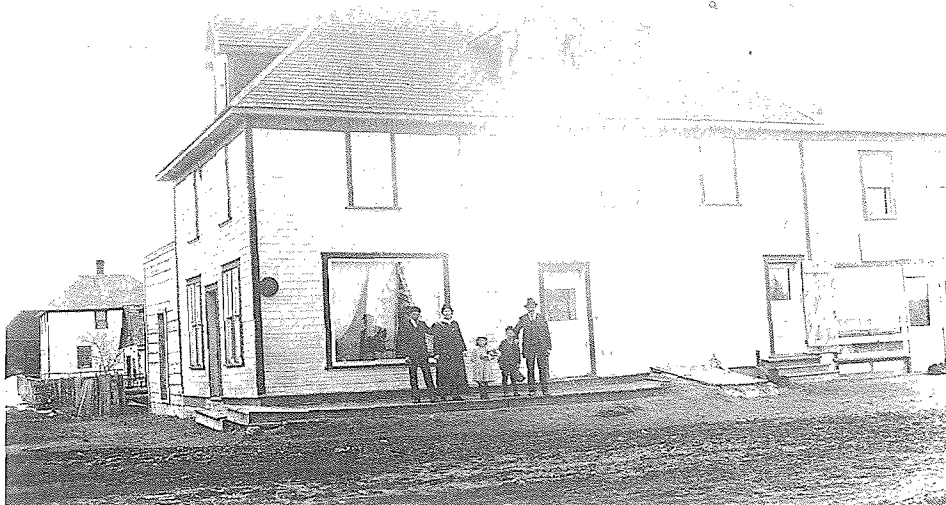
They packed their belongings and journeyed by boat or canoe up the river to Lac du Bonnet in the summer of 1899.

The settlement at that time was north of the town site of today. There they had a log cabin with only earth for the floor.

They were surrounded by 40 or 50 Indian tents. Mother was the only white woman there at that time. They were very friendly with the Indians when they had their Pow-wows. Mother would stand outside her door and join in the rhythm. They taught her how to say many Indian words, all relating to food.

Mrs. Butcher, one of the Indian women, was a long time friend and always visited us when she came to Lac du Bonnet from Fort Alexander in later years. Later in that area a brickyard was built which employed many, the Woodbine Hotel and a Station. Mother was cook at the Hotel for a few years. I am not familiar with the exact year they moved to the homestead, which was directly across the river, later known as Riverland.

They had two more sons born to them which they lost in infancy, one with measles and the other



Lemaire family —  
Allard Building.

with convulsions.

They moved to Pointe du Bois for a few years. Dad acquired some work there and Edward was born there on October 2nd, 1909.

Rene attended school in Riverland which was a few miles from the farm. He walked in the summer and was driven by horse and cutter in the winter.

On November 12, 1911 I was born on the farm. The doctor was unable to be there as a fierce blizzard was taking place and he was unable to cross the river and as it was impossible to get to the nearest neighbour, my Dad delivered the baby (me).

In 1917 or 1918 they moved back to town and took over the Hotel in the Allard Building for quite a few years. Dad was constable around that time.

My Dad passed away in 1939 and the homestead was sold the same year. Rene had two marriages and passed away in 1976. Edward married Eleanor Kreishman of Lac du Bonnet in 1936 and he passed away in 1969.

Mother and I moved to Winnipeg in 1939 where I married Frank Borsa. Mother passed away in 1958 and my husband in 1974. I am grateful that I am able to write this article.

Submitted by:  
Mae Borsa (Lemaire)

### JOHN B. LETAIN

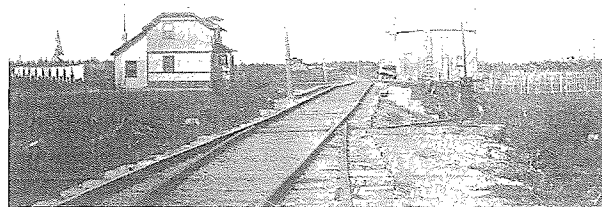
My grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John B. Letain came from Belgium. They settled in Lac du Bonnet in 1900. He was the first white man to be foreman for the C. P. R. Railway at this town. They lived in the section house which is now torn down. Mr. Dmytro Zahara worked for 25 years on the track for my grandfather and his daughter, Mrs. Jenny Lofstrom, still lives here. My grandmother used to serve meals at the section house to people who came off the train. My grandparents had seven

children. They were Jules, Vic, Renie and Jim Letain. Daughters were Mary, Bertha and Elizabeth Letain.

Behind the Section house which is now McIntosh's land my grandparents had horses, chickens, pigs, cows, a dog and some cats plus a huge vegetable garden. My mum (Mrs. Elizabeth Wickman) tells me she used to have a ride with an oxen team. She also said they used to clear the snow off the frozen river and everyone went skating on it. My grandfather helped to build the first Catholic church here. It was made of logs. My grandfather also took a heart attack in the old church and died there. My grandparents owned five houses in Lac du Bonnet. Four of them were



Section House



Water tank opposite section house.

on First Street and one across from Dancyt's store. My grandfather had a hobby, making baskets out of willows.

My mother (Mrs. Elizabeth Wickman) nee Letain, was born in the section house on May 14th, 1903. She met my dad in Lac du Bonnet, he was working for the Railway. They were married in Kenora, Ontario. My dad was born in Stockholm, Sweden. He came to Canada with two sisters and one brother. They settled in Ontario on a homestead. My dad was employed with the C. P. R. at Kenora, Ontario for 33 years. At the time of his retirement he was the Bridge and Building foreman. He died on March 25th, 1975 at the age of 89. My parents decided to live in Lac du Bonnet. They bought the house which my mum still lives in. It is 53 years old. My parents had three children. One son died when he was a year old. The other son is Gus Wickman, Junior and myself, the daughter (Mrs. Jean Kettles). Both Gus and Jean received their education in Lac du Bonnet. Both married and remained in this town. Jean Kettles was born in Lac du Bonnet on January 2nd, 1933 in her parents' house. She was brought into the world by three midwives — her grandmother Letain, Mrs. Arthur Fournier and Mrs. Alex Patterson (nee Pauline Hyrshio). I hope to remain and spend the rest of my years in a town which I love and treasure so dearly.

Submitted by Jean Kettles  
(John Letain's granddaughter)

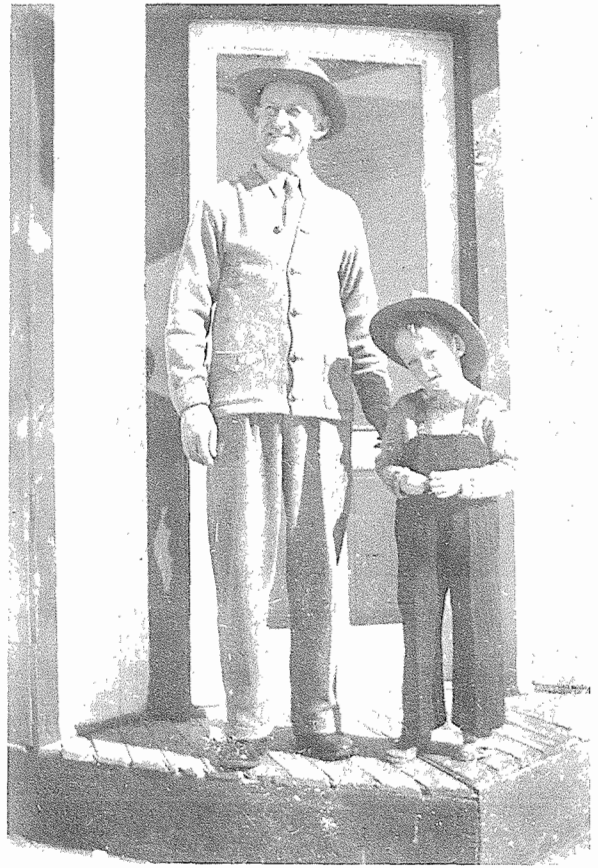
### **ALBERT HUGH LeVASSEUR & CARMEN MARGUERITE LeVASSEUR**

Albert and Carmen LeVasseur were born in the State of Maine, U. S. A. and emigrated to Canada in 1918. They arrived in Lac du Bonnet with their three children, Mercedes, Gisele and Lucien nicknamed Louis, in June 1920 in a response to a Free Press advertisement requiring a butcher.

Albert worked about two years for Mr. Allard, owner of the butcher shop and grocery store, and the family settled in a small suite above the Allard store.

In 1922 Albert and Carmen LeVasseur opened their own establishment on the bank of the Winnipeg River, in a new building, later to become the Canadian Airways office.

The following year, Dr. Lucien Lupien, his wife Nelida and a cousin arrived by automobile from the State of Maine to visit with their only daughter Carmen and her family. Nelida Lupien and her cousin refused to motor from Winnipeg to Lac du Bonnet, as the Manitoba roads were practically non-existent in those days, and they had suffered enough discomfort from their long trip. Instead,



"Pop" LeVasseur and Paul.

they chose to complete the remaining portion of the journey by train. Dr. Lupien and his chauffeur endured the rough 70 miles by themselves, a feat of no small proportion. Several times they had to enlist the help of farmers with their oxen to pull them out of the gumbo. A postscript of interest: Dr. Lupien was honored by the then Mayor of Winnipeg for being Manitoba's first visitor from Maine to arrive by automobile.

In 1930 the LeVasseur family moved to their second new home and place of business, across from Shaw's Drugstore. The five bedroom house, with attached business portion, was situated on a corner lot in the centre of town, and right by the road, down to the main dock. The family still maintains there was a path worn through the house for anyone going to market, swimming, the doctor, and the post office. Here Mr. LeVasseur operated his grocery and meat store. It was eventually changed to an Airline office — Wings Ltd., and later housed the first telephone exchange. Mrs. LeVasseur was the first operator.

Mr. LeVasseur still conducted his butcher business through all these changes. It was a butcher shop on wheels, which provided a welcome service to customers as far as Seven Sister Falls. Three times a week, on his meat runs, he'd leave home at dawn, returning after dark. The resident doctor and the butcher covered the same territory.

It's been said, to save time, the home-owners needing a doctor posted a white flag, those needing a butcher, posted a red. During the cold winter months, they were often the only two vehicles on these long country roads.

The children remember having a wonderfully happy home. Their life was shared with many "adopted" young people, too numerous to mention. The leaves on the dining-room table were stretched to capacity every night and the doors always open. "Ma and Pa LeVasseur" enjoyed a special relationship with these friends.

Mercedes left home for the first time to complete her education at Wesley College. In 1940 she married John Lewis Callander, a young man she met in Lac du Bonnet, who worked for the Royal Bank. They raised their three children, Joan, John and Mary Lois in Thunder Bay, Ontario, and now reside in Winnipeg.

After graduating from high school, Gisele was employed by Mr. Granovsky a local merchant, and then the Beaver Lumber, who transferred her to Winnipeg. In 1948, Gisele moved to Vancouver where she realized her ambition to become a nurse. She is married to Bert T. Hall, a Virginian, and they live in California.

Carmen and Albert suffered the loss of their eldest son, Louis, in air operations over Germany, at the age of 22. As a young man he was involved in local sports, worked at the Beaver Lumber and learned the butcher trade from his father.

Ostende lives in Kamloops, B. C. and is married to Alan R. Husband, the Chief Air Traffic Controller of that city. She completed high school in Lac du Bonnet, was also employed by Mr. Granovsky. Later, she was a Radio Operator at the Air Observer School in Winnipeg. About 1950 she moved to Vancouver where she met Alan.

Omer received his formal education in Lac du Bonnet, worked alongside his father to learn the butcher trade and joined the Navy at the age of 17½. Omer married Madeline Pachat, a Lac du Bonnet schoolteacher. They have three children, Leslie, Louis and Louise. He retired from the Navy in 1976 and he and Madeline make their home in Ottawa.

Hectorine completed her schooling in St. Mary's Academy, returned to Lac du Bonnet to work for a few years and travelled on to Vancouver. She met and married Frank Street, who is now retired from the Armed Services. They and their five children, Carmen-Ann, Brian, Susan, Helen and Graham, live in Delta, B. C.

After finishing high school, Farrell remained in Lac du Bonnet and was trained as an Aircraft mechanic. He married a local girl, Lollie Strimbicki, and they have three children, Karen, Laurie and John. They are residing in Ottawa, where



LeVasseur family reunion — 1978.

Farrell is employed by the M. O. T.

Paul, the youngest member of the family, left Lac du Bonnet at the age of twelve and completed his education in Vancouver. Like his father, he entered the retail business. While still attending school he began working part-time for Safeway. There he met and married Sharen Goodwin. They have three daughters; Michele, Nicole and Sheri. Paul is still employed by Safeway and they live in Delta, B. C.

Albert LeVasseur died September 5th, 1955 in Lac du Bonnet.

Carmen LeVasseur died September 3rd, 1961 in Vancouver.

Both Mr. and Mrs. LeVasseur are interred in the family plot in Lac du Bonnet.

Submitted by  
Mercedes Callander  
Hectorine Street

#### MRS. A. MARTIN

In February of 1962 I took up the position of Registered Nurse for the Winnipeg Hydro at Pointe-du-Bois.

On being directed, I found the road was only a track. I thought I must have gone wrong. The snow was piled up on both sides and only room for one car, I had no other choice but to go on. What a relief when I came to some houses and to know that I had reached Pointe-du-Bois.

The train at that time ran to Lac du Bonnet three times a week, also to Slave Falls, six miles up the river. The journey to both places was beautiful, especially in the summer and fall. Moose, deer and bear were to be seen often.

The first summer (on his vacation from college) my son David worked for the Hydro. We spent many happy hours fishing and gathering wild plants and fruit.

As time went on they improved the road. One

had many misgivings as to whether one would make it, especially after a heavy rain.

David had married and wished to bring his family to see me at Christmas in 1968. My quarters at the Pointe were not big enough, so I bought a log cabin on Edward St., Lac du Bonnet. We, I say we because all my friends joined in making the cabin habitable. It was hard work but we had much fun getting it shipshape. It was a great Christmas with all my family around me.

In 1972 Jim Martin, whom I had known for many years, came over from England on a holiday. We found that we cared for each other and were married at Sherwood Park near Edmonton. We are both active in the life of Lac du Bonnet, especially in Church and Pioneer Club.

David, my son, is Director of Wildlife in Alberta, has two children: son - Peter Royden Neare born in 1967, daughter - Erin Patricia, born 1970.

That first drive to Pointe-du-Bois will always live in my memory.

Anne Martin

### J. D. McARTHUR

The history of Lac du Bonnet would not be complete without a story about John Duncan McArthur, who was born on a backwoods farm June 25th, 1854 near Lancaster, Ontario, Glengarry County. He came to Winnipeg in 1879.

His first venture was a sawmill near Birtle on the Bird Tail River. Then he received contracts from the Canadian Northern, now the Canadian National to build Branch Lines in Manitoba and later built the Main Line of the Canadian Northern from Winnipeg to Edmonton.

In 1901 he purchased the entire holdings of the Lac du Bonnet Timber Mining and Manufacturing Company consisting of a townsite, a brick manufacturing plant and over 2,000 acres of farmland.

In 1901 when the railroad arrived at Lac du Bonnet he built a sawmill which was operated along with the brickyard until 1918. They shipped as much as a trainload of firewood on train days to their lumber and wood yard on Higgins Avenue, Winnipeg, along with lumber and brick. This material was also used in the construction of the electric power plants in Pinawa and Pointe du Bois.

The 2,000 acres of farmland was purchased by Alexander McIntosh in 1925 and is now owned and operated by Ramsay McIntosh.

J. D. McArthur built more railroads in western Canada than any other contractor: The Transcontinental, 250 miles east from Winnipeg, now the C.N.; The Hudson Bay to Churchill; over 1,000

miles in Alberta, north and west from Edmonton now known as the Northern Alberta Railroads.

In 1910 he had the first of Lac du Bonnet surveyed and opened the first post office.

In 1916 Mr. McArthur visualized a newsprint mill for Manitoba and picked the site of Pine Falls, and the same year he organized the Manitoba Pulp and Paper Company and took an active part in its progress until his death in 1925.

A. McIntosh

### FAMILY HISTORY OF ALEX McINTOSH

My ancestors came from Cleigmore, Inverness, Scotland to Canada in the year 1832. The trip took 13 weeks on a sailing vessel and they had to bring all their provisions with them. They settled on a hardwood bush farm in Lancaster township, Glengarry County, Ontario.

I was born on this farm September 4, 1889.

I walked to school three miles, milked cows and we shipped milk to Montreal. I helped my father clear land and work the farm until I was 18, when I went west on a harvest excursion in 1907 and again in 1908.

I worked that winter in Transcona and there spent 4 years in the Cariboo district of British Columbia with a lumber and navigation company, three years with the Edmonton, Dunvegan and British Columbia Railway operating out of Edmonton, Alberta. I joined the Northwest Mounted Police in Peace River and went overseas with them.

After the war, I took up a homestead at Rio Grande in the Grande Prairie country of Alberta and was married there to Viola Ramsay, daughter



McIntosh 50th Anniversary. Evelyn, Viola, Alex, Ramsay, Mary.



of David Ramsay, born in Westfield, Ontario.

I came to the Winnipeg area in 1923, first to Pine Falls, then Great Falls, where I operated a sawmill for five years. We moved to Lac du Bonnet in 1929, built our present home and a house on the farm purchased from J.D. McArthur.

When I took over the farm there were 200 acres of cleared land. The town of Lac du Bonnet consisted of five streets and one short avenue. Later I surveyed four additions to the townsite. I farmed, operated sawmills and took out pulpwood, also had a planing mill and lumberyard at Lac du Bonnet. Our son Ramsay took over the farm in 1949 and built an alfalfa dehydrating plant.

Our son Ramsay and our daughter Evelyn were born when we lived at Great Falls and our daughter Mary was born the year we moved here. They all went to school at Lac du Bonnet, then on to agriculture school and university in Winnipeg.

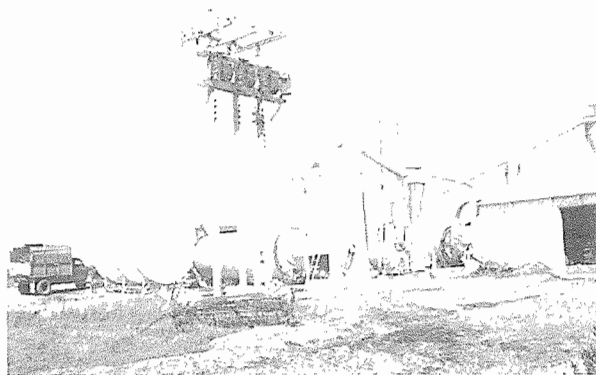
Evelyn, who married David McKee and lives in Toronto, has three sons and one daughter, David, Matthew, Ramsay and Mary.

Mary married Neil Campbell and lives in London, Ontario, has one son and one daughter, Alex and Cathy.

Ramsay married Lorraine Dow and had one daughter and two sons, Leslie, Scott (deceased) and Paul.

Leslie married Malcolm Boyd and has two children: Kristin and Scott.

Paul went to St. John's Ravenscourt for his high



Alfalfa Dehydrator, McIntosh Farm — August 1963.



McIntosh Farm



Victory Bond Day, 1940-45.



Portable saw mill operated  
by Alex McIntosh.

school and is going to take agriculture at Guelph College this year.

I served on the municipal and village councils and on the local school board, was chairman of the National War Finance committee along with Mrs C. J. Mitchell and Mr. W. Kinnard. Also looked after the nine Victory loans in this district.

I retired in 1949. I spend the summer months in Lac du Bonnet and the winter months in Florida.

### ERNEST AND GLADYS McLEOD

Ernie was born at Portage la Prairie where his father owned a hotel. At a very young age he went overseas in the first World War. On his return to Winnipeg he met Gladys McBride who was born at Dugald but now living and working in Winnipeg. They were married in 1921 and both worked at various positions until Ernie came to Lac du Bonnet in 1948 to be accountant for Joe Sparman who had a garage business and the Ford Agency. Gladys came out shortly after and also worked for a time in the office of Beaver Lumber. Later Ernie worked for the Government Air Service in the office and also served as Justice of the Peace. They were members of the St. John's Anglican Church and Gladys was a member of the A. C. W. and a charter member of Centennial Rebekah Lodge No. 61. They bought a home on Lake Avenue and a few years after Ernie retired from the Air Service they sold it and decided to make their home in Vancouver. Two years later they returned and were fortunate to get a suite in the recently built Senior Citizens Home called Bonny Vista.

Their only son Gordon lives at Kingston, Ontario with his wife and have five children.

Ernie passed away February 3rd, 1976. Gladys, now 83 and enjoying good health, still lives in Bonny Vista Lodge.

Submitted by  
Gladys McLeod

### WALTER EDWARD MONKMAN FAMILY

Walter E. Monkman was born in West Selkirk in 1899. At the age of 17 years he joined the Navy and fought in the first world war 1914-18. After the war he went to work on a farm in the Poplar Point, Manitoba area.

It was at this time where he met and married Lloyd May Bruce, in 1921. They moved back to the Monkman homestead which at this time was Balsam Bay and Walter worked at various jobs. In

1926 they moved to Great Falls, where Walter was employed as a conductor on the train that was commuting between Great Falls, Pointe du Bois and Lac du Bonnet in those years. He later became a brakeman on the train. They had a daughter, May, born in 1922 and son William (Bill) born in 1924 — both born in Balsam Bay.

Just before leaving Great Falls another daughter, Velma Joyce, was born in 1928, whom after starting school in Lac du Bonnet became known as Joyce. They came to Lac du Bonnet in 1930. In 1930 another daughter, Coral, and in 1936 the last of the clan, another daughter, Lorna.

While residing in Lac du Bonnet, Walter worked at the Bisset Mines and then at the Gunnar Gold Mines.

He had many friends and was well known in the Lac du Bonnet and surrounding areas for his humorous pranks played on his buddies. Some of his old pals that come to mind are: Bill Halliday (Justice of the Peace), Frank Teare (town clerk), Sgt. Stewart (R. C. M. P.), Cliff Brown (postmaster), Cliff Bruneau (dray and water man), Wes Matthews (taxi driver) for the Wings Ltd., and Canadian Airways. Just to mention a few.

May, Bill, Joyce and Coral attended school in Lac du Bonnet.

In 1939 war broke out and in September of 1940, Walter returned to the R.C.N. (Navy) of which he was a member in the first world war. In 1946 he returned as a Chief Petty Officer. In 1942 his son Bill joined the Canadian Tank Corps and went to battle in France and Germany. During the war, in 1941, Mrs. Monkman, as all in Lac du Bonnet called her; moved to Winnipeg with daughters Joyce, Coral and Lorna.

May was married in 1943 to Walter Hrechuk (R. C. A. F.).

Wally was from Seven Sisters Falls, and known through the small towns then for his avidness in hockey. They had four children, Edward, who resides in Campbell River, Beverley Zambrano in Gold River, B.C., Valarie Lazarow in North Bay, Judy Dunn in Zebbelas, B.C. May now resides in Campbell River after many years of transfers with the R. C. A. F. Wally deceased in 1973.

Bill married Rose McGuire in Vancouver in 1950 and in 1954 they moved to Vanderhoof, B.C., where they owned and operated a resort until 1975. They still reside in Vanderhoof where Bill is semi-retired and works at a Government building.

Joyce, known to some old timers as Velma, and who returned most frequently to Lac du Bonnet after moving to Winnipeg, was married in Winnipeg in 1955 to then Const. T. F. (Joe) Collins, R.C.M.P. who had spent some time at the Whitemouth detachment. They resided in Winnipeg until spring 1959 and spent 10 years in

Eastern Canada in Ottawa, Windsor and London, Ontario. Then on to West Germany for three and a half years, returning to Edmonton, Alberta where they spent three years and have been residing in Kelowna, B. C. where Joe is Superintendent of the R.C.M.P. Sub Division. They have two daughters, Deborah-Ann, born 1958 and Kelly-Joy born in 1965. Both girls are still at home. Debbie attends third year university.

Coral was married in Winnipeg in 1973 to Adolph Spence, and they still reside in Winnipeg. Lorna married Ronald Alfonso in Winnipeg in 1960 and moved to Los Angeles, U. S. A. in 1963, where they still reside. They have two sons, Glen, born 1962 and John, born 1965.

Walter passed away in September of 1970 at the age of 71 years in Deer Lodge Hospital. And in 1973 Mrs. Monkman (Lloyda) suffered a severe stroke and spent her remaining years in Beacon Lodge nursing home in Winnipeg. She passed away at the age of 80 years in November 1975.

Submitted by  
Mrs. Joyce Collins

### THE NEMY FAMILY

by Enid Nemy

About 1929, Benjamin Nemy, who had been in business with his older brother in Beausejour, Manitoba, decided to strike out on his own and bought a building facing the lake in Lac du Bonnet. After extensive renovations, he opened a general store there, and moved to Lac du Bonnet with his wife, Frances, and their two young children, Enid and Morton.

During his 15 years in Lac du Bonnet, he was also active in a railroad tie business in the north, where he had lumber camps for many years. After about 10 years, Mr Nemy converted his store into the Lakeview Hotel and in 1943, sold it to a brewery.

During their years in Lac du Bonnet, the Nemy's third child, Corinne, was born. The family was active in the social life of the community, and in sports ranging from curling and badminton to skating and baseball.

Mr. and Mrs. Nemy now live in Winnipeg, as does their son, Morton, who is a well-known lawyer.

Corinne Nemy lives in Toronto, where she is in the Government of Canada Information Service.

Enid Nemy lives in New York where she is a reporter and columnist for the New York Times.

### MEMORIES OF LAC DU BONNET

by Corinne Nemy

— Dad was born in Europe but came to Manitoba as a boy, around 1910; mother was born in the States and moved to Manitoba when she married in 1923.

— As newlyweds, they lived in Winnipeg but dad worked in Beausejour where he and his brother had a creamery/flour mill; dad would commute to Winnipeg each weekend; they moved to Beausejour for about a year in 1925, back to Winnipeg and finally to Lac du Bonnet in 1929.

— Brother Morton, is married and living in Winnipeg where he is a well-known lawyer; wife is the former Nadine Parkin of England and they have three sons, Garth, born in 1960 who is attending the University of Manitoba, Robert, born in 1961 who will be entering university this fall and Wayne, born in 1963 who is a student at Ravenscourt School in Fort Garry.

— Memories of Lac du Bonnet include: picnics at Picnic Point; walking across the river in the winter time to Freda Simonsen's (the piano teacher) home in Riverland; the ice house behind Starrat Airways Office which was across from the Lakeview Hotel; Mr. Bruno the waterman with his horse and old wagon who would deliver water from big barrels; the only soda fountain in Lac du Bonnet at Shaws' drug store; grade one classes in the Pentecostal Meeting House down the road from the school and next door to the Anglican church; Axel the Hermit who came to town occasionally (lived in the bush) for supplies and who tolerated the odd guest, such as my brother and Ritchie Campbell; going to the post office for mail every evening, a grand social occasion; Lac du Bonnet when the sidewalks were still wooden planks with large cracks between the planks; all the woodsheds and old barns in people's back yards (the Browns, who ran the post office and lived next door to us, had a great one); feeding chickens in Robidoux's backyard next to Brown's; circuses put on by the kids to raise money for charity and cover such incidentals as fudgicles for the organizers and helpers; learning to swim about the same time you learned to walk; swimming races to planes anchored about a mile out and then resting on the pontoons; being allowed to go up in planes that flew to the mines when they didn't have a lot of cargo (the seats were like benches along either side); stealing apples from the grove by the doctor's house; the town pump by the school, another place for kids to congregate; the little cabin behind 'Auntie' Waters house where successive waves of kids (friends and relatives of the family) stayed overnight in the bunk house and tossed coins over who would have the privilege of getting the top

bunks and who was to sneak home to bring back midnight snacks (are the walls still covered with autographs and are there still walls?); the Manitoba washboard road that ran for 19 miles from Seddon's Corner to Lac du Bonnet; biking to Shapland's beach and thrilling to the Sunday water ski exhibitions of the Shaplands; playing house in Sheila Hollingsworth's back yard and pretending their pet silver fox was the dog; the town agog when Di Brown and her pilot husband built, what was then the last home in the row along the river, and had the front facing the river, where the view was (she was just ahead of her time); the double seats in the big school where the teacher would place the slower students with the brighter ones in hopes some of 'smarties' intelligence would wear off. In a way I think that every person should have the memory of a Lac du Bonnet to nurture them in later life. It was a great place to have one's roots even though the branches might later spread far afield.

#### ERNEST AND MARY NEWSHAM

Ernest and Mary Newsham moved to Lac du Bonnet in the fall of 1966 and bought Robert Dodman's house on Lake Avenue. Ernie was forced to retire from the business which was a bakery and restaurant in Bissett on account of mine closure and health. However, Ernie was approached to open a bakery in Lac du Bonnet so bought Irvin Grabke's building (formerly Roy Freund's Solo Store) on Park Avenue. In January 1967 he opened his bakery and coffee bar. Both Ernie and Mary were interested in sports and again a committee was formed in 1967 with Ernie as chairman to build a closed in skating arena. A drive was put on locally, spearheaded by Ernie to raise funds to make the arena a reality. With grants and pledges and a great deal of local effort the arena was born. For all Ernie's efforts and time spent promoting and organizing and making possible the Lac du Bonnet and District Sports Arena he was given a Centennial Medal and Book of Remembrance in 1972. In June of 1972 Ernie passed away. Mary continues to live in her home here. Her two sons reside nearby.

David married Gerry Matthews of Winnipeg and they have two girls, Heather and Erin.

Phillip, who took over his dad's business, married Lenore Simard of Selkirk and they have two girls, Janice and Darla.

Submitted by  
Mary Newsham



Front row: Katie, Mary, Mother, Lillian, Ethel. Back row: Wallace, Harry, Ray, Bill, Cecil.

#### HENRY G. PARK AND FAMILY

Henry George Park and family of three daughters arrived in Lac du Bonnet from Kenora, Ontario in May 1903. Mr. Park worked in the saw-mill operated by J. D. McArthur.

Mr. and Mrs. Park raised a family of twelve children, six are still living.

When the First World War broke out, Mr. Park joined the 108th Battalion and went overseas in 1916. During the battle of Hill 70 he was wounded, and spent several weeks in a hospital in France, returning home in 1917.

The family lived on a homestead for several years and then in town. Mr. Park took ill and passed away in Deer Lodge Hospital in August 1943.

Mrs. Park took an active part in the community, especially in the Anglican Church. In 1948 she moved to Kimberley, B.C. to live with her daughter Lillian. She passed away in 1950.

During the Second World War, Ray Park joined the air force and served overseas until the end of the war. He lives in Kimberley, B.C. with his wife Lucille. They have three sons.

Wallace lives in Surrey, B.C., his wife Adelle passed away several years ago, he has one son.

Harry and his wife Beatrice live in Lac du Bonnet. They have one daughter.

Lillian (Mrs. K. Smith) lives in Kimberley, B.C. She has ten children.

Mary and Ethel live in Winnipeg. They worked for the T. Eaton Co. for many years. In 1975 Ethel received an award for her long service as a volunteer with the St. John's Ambulance Brigade. She and Mary went to Ottawa, where Governor-General Leger presented her with a medal and a scroll.

Mrs. George Park (known as Granny Parks) liv-

ed with her son Henry and his family. She was the midwife in the community. On her 90th birthday a party was held and all the women she helped for miles around the district came to the celebration. In a time of large families that she brought almost 200 children into the world could be a considered guess.

In the early 1900's an epidemic of diptheria broke out in the village. The Hadley family lost three children in one week. Mary Park remembers the tragedy, and how grateful Mrs. Hadley was for the kindness shown to them in their great loss. A tall tree stands like a sentinel by the graves of these children in the Lac du Bonnet cemetery, a son Ralph survived; another child was born to the Hadleys who eventually moved to Dryden, Ontario.

When Mary and Ethel came home for weekends or holidays a visit to the Small's home was a must. Aileen played the piano for them and her mother read their teacups. Aileen says that when she was attending Normal School in Winnipeg and became homesick, it was nice to have Mary and Ethel to visit.

A trip to Lac du Bonnet on the First of July when the Parks see old friends makes them feel glad that its their home town.

Mary Park

#### HARRY PARK'S FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Park came to Lac du Bonnet from Kenora, Ontario. When they arrived in Lac du Bonnet, they had three girls. Harry was their first son, he was born in 1903 in a log cabin, on what we now call Fourth Street. Harry attended school in Lac du Bonnet which was a log school, on the grounds where the Park Avenue Elementary school is now. At that time the school was close to the street and the school grounds was a heavy bush. When Harry finished grade school he went to work in Kenora for a lumber company for four summers. The next year he started working for City Hydro as a construction worker which was only a summer job.

In 1935 Harry married Beatrice Weiss. In 1936 their daughter Florence was born. Beatrice's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Weiss. Mr. Weiss came to Lac du Bonnet from Washington, U.S.A. to work as a sawyer for J.D. McArthur. Mrs. Weiss came with her father and grandmother to live in Lac du Bonnet at the age of seven. They came from Montreal, Quebec. She was Marie Bruneau, the daughter of Louis Bruneau. She married Arnold Weiss in 1905 and never left Lac du Bonnet. Harry Park started his own trucking business in 1942. He worked for the Beaver

Lumber Company and the C.P.R. Express Company for 26 years. He was also mailman for that time. He started as caretaker for the Royal Bank in 1942 and he is still employed there. Harry also did trucking for the Hudson Bay Company.

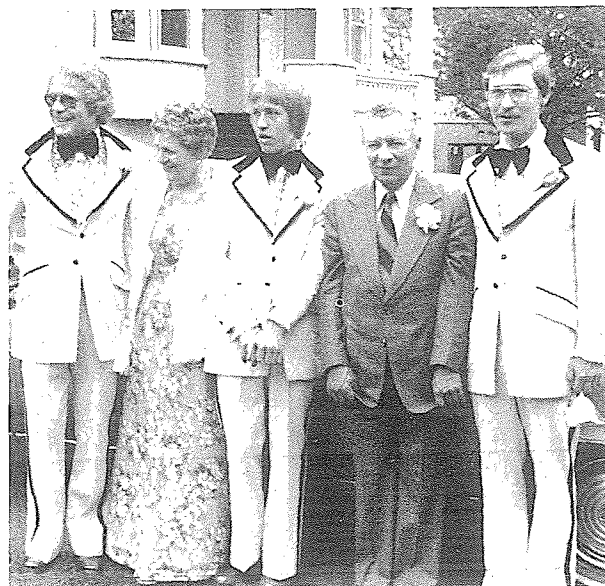
Henry Park worked in the sawmill for J.D. McArthur and also did carpenter work around town. Mr. Johnson and Henry Park built the steeple for the St. John's Anglican Church about 65 years ago. In 1968 Harry and Beatrice went to California for the first time, and now they go every winter for three months. They are always happy to come back to Lac du Bonnet and haven't found a place they like as well, as good old Lac du Bonnet.

Mrs. Harry Park

#### RAY PARK

My name is Ray Meredith Park, born and raised in Lac du Bonnet "way back when or thereabouts" and I still have many fond memories of the old home town.

Prior to enlisting in the R.C.A.F., I worked at Gunnar Gold Mines. Upon my discharge from the Air Force I worked briefly for C.P. Airlines in Lac du Bonnet as an assistant agent, and then at the Red and White store for Frank and Edie Brown. I had several enticing invitations to go to Kimberley, B.C. where I had a sister and brother. So after eighteen months with the Browns, I moved to Kimberley and in December 1946, started to work for Cominco. All of my thirty years with Cominco were spent underground with the exception of the first two weeks. Starting out on transportation I went to blast hole drilling, blast hole loading and finally finishing up as a miner. I went on pension June 1979.



Craig, Lucille, Kim, Ray, Randy Park.



I met my wife Lucille while I was attending No. 2 Wireless School in Calgary. She lived in Drumheller but at the time was attending Mount Royal College. We were married in Vancouver February 26, 1945, shortly after I returned from overseas. Our attendance at the wedding included Wallace Park (brother) and Stancil Cupit (Halliday).

We have three sons. Randal Douglas born 1948 (wife Karen Dunnegan of Esquimalt, B.C.). They were married in Victoria, B.C. in 1976. Randal is now completing a course in Commerce at the University of Calgary and will soon be working for Canadian Western Natural Gas Company.

Donald Craig was born in 1950. During his school years he became very adept at hockey and soccer. For several years he successfully coached a midget team. Craig worked for Cominco in the geology department for ten years. Last year he left to go back to school in Lethbridge where he is taking a course in building trades.

Robert Kim was born in 1959. He is also a top notch hockey player. When Kim was a member of the high school soccer team, they made a trip to England to play against a similar English school team. Although they lost the game, the experience gained was tremendous, plus the thrill of travelling to another country at age sixteen.

I am enjoying retirement very much and upon reaching that milestone in June 1977 Lu and I treated ourselves to a trip to New Zealand to attend a reunion of No. 2 R.C.A.F. Wireless School. We enjoyed the trip so much we hope to go back to New Zealand and to Australia.

My hobby is building bird houses, planters and what have you. We enjoy square dancing and plan to take up bowling or curling. During the summer I can be found on the golf course any time of the day.

We love Kimberley and plan on spending our remaining years here. Our doors are always open to those of you in Lac du Bonnet who wish to call on us.

#### **More memories of Lac du Bonnet:**

Dominion Day — I have always felt that we in Lac du Bonnet were most fortunate to have such men among us as Joe Sparman, Bill Scherk, Frank Waters, Bill Hammerstedt, Alex MacIntosh and several others who when they got their heads together always came up with something good for Lac du Bonnet. I shall always remember Dominion Day celebrations which would draw four or five thousand people to a town of 300. The Regatta-boat races, canoeing, surf-boarding, swimming and diving were top notch as were the baseball tournaments, horse races and circus events on the field. St. John's Anglican Church — I remember the time

we had the choir. The male members were known as the Sunday School Gang. After we were confirmed we didn't have to go to Sunday School anymore so on Sunday afternoons we would go to the Picnic Point and think up some mischief we could get into.

Which reminds me of an incident way back when Miss Blowers was teaching us. Our school softball team was invited to play a game at Newcombe school on a Sunday afternoon, where Harry Wold was the pitcher (and a good one too), coach, manager and what have you. The only car we could round up for transportation was Bill Scherk's Reo touring car. When we decided to give up the idea of going to Newcombe I went to Sunday School instead. In the midst of the lesson there came a loud knock at the door. When Miss Blowers answered it we could all hear Fred Strasdine saying, "Tell Ray Park we have another car and we're going to play ball at Newcombe at three-thirty!" Miss Blowers relayed the message to me and was quite dismayed about me playing ball on Sunday, I could see by the look she gave me.

Reggie Love, home from University for the summer played the organ for us. Such lectures he gave us if we were late for choir practice! His fine musicianship was lost upon some of us at the time. His father worked on the railway for the City Hydro. They lived near the Winnipeg River Bridge. Eventually Reg taught at the University of Manitoba. Shath Square was in one of his classes.

I remember Sgt. R. N. Nicholson of the R.C.M.P. who was a dedicated worker at St. Johns, teaching Sunday School and often reading the scriptures at the services. As a policeman he was a man among men. He didn't believe in using a gun in the performance of his duties unless it was absolutely necessary. When the Boy Scouts and Cubs were organized in Lac du Bonnet, he chose to lead the Cubs while Mr. Frossais (the school principal) headed the Scouts. It was a sad day for us all when Sgt. Nicholson was taken from us. A police raid on an illicit still near Molson resulted in his tragic death.

#### **JACK AND MARY PARK**

Jack and Mary Park were married in 1918 and took up residence in Lac du Bonnet shortly after. (Above Shaw's Drug Store.)

Mr. Park had a barber shop and a poolroom.

In the earlier years, he would show movies about every two weeks and also put on a dance once in a while. Mrs. Park would make sandwiches for the dance.

Mr. Park had a boat in which he took passengers to Davis Lodge at Bird River.

In later years, he had a barber shop and a fur-



Jack Parks place on 3rd Street, Lac du Bonnet, October, 1947.

niture store on Third Street.

They had 11 children - ten still living. (Six daughters and four sons). They were all born in Lac du Bonnet.

The Parks moved to Winnipeg in 1949.

### RUTH AND CECIL PATTERSON

My parents were both born and raised in Manitoba. Cecil, my father was born on a farm near Carrol on December 21, 1900 and later moved to Brandon where he spent his teenage years. Cecil had one sister Eileen Thomas of Ashern and four brothers, Fred of Sacramento, Ken of Toronto and Bill of Kenora, Ontario and Hubert of Ashern.

In 1921, Cecil and his family moved to Winnipegosis.

Ruth was born in 1905 in Winnipeg. Her father John Nesbit was killed in an accident a month before she was born. Her mother then married Abraham Graff and they settled in Winnipegosis. Ruth had five sisters and one brother. Reginald now deceased, Evelyn Oakden of Emerson, Vi Harrington of Dauphin, Nettie Magnusson of Benita and Laura Adams of Pine Falls.

Ruth attended Brandon Normal School in 1923-24 and then taught school in rural Manitoba near Winnipegosis.

My parents met in Winnipegosis and fell in love. But times were hard in the 1920's and my father moved to Toledo, Ohio to seek work in an auto factory. A short time later he sent for my mother and they were married on August 3rd, 1928. Within a year my parents returned to Winnipegosis. My father joined his father and brothers on a sheep ranch on a remote shore of Lake Winnipegosis. My brother Jack was born in April, 1930. The depression came, the price of wool dropped to nothing and they could no longer take out an existence on the ranch and were forced to sell. In 1934, I, their daughter Marilyn was born.

My dad tried his hand at freighting on Lake

Winnipegosis, cutting and hauling railway ties, a sawmill and manufacturing fish boxes for the thriving fishing industry of that time. However my father's business ventures were plagued with one disaster after another. His boat was wrecked in a storm and he and my mother and brother barely escaped with their lives. His sawmill burned down twice and so after a series of unfortunate events in November 1939, my dad became a forest ranger for the Manitoba Government and we moved to the ranger station in the Duck Mountains near Grandview.

Jack and I had many adventures while growing up and living at the ranger station. We frequently saw bears and coyotes, we trapped gophers, climbed the tower, chewed spruce gum, played cards and of course listened to Lux Radio Theatre every Monday evening. We rode to school by cutter or caboose and by buggy in the summer.

One year when I was in grade two my mother took the job of school teacher. That was the year I got the strap three times. That was also the year that my parents were able to buy a car and a dining room suite. I will always remember how happy my mother was when the team of horses pulled into our yard with the new furniture.

In July 1944, our family moved to Pine Falls where we lived for only about a year. Our next move was to Lac du Bonnet. To a town where we would all spend many happy years. A town that we still proudly refer to as "Our Home Town".

While going to high school my brother Jack worked part time for Blakneys Garage. Jack then moved to Saskatoon where he worked for Dr. Riley, a forest pathologist with the University of Saskatchewan. While in Saskatoon, Jack took flying lessons, then worked as a bush pilot in Northern Saskatchewan. Jack married Daphne Thew of Edmonton in September 1952.

In 1953 Jack joined Air Canada, then called T.C.A. and moved to Winnipeg. They later moved to Oakville and then Mississauga where they still reside. Jack and Daphne have four children who are now all young adults, Bob, Susan, Nancy and Brian. Jack is a captain with Air Canada and flies DC8's out of Toronto.

While in high school, I worked part time at the old Pioneer Store and later at Springmans store. In January 1952, my parents were transferred to The Pas and my father became the District Forester for Northern Manitoba. Also in January of 1952 I entered training at the Winnipeg General Hospital. I graduated in January 1955 and in October 1956 I married Larry Reddy, a young mountie working highway patrol out of Winnipeg.

Larry and I moved to Ottawa in 1956 where we lived for four years. While there I worked for the Victorian Order of Nurses. In 1959 our son David



Ruth Patterson, Marilyn, Jack and Cecil.

was born and Susan was born in 1960 and we moved to Regina. Next move was to Prince Albert where we lived for five years and son Gordon was born there. In 1967 we moved back to Regina where we still reside.

On June 30th, 1966 after 14½ years in The Pas my father retired from the government and mother and dad moved back to Lac du Bonnet - back to the town and the people they loved.

They bought a home on Lake Avenue and enjoyed their garden, fruit trees and the many birds that visited them. They were so happy to be back among so many dear old friends.

In October 1975, after holidaying with friends and relatives about the province, my parents spent the Thanksgiving weekend with our family in Regina. On October 14th at 8 a.m. they left Regina for home. My dad was anxious to get home to spread a load of top soil before the snow fell. However the snow did not wait, and a heavy storm hit the highway. They were near Sidney, Manitoba when my father's car skidded broadside in front of an oncoming truck. Our dear parents, Ruth and Cec Patterson were both killed instantly. We miss them so much.

My husband Larry and I are very fond of Lac du Bonnet. We hope that someday we too many spend some happy retirement years by the beautiful Winnipeg River.

## JOHN AUGUST AND ANNA PETERSON

From my grandparents Swedish FLYTTNINGSBETYG (passport) I learned engineer John August and wife, Anna, with seven of nine children left Alsens, Jautland, Sweden April 4, 1906. They sailed on the Allen Line to Halifax, Nova Scotia and from there by train to Chatham, N.B. The Company with whom grandfather worked in Sweden had sent him to assist in operating a lumber mill, all was well until the Chatham Mill had to close.

The eldest daughter had chosen to remain in Sweden, the eldest son, William had come to Canada in 1905. The remainder of the family wished to stay in Canada. The next move was to Montreal, then on to Winnipeg. At this time Riverland was being settled by many Swedish families. Grandfather's homestead extended to the Winnipeg River shore line, including the existing Airfield and to the right and left of the Marion's home. The rocky point was a fisherman's haven.

The Federal Government required this land to set up the R.C.A.F. flying base and station for the Royal signal Corp. and the Forestry. This is a history in itself. The new life I'm sure was not all bliss, learning to be farmers. Grandpa, who was a sportsman in the "Old country" found a crony "Muskeg" Anderson who enjoyed fishing and hunting with him. He also set up a machine or "blacksmith shop". I was enthralled with the objects he made from red hot metal.

It must have been a traumatic experience for my grandmother (whom I adored) to master the chores of a farm wife, she had great stamina. I was intrigued with the activities of the farm, especially in the summer, fetching the cows, milk time, gathering eggs, haying time, butchering, smoking fish, the incredible food cooked in the summer kitchen. The aroma of roasting coffee beans, coffee "breaks" in the field, stomping the hay in the haymow, the dear old collie dog, numerous cats, stroking the velvety noses of the horses Katie and Dolly. These are the memories of a child, but so vivid.

The picture of Grandma (dressed to go to town) black seal pill-box hat, (which I have saved) and "pilsen" cape, in the cutter with a fur robe over her knees, also covering eggs, butter and cream, her produce for sale, Dolly, the smaller of the horses, waited patiently for "giddy-up". To me this was utopia, and my fervent wish was to be a farmer's wife.

I'm sure it was not an easy time for the family at the beginning. They worked hard and long hours to establish themselves.

## Washday versus 1979.

All the gear (tubs, boiler, board and clothes) loaded on the stone boat pulled by Dolly to the flat rocks of Holiday Beach. A fire was built to heat water, heavy clothes were pounded on the rocks with a special board, a picnic lunch and back to the farm to hang up the washing, a delightful day. The parlor was very interesting, the organ, a real leather davenport, velour drapes, beautiful framed pictures from Sweden of ancestors, so cool in the hot summer.

Grandpa passed away in 1924. The family built a home for Grandma in town in 1926. Uncle Bill



Mrs. Anna Peterson and daughter-in-law Ester.

and his bride took over the farm. Grandma had time to teach myself, cousins Alice and Doris to read, write and speak the Swedish language, which keeps our contact with the cousins in Sweden. We were greatly saddened by her death in 1936. It is my hope the grandchildren will fill in the story of their parents as I will for mine, Anna (Peterson) and Frank Waters.

A list of the children of John and Anna Peterson and who they married.

Maria Matilda married Carl Anderson, Sweden.

John William married Wanda Heidinger, Gimli, Manitoba.

John Seton (Pete) married Ester Olson, Sweden.

John Vitus (Jack) married Elizabeth Abenstien of Lac du Bonnet.

John Edwin (Eddie) married Leona Smalls of Saskatchewan.

Anna Maria (Mary) married Emil Nasstrom from Sweden.

Anna Louisa (Annie) married Frank Waters of Nova Scotia.

Anna Wilhelmina (Mina) married Donald Sutherland of Selkirk.

Anna Linea (Nea) married Clifton Brown of Tyndall.

Anna Adene, born in Chatham, died in Montreal.

Mrs. Ester Peterson resides in Winnipeg.

Mrs. Wanda Peterson resides in Vancouver; B.C.

Submitted by Edythe Ehrlich

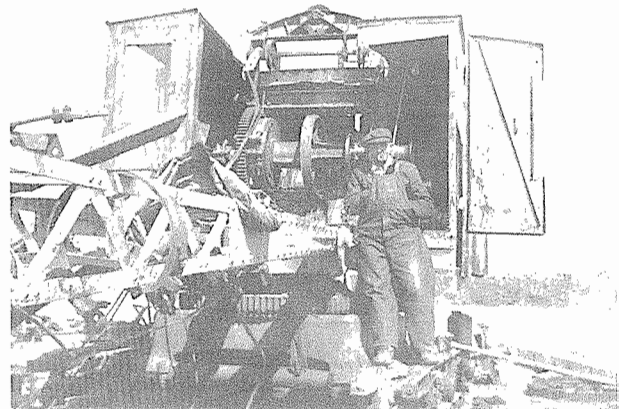
## WANDA AND WILLIAM (BILL) PETERSON WILLIAM PETERSON 1886-1959 WANDA PETERSON 1901-

Bill Peterson was born in Sweden and came to Canada in 1905. He came to the Lac du Bonnet area in 1909 and worked at the old Pinawa Power Plant. Later he worked on construction at Pointe du Bois, Great Falls, Seven Sisters and around the Lac du Bonnet area. He was a steam engineer and dragline operator, as to the latter Bill was one of the first dragline operators in Manitoba.

Bill was an avid curler and was the second president of the Lac du Bonnet Curling Club. He was actively involved in community affairs and served on the local school board and village council for a number of years.

Bill built a number of houses along the Winnipeg River for the Air Force personnel that were based in Lac du Bonnet from 1928 to 1936. Today they serve as summer cottages for a number of people.

He was an active member of the Canadian Order of Foresters, having joined at Pinawa. He was instrumental in forming the group there.

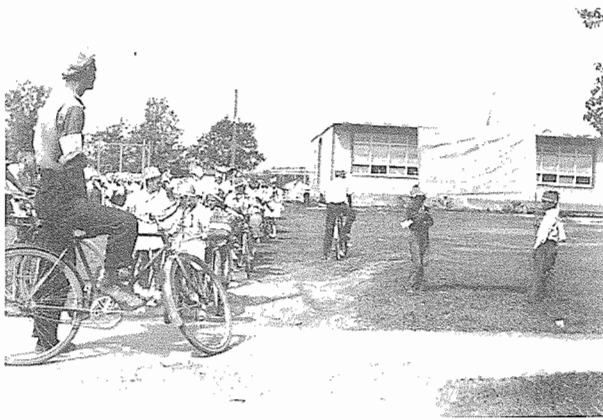


Bill Peterson with Waters' dragline, 1920s, road building N. of Lac du Bonnet.



Waters dragline on Pine Falls railroad.





Lac du Bonnet School parade entry, July 1st, 1940.



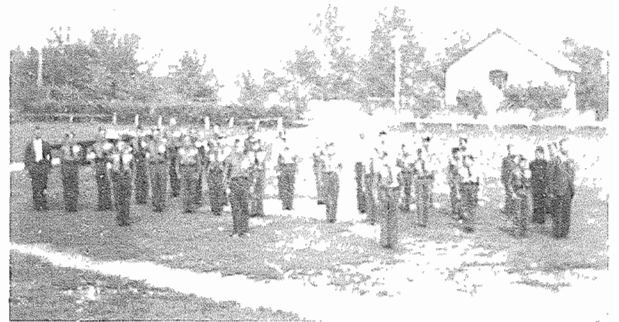
Shooting of the film "49th Parallel". It was filmed close to my Dad's summer cottage and across the river during later part of 1930s.

— D. Thomas, Yellowknife

In 1923 Bill met Wanda Heidinger at Great Falls where she was working for the McArthur Company and they were married in 1927. Wanda was born in Gimli, Manitoba of Austrian/German parents.

Bill and Wanda lived on a small farm three miles outside of Lac du Bonnet until 1940 when they moved to the town site.

On their farm they kept some livestock for their own use but Wanda's gardening ability was what brought fame to their piece of land. Wanda was an avid gardener and the house grounds abounded



Lac du Bonnet school cadets, 1940s.



Work camp outside of the Peterson farm - Depression 1930.



Wood supply pile at the Relief Camp where the old Forestry Hanger used to be - three miles from Lac du Bonnet during 1930s, which is now the airport.



with the color and scent of numerous varieties of flowers and shrubs. Her garden grew both usual and unusual varieties of vegetables. Apples, crabapples, black currants, raspberries, plums, Tom Thumb cherries and strawberries flourished under her special care. Her garden was not only visited by the local people but the Agricultural Minister of the day visited it. The story goes that he dropped in one day with Wanda's brother-in-law, Eddie, and he wanted to see how her Dutch Hoe, which was a new implement at that time, worked. He went into the garden but could not find a weed.

Wanda was also known for her cooking and baking, she was famous for her Angel Food cake and Whole Wheat Bread.

Wanda was also active in community affairs. She was the first woman to hold the office of trustee on the local school board. Many former teachers will remember her for her efforts in trying to get higher wages for them, especially the women. She was a member of the local Canadian Red Cross, Women's Auxiliary for St. John's Anglican Church and the Home and School Association.

Both Bill and Wanda were avid tennis players and were founding members of the Lac du Bonnet Tennis Club.

Bill and Wanda had two children, William Douglas and Donna Anne; and five grandchildren.

Donna Thomas  
(nee Peterson)

### OTTO PETTERSSON

Otto Pettersson was born in Sweden in 1871, died in 1956 and was buried in Lac du Bonnet. His wife predeceased him in 1949. They came to Canada in 1904 and stayed in Winnipeg for one year moving to Lac du Bonnet in 1905 where they spent the rest of their natural lives. Otto worked in the J. D. McArthur brickyard for nine years, homesteaded on the north half of the northwest quarter of 61511 East. The farm was later operated by son Victor. Daughter Annie was born in 1907. Gustav was born in 1911, passed away in 1978. Mary was born in 1909, Victor in 1915, Waldemar in 1917 - retired from the RCMP. Margaret was born in 1919 and is now living in Trail, B.C. Douglas was born in 1929, now lives in Nanaimo, B.C. All were married with the exception of Victor who passed away March 4, 1979, thus ending the Pettersson family connection with Lac du Bonnet. The young people all attended school in the village, walking approximately 2½ miles each way, night and morning, with the exception of Waldemar who was Lac du Bonnet's first

jogger. He loved running and ran most of the way to and from school. This training served him in good stead because one year in the mid 30's the Lac du Bonnet Sports Day on July 1st had a 1 mile foot race on their program. Some of the boys talked Waldemar into entering this race, there were four other entries, runners from Winnipeg, trained and properly attired in shorts and running shoes. Waldemar was wearing a pair of heavy leather boots. He solved his problem by taking the boots off and running the mile in his sock feet. Very few people thought he had any chance against the trained runners but he took off, went into the lead and never looked back. It was twice around a half mile track and the first time around, Waldemar just had his elbow tucked in and was really humping. He was never overtaken and ended the race about 30 yards ahead of the nearest competitor. That happened over 40 years ago but I am sure that none who witnessed that race will ever forget it.

### PITRE FAMILY HISTORY

The three Pitre families had been in Makinak since 1907 where they had migrated from Bloomfield, P.E.I. The Pitre families moved into Lac du Bonnet from Makinak in the spring of 1918. There were three brothers, Joe, Stanley and Ben. Joe and Ben got work at McArthur's sawmill and Stanley being a school teacher was hired to teach in the parochial school adjacent to the Catholic Church of whom Rev. Father Tetrault was pastor. Later on in the summer Stanley was hired by the Provincial Government to teach in the Landerville school which had been built by the Government to service the many children of European immigrants who had taken up homesteads in that district. At this time, Joe and Ben took up homesteads in that district a mile north and a mile west of the Landerville school. The closest neighbors were two families by the name of Boulet and among the newcomers from Eastern Europe were the Bilan, Novoyiski, Dobrucki, Kabaluk, Nikolaychuk, to mention some, and all were excellent neighbors. Joe and Ben got work at the Great Falls power project to supplement the farm income.

Joe and Martha Pitre's family:

**Raymond** - deceased 1967. Wife Irene predeceased. - Five children. Lived in Montreal until deceased.

**Albert** - deceased for many years.

**Andy** - wife Hilda and six children. Retired 1978, now living in White Rock, B.C.

**Joe** - wife Betty and three children. Lived in Winnipeg until retirement - now living in Lake of the Woods area.

**Cecelia** - husband Bob, deceased approximately



The Pitre family on the occasion of Audrey's wedding in September of 1951.

15 years. Four children - now living in Victoria, B.C.

**Rita** - husband Otto and four children. Now living in Saskatoon.

**Oliver** - wife Vera and five children. Now living in Transcona, Manitoba.

**Elmer** - wife Jean - 10 children - Norwood, Manitoba.

**Marcel** - wife Margaret - three children - Pine Falls.

**Audrey** - husband Archie - three children - Fort Garry, Manitoba.

Stanley's family of also ten children were Wilfred, Emmanuel, Rose, Fidelice, Stella, Marie-Olive, Adrien, Florence, Lucille, and Therese, all of whom are still living.

Ben's family also numbered 10 children, Francis, Prescilla, Marie, Jean, Clement, Zella, Blanche, Lorraine, Evelyn and Roy of whom nine are still living.

After a cyclone on May 10th, 1921 destroyed the teacherage and the Landerville school where Stanley was teaching, the three Pitre families moved to Winnipeg. Stanley resumed teaching as principal of Windsor school in St. Vital. Joe and Ben worked on the power projects at Great Falls and Pine Falls while their families remained in Winnipeg. Stanley migrated to the St. Paul district of Northeastern Alberta in the spring of 1928 where he taught school and finally left that to be the police magistrate for that part of Alberta until he was killed in a tragic car accident in 1949. Joe's family remained in Winnipeg until 1925 when he bought the old Desjardin farm in Lac du Bonnet and remained there until 1957 when he and his wife Martha moved to Transcona. Ben and family remained in Winnipeg where he worked in steel construction until a ripe old age. He is now well over 90 years of age and resides at Holiday Haven in Charleswood, Winnipeg.

Submitted by Audrey Kansas

## A Childhood Memory by Audrey Pitre Kansas

One of my fondest childhood memories is going to Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. This was a very exciting time for me, being the youngest of the family I seemed to be little among a lot of loving adults. Good old-fashioned food had been prepared ahead of time by Mom and especially loved was her pâté, a spicy meat mixture baked in dough. A lot of preparation and whispering was done Christmas eve. Later in the evening, the horses were hitched up and the sleigh filled with hay. We all sat close together with Mom's heavy homemade quilts over us. It always seemed to be very cold and crisp, with the stars and moon seeming very close. Dad would stay home to keep the fires going as the house had to be kept warm.

Away we'd go with the older members of the family driving the team of horses with bells jingling and the frost crackling under the sleigh. We had about two miles to travel to town.

My memories of Midnight Mass are candlelight, Mrs. Le Vasseur at the organ, Uncle Albert singing in the choir, the smell of incense and being very sleepy, also thinking about the Christmas tree at home. My older brothers and sisters were mostly away working and would come home for Christmas with gifts for all. After Midnight Mass everyone would gather outside our little church and warm Christmas wishes were exchanged. Then off we'd go back to the farm. When we got home



Mr. and Mrs. Pitre and pets - Brownie and Ollie.

the house was warm, coffee was made and the delicious pâté, Christmas cake, cookies were laid out. The older people took so long over lunch-such a lot of talking and laughing! I just couldn't wait for the presents! Finally someone was named Santa and the gifts were handed out. After that there was merriment and singing 'til near morning. I would happily fall asleep in a corner somewhere with my presents around me.

## GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

by Rita Pitre

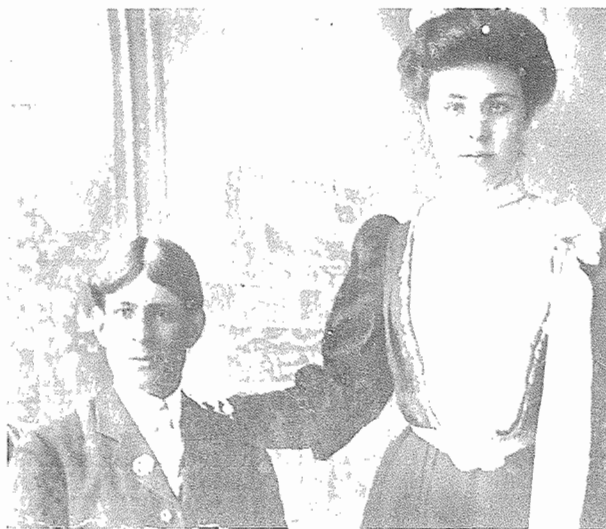
The year was 1906, Sir Wilfred Laurier was Prime Minister and Canada was a young Dominion. The day was Tuesday, the 23rd of January. A little village called Duvar blossomed in the beautiful Garden of the Gulf - the province of Prince Edward Island.

It was cold outdoors, but hearts were young and gay at the Arsenault home. Emily and Nicholas approved of the young Martina marrying the charming Pitre boy - who was no longer a boy but a man of 31. The Pitres lived at nearby Bloomfield. His father, a prominent citizen, managed the Post Office, acted as Sheriff and had a host of other responsibilities. After all Martina was old enough and she was getting on in years. She would soon be 19! Martina was pretty in her own way. Her capable young shoulders, her glowing skin and her direct hazel eyes made her quite a favourite. She had an abundance of chestnut brown hair which rippled down her back. But today was her wedding day and Angeline who was 17 and her bridesmaid had helped to tear up rags the day before to wind around the brown locks.

The girls realized the solemnity of the day when Mama spoke to them before they left the house. Mama had to stay home to make the wedding breakfast.

Now his breath seemed to leave him as Joe Pitre turned around and saw his radiant bride walk gently down the aisle with her father, Nicholas Arsenault. She was dressed in a rich, golden brown wool dress which skimmed the floor in the fashion of the day. A high neckline, "leg-of-mutton" sleeves, a fitted waistline and full skirt was accentuated by a cream silk scarf or stole about 6" wide which was ruffled and pinned to the right shoulder and streamed down to the hemline.

Joe Pitre thought of the first day he had seen her when she was only sixteen. She had worn a gingham dress and her hair had been braided in two heavy plaits down her back. She had not seen him then. He would always love that song which was on the tip of everyone's tongue - "Down by the Old Mill Stream". Not even Martina gave this



Wedding portrait of Joseph and Martina Pitre, 1906.

romantic bit of thinking on his part its true weight. He really had seen her with her other sisters down by the old mill stream.

That day the Duvar Journal carried the following news: -

"St. Anthony's Church, Bloomfield, was the scene of a pretty wedding on Tuesday, the 23rd, when Mr. Joseph H. Pitre of Bloomfield was united in marriage to Miss Martha Arsenault, one of Duvar's most popular young ladies. The nuptial knot was tied by Rev. F. H. Gallant. The bride looked charming in a suit of brown broadcloth with hat and gloves to match. She was attended by her sister, Miss Angeline, who wore a very handsome cream suit. The groom was ably supported by his brother, Mr. Augustine Pitre.

When the ceremony was over the young couple drove to the bride's home. Here, together with a large number of invited guests, they partook of a sumptuous wedding breakfast. After a few hours of enjoyment, they drove to Bloomfield Station where in the future they will reside. The numerous and costly presents received by the bride, testifies to the esteem in which she was held. Their many friends join with the Journal in wishing them a long and happy life."

The same day Martina stood in elegant grace as Joe sat in manly comfort as a portrait was taken of the handsome couple in the Bloomfield Studio.

The first born child, a boy, died of pneumonia. But fate was kind on December 2nd, 1908, when Martina gave birth to a second son and they called him Raymond Francis. He had the golden voice of a healthy babe.

Now Joe was tired of the small orchard, the many tasks in the Post Office and following his father's steps became methodical. Martha and little Raymond were his only dreams. Even the roof over his head belonged to his father. The United

States where he had worked before, no longer appealed to him.

He thought of his brother Stanley who had gone deep into the West to a remote no-man's land called Manitoba. Although Stanley had been in the teaching profession, he threw overboard the luxuries of home and tackled a fresh world of rocks, lakes, and very stubborn soil. Joe decided to join forces with Stanley. Martha was overjoyed. She too had a spirit of adventure which urged her to help her Joe. She planned, worked, and encouraged him until the day finally came in 1909.

Martina loved the train and little Raymond seemed to be aware of new surroundings. Joe sat brooding about his new life. He was worried but when he looked at them his heart melted again and a smile would linger on his face giving Martha all the hope she longed for.

Stanley met them at the Station. He had horses and a sleigh and for many more miles they glided through a winter wonderland into the Riding Mountains of Manitoba, which today is the pride of the Province - known as a National Park. They lived at Mackinac, in Stanley's home. Stanley was teaching school as he was forced to get a salary and couldn't start farming right away. That spring Joe built his home - a shack roof, and three rooms of logs. It was a paradise for Martha. Joe was happy now. He loved the wide open spaces, the beautiful evergreens. In the spring Martha helped him when the rocks were too much for him. They had an objective to clear and break 20 acres that first year. They managed somehow and life was exciting and beautiful close to the soil.

Albert, Joseph, Andrew and finally a daughter Cecilia were born. Joe and Martha couldn't believe their good fortune when a little girl came to brighten up their busy world of boys and men. The boys adored her. She cooed and flirted with them each in turn, knowing full well that she could turn just any one of their heads by one dimple of her chin and one demanding shriek for attention. The family life was wonderful. Stanley's children mixed well with their's and there was great love between the two families. But the wolf came knocking many times at the door. Joe could see that the land had licked him. The rocks were too many. It was impossible to break another acre without breaking Martha's heart as well as his own. Their courage was gone. They had to leave and so followed Stanley once again to another location to find a softer spot in the heart of Mother Earth.

A war went by, another house was built, another piece of ground was broken, and another girl was born - Rita - and she could keep up with her sister Cecilia when it came to getting her own way. Meanwhile Ray had grown into a serious handsome lad who could turn on a smile that would

melt anyone's heart. Joe Jr. "Young Joe" as he was referred to bore the gentleness of his mother and the fire of his Dad. Albert was the beloved who made all the world seem right, loved and loving everyone. Andrew was a beautiful child who could get what he wanted with a flick of his long eyelashes, the two little girls footing the family ladder.

They were now living near the village of Lac du Bonnet. These were difficult times. The depression following the war bore down on this large family. The boys couldn't find work. They had to go to the "Bush" in the winter to cut cordwood. Martina was sad when she saw her wonderful boys growing up into manhood without the education she wanted for them. But her sadness left her when she heard them sing in harmony, strumming banjos and guitars. She realized that health meant everything. They were bouncing with it. She would teach them to be gentlemen, and after all what finer boys could she desire than the very ones she had? Joe tried to make money in various ways. Mostly he planted wheat, oats and barley. But one year he tried to raise hogs, the market fell that fall. Then again another year he planted mushrooms in his basement. He covered his expenses.

But, there was always that happy family life, the closeness in winter, reading stories in the Free Press Prairie Farmer, The Country Guide and many others. The comics, the Katzenjammer kids, Skeezix and a host of others. Many golden hours just being together. After Rita there was Oliver, Elmer, Marcel and last but not least another tiny girl named Audrey. A precious bundle for the whole family to enjoy, even young Marcel protected and idolized her. On January 23, 1930, exactly 24 years after their wedding day, Joe and Martina suffered their first heartbreak, Albert died at the age of 22.

Another war and many more changes took place. Temporarily they moved to St. Boniface and the children spread around. Three boys were in uniform, Oliver, Joe and Elmer. Two boys went overseas, Joe and Elmer. Rita went to Washington, D.C. to do war work. Cecilia - they called her "Cece" left for the East. Andy worked at Chilliwack, B.C. with his family. Ray was busy doing war work at Trans Canada Airways. Marcel and Audrey - the teenagers were being schooled.

In 1944, Martha and Joe decided to return to their Island. They met Rita there who was on her holidays from Washington and saw again the familiar land of their birth. But it was sad in a way as Joe's father had passed away. Martina's mother was aged and on the brink of death, her father Nicholas had died and of course many new faces loomed before them. Life had marched on there covering two wars and a depression.

The house which had been built in 1934 by the hand of Joe Jr. was too good to leave out in the elements of time. So it was moved to the village of Lac du Bonnet where Joe and Martha still live on this day, 23rd January, 1956. They are alone now - their many tow heads have moved on - and many more tow heads have arrived. They have nine living children and eight of which are married. This gives a sum total of 24 grandchildren (13 girls and 11 boys). Joe still plays with the one who happens to be the baby and is loved by all the others who stand by watching him chuck the baby's chin. Martina is the fairy Grandmother who turns out a pair of socks at the flick of the wrist. Her chestnut hair is now white as snow but she still loves her Joe. She still can talk about Mackinac and tell you about many other golden hours. Martina has grown up but she can still laugh with you and dress up with ear rings on and be fashionable as she was those 50 years ago. She is now 68 and Joe is 81 but they have not forgotten their song "Down By the Old Mill Stream".

#### **HISTORY OF MRS. ALICE PUDDICOMBE**

I was born Alice Roblin in Bancroft, Ontario, November 19th, 1904. The family moved to Rainy River, Ontario in 1910 as the lumbering industry moved west and there were three mills in the town, a sawmill, a planer and a stave mill. My education was gained in both Manitoba and Ontario as my years passed with family members in each province but my high school years were in Fork River, Manitoba followed by Normal school in Dauphin in 1926-27. Between sessions at school I worked to obtain money to continue my education. After years of teaching I married Wilfred Puddicombe and settled at Lakeland, Manitoba. After five years war broke out and after the sinking of the Lusitania, my English husband joined the army and I went back teaching. He came back and after 10 years of poor health as a result of the war passed away in Deer Lodge Hospital in 1956 at the age of 53. I went back teaching and in 1960 came to Lac du Bonnet to teach Grade seven in Park Avenue school, the last year the High School was accommodated there and Mr. Long was principal. After four years in Grade seven, I moved to grade three and enjoyed six years at that level until I retired in 1970.

Shortly before I retired I bought a river lot and home on the south outskirts of Lac du Bonnet. I was very active in community work, almost from my arrival and assisted most community projects. I served a term as president of the local Manitoba Teachers Society, now most of the Agassiz divi-

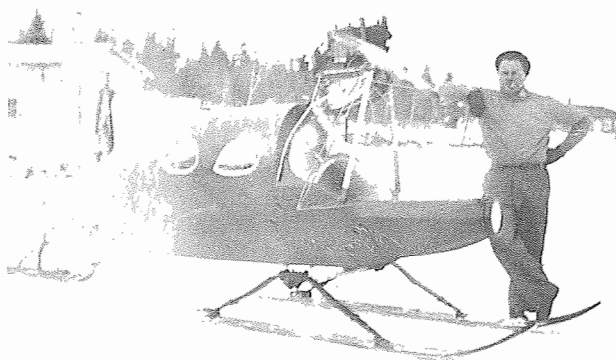
sion. I became a 4-H leader and later received my five, ten and fifteen years leaders certificates. I was head leader in Lac du Bonnet for five years and was the first president of the Winnipeg River 4-H association. I was also an active member of the Anglican Church women, serving two years as president and holding various other offices. I was a member of the Ladies Curling club about twelve years. I transferred my membership in the Legion Auxiliary to Lac du Bonnet and served in several offices including two years as president. I received my 25 year pin, and also a certificate of Merit. I also served on the committee on Health Services which led to the Health Unit Centre. I am a charter member of the Rebekah Lodge No. 61 in Lac du Bonnet and have been an active worker in all projects of the Lodge, also going through the chairs of office.

After visiting a Senior Citizens group in Dauphin I became interested in the local Senior Citizens as no activities were provided for them. With the assistance of another teacher, Mrs. Julia Hunchak, parties for senior citizens were held once a month and other women's organizations were asked to assist. This work was greatly helped by the Legion Auxiliary and the Lakeview Hotel owner who provided rooms and facilities in the Legion Hall and the old Lakeview Hotel. I was also instrumental in persuading the local Elementary teachers to give a Christmas dinner to the Senior Citizens of the area. The first one was convened by Mrs. Butchart and Mrs. Hunchak and myself. The teachers bought food, cooked and served and provided transportation. The first dinner was planned for 50 but 35 arrived. The next year it was over 50 and from then on attendance grew each year. Later many new teachers with more outside interests forced a change so the project was taken over by the Lions Club and were assisted with their first dinner by the same teachers committee.

When asked by my friends why I stayed in Lac du Bonnet, I answer that after covering most of Manitoba, I found it to be one place I was sure I could drink the water without being sick. Through the years whenever a car was needed for trips or projects my car could always be depended on for transportation and many friends will remember the numerous excursions both winter and summer with me driving. Since retirement I spend my summers in Lac du Bonnet and winters in Powell River, B.C. where I have a second home and also time to travel.

Submitted by Mrs. Alice Puddicombe





Paul Romanyszyn with his snowmobile.

### PAUL ROMANYSZYN

Paul came to Canada from the Ukraine with his parents in 1913, first settled in Beausejour and then took a homestead one and a half miles west of Seddon's Corner. Paul came to Lac du Bonnet in 1921. He bought and operated a shoemaker shop. Then in 1926 to 1928, he went to Great Falls, Manitoba where he worked as a blacksmith and had a machine shop. From 1928 to 1930 he worked at Slave Falls.

He came back to Lac du Bonnet in 1930 to 1940 and operated his blacksmith shop. Dan Kabaluk bought the shop in 1940.

In 1938 Paul married Ruby Ethel Simm and they have two children. Their son William Romanyszyn lives in Brandon and he is the owner of an auto body shop. They have two daughters.

Their daughter Pauline Rice lives in Prince George and they have a son.

Paul built the first power saw in 1930 in his shop. It is 2½ feet long and was used for cutting pulpwood. Arnold Urban has it now.

Submitted by Paul Romanyszyn

### BILL AND ROSE SCHENK

Bill was born in Greenway, Manitoba to Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Schenk who at that time farmed. His father was born in Ontario of Dutch ancestors. Bill's mother Annie was born in the U.S.A. and was brought to Canada as a baby, her father being French and mother Irish. Bill was the second of six sons and one daughter. The family moved to Swan Lake when Bill was three years old, his father then became fireman and engineer at the flour mill. He received all his education in Swan Lake. Bill and brother Joe spent their time after school and on Saturdays cutting cordwood with a buck saw and piling it for all the Senior Citizens and neighbors in town.

During his teen years he did a lot of construc-

tion work at both the Wiley-Low and United Grain Growers elevators and also odd jobs around the elevators. He worked as hired help on several farms around Swan Lake and Greenway. In the fall of 1926-27 and 1928, he started as a helper in the United Grain Growers elevator at Greenway under Mr. Mason Hedley, going back to the farms for winter through to harvest again. In the fall of 1929, he was sent by the United Grain Growers as agent at Barnsley, it is on the Canadian Pacific Railway, about half way between Elm Creek and Carman. Here he remained for three months short of 31 years. In 1954 he received a watch from the U.G.G. and was initiated into the Quarter Century Club at a dinner in Winnipeg.

It was here at the siding that he met Rose, when she was delivering cans of cream for shipment by train. Rose is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Morley Tompkins. Her father was born at Chatham, Ontario of English ancestors, coming to Manitoba as a young man. Her mother Amy was born in Stratford, near Manchester, England and came to Canada and Manitoba in 1907. Rose was the second daughter of six girls and one son. She spent all her unmarried life on the family farm. She joined the Carman sheep club, starting out with ten ewes. The second year in the club, one of her lambs took top prize for the best lamb at the Carman Exhibition. She received her schooling at Tracy and Forrest schools.

Bill and Rose were married at home on August 5th. and took up residence in the lean-to on the office and engine room at the elevator. This was where their two daughters were born. They are Mrs. Murray McClay (Elsie) of Richmond, B.C., they have one daughter Cheryl and twin sons Kelly and Cory, and Mrs. Roy Wood (Mabel) of Carman, they have two sons Murray and David and two daughters Patti and Carol-Ann. Their son Kenneth was born at their home across the road from the elevator which the U.G.G. had bought. Kenneth lives in Winnipeg with his wife Marie and two sons Douglas and Kevin.

Bill and Rose were transferred to the U.G.G. to Lac du Bonnet in April 1960 when he became agent at the elevator here. He also operated both elevators and annexes when the U.G.G. bought out the Inter Ocean Elevator here.

He retired at the end of August 1969, since then they have lived at 50 Balsam Crescent where they have their home. Bill cleared their lots and when their house in which the interior was not finished, was moved in from Roland and put on the foundation, he went to work and finished it.

In the early years of retirement he relieved at the elevators at Winnipeg Beach and Treherne. They still keep in touch with the Company employees by attending the annual Quarter Century Club dinner

held in April in Winnipeg.

Bill's hobbies are gardening and sharpening skates, etc. He is active in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows belonging to three branches, the Old Fellows Lodge, the Encampment and the Cantons, better known as the Patriarchs Militant. He is also a member of Centennial Rebekah Lodge No. 61, Lac du Bonnet and Coronation Rebekah Lodge No. 51, Pine Falls, the Masonic Lodge and Pine Falls Chapter No. 56 Order of the Eastern Star Pine Falls.

Rose has for hobbies sewing and handicraft, also looking after the flowers in the summer. She is quite active in St. Johns A.C.W. and the sewing circle, Centennial Rebekah Lodge No. 61 and Coronation Rebekah Lodge No. 51, The Ladies Auxiliary Patriarch Militant in Winnipeg and Pine Falls Chapter No. 56 Order of the Eastern Star.

Submitted by Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Schenk  
Bill and Rose

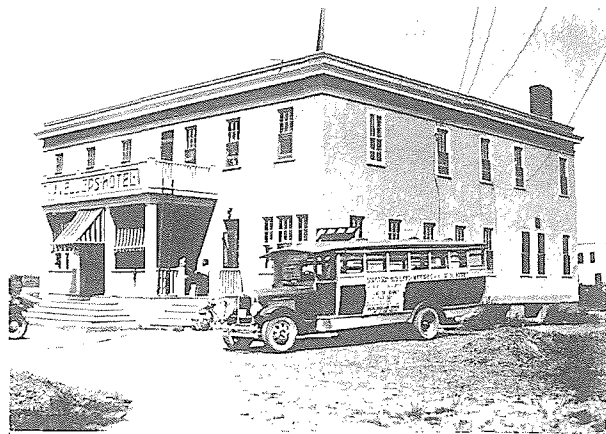
#### MR. AND MRS. LESLIE P. SHAPLAND

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie F. Shapland, together with their four children, arrived in Lac du Bonnet on New Year's day, 1918. He was to take over the Canadian Pacific Railroad Agency having been transferred from Dinorwic, Ontario. Their first night was spent in rather close quarters in the Allard rooms above Rem and Jack Shaw's Drug Store. The "old" station, along with the Woodbine Hotel, operated by Oscar Peterson, was located near the Elevator opposite the McArthur brick yard.

The new station, was built in 1925, located opposite the Pioneer Store, and managed by Mooney Granovsky. Lac du Bonnet did not have a highway but there was a so-called Main Street. The road from the village to the station was not a good road but a zig-zag affair, hub-deep in mud and ruts weaving in and out of the railway fence. This was new country and rubbers and



Left to right — staking claim - Jack Peterson, Jack Parks and Frank Waters.



Travelers Hotel - also first bus service, bus parked along the side.

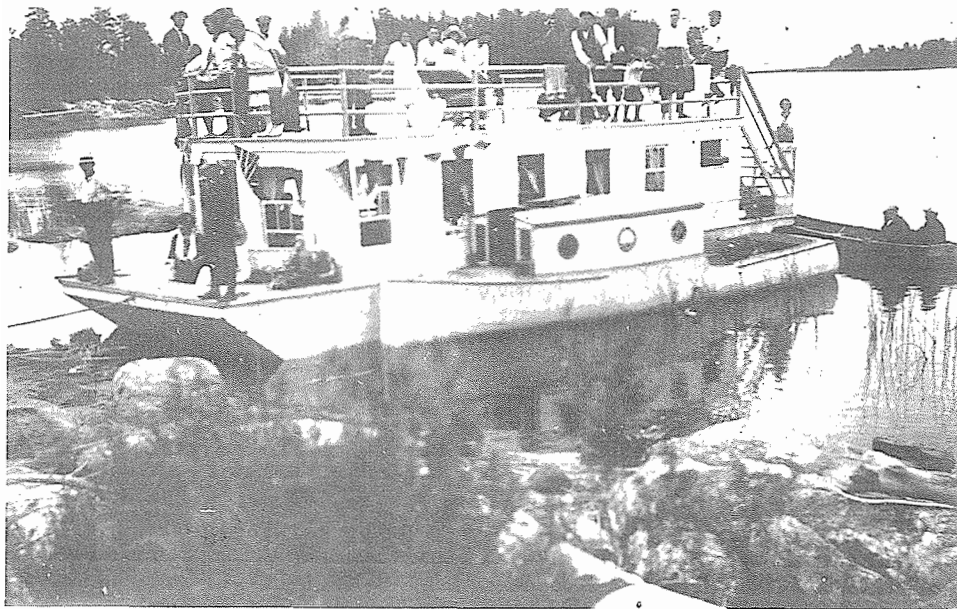
rubber boots were a must. There were two two-holer outhouses, one for women and one for men, with a private one-holer for the family, kept under lock and key.

Shortly after Les moved with his family to the new station, there was an influx of Russian, Ukrainian and Polish immigrants with their belongings in straw suitcases. For a great many, Les was their only means of communication as he was the first one they saw when they got off the train. He did his best to help them with their problems. These were the people that eventually founded the Brightstone district.

The highway to Beausejour had not yet been built. Les had his Harley Davidson motorcycle equipped with flanges on the cycle as well as the sidecar so that it could ride the rails. There were mishaps. Heavy Harry Nystedt decided to ride with him to Winnipeg after Les got permission from the railroad to make the trip. Unfortunately, at Birds Hill Les had a flat, and no spare. They could not continue on the tracks. They, then, decided to try the road and they successfully made it, however, as soon as they got off the motorcycle and on the street Les kept hearing a flapping sound. He turned to Harry and asked him what it was. Harry had torn the soles of his shoes back trying to stop the motorcycle when he got nervous.

Les was never considered a socialite. He preferred to spend his spare time in various ventures, such as saw milling; and, prospecting with his friends, Jack Peterson, Frank Waters and Jack Parks. Jack Parks assisted him in timber cruising; and he never failed to be amazed at Jack's ability to walk ahead without a compass and be dead-on. He would follow behind with his compass.

In connection with the sawmill operation, which lasted about two years, he needed to have the bridge crossing the river at the narrows to the Pinawa side opened to get his stream boat, other boats and log boomed through. The City of Win-



Houseboat operated by Shapland.

nipeg refused to arrange opening it. The, then, Minister of Education, a personal friend took it up with the government and the result was that they had to arrange to open and close it as navigation had the right-of-way. They opened it at the west end. On his first trip through Les was aghast to find a huge rock underneath the passage. The City, however, did make some compensation for the time lost in maneuvering through. This bridge was eventually torn down and a new one erected.

Les, while still in the employment of the railroad operated a houseboat between Lac du Bonnet and McArthur Falls on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays filling the craft to the "gunnels". Sandwiches, cakes, pies and drinks were sold. People danced to a phonograph on the top deck. "Remember the day," Les says, "we had the Scottish Piper aboard with his pipes parading the top deck?" That was an event in pre-highway days.

Mr. Rosenberg of Lac du Bonnet was the contractor hired to build the Travellers Hotel. It stood where the theatre is now. A Chinese gentleman, Charlie Williams, took over the dining area until one day he came to Les and said Les was losing money by not operating it. Les tore out the booths and put in tables and chairs and hired help. He operated the hotel until 1930, having left the services of the railroad about a year after the construction. Mrs. Shapland, Lillian, was the first female to serve in the beer parlor in Manitoba, the hotel being in her name. Les bought the land the hotel stood on from Alex McIntosh. When Les turned the hotel over for sale the bank manager was astounded to learn there had not been a formal agreement drawn up for the purchase of the land from Alex McIntosh. Each depended on the other's word and it had not been necessary.

Walter Urban, walking in from the mines,

picked up a bear cub and Les bought it from him. It was chained to a line running from the back of the hotel to the "private" outhouse. Many, not knowing the bear was there, would attempt to use it only to find themselves trapped in by a big black bear and they would holler for help. The bear, on occasion, would get loose and climb the back fire escape steps and enter the hotel much to the consternation of the guests.

J. L. Gaudry, who purchased the hotel from Les was extremely unfortunate to lose this fine structure in a fire.



Gladys Shapland on the surfboard at Holiday Beach.

## THE SHERK FAMILY



Les Shapland on motorcycle, 1918.

In 1925 Les bought the property known as Halliday Beach from Alex McIntosh and named it Holiday Beach. He started with six cottages and as years went by it expanded - more cottages, a convenience store, a gasoline pump and a dance pavilion. In 1947 it was taken over by Newell Sutherland and three years later it was sold to Edward Smee. Later it was salvaged by the Manitoba Power Commission. When Les bought it, he had one of the finest safe beaches in the area. Local residents, as well as out-of-towners, would flock to the beach on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays to bathe, swim and watch surf board riding. Gladys was one of the first to ride the board. She was proficient in riding standing on her head, riding a chair, and on Ralph's shoulders.

In 1954, however, the Manitoba Power Company raised the water level 16 feet (?), and, alas, no more sandy beach.

Lillian Shapland was "everybody's friend". She helped Les in the station, the hotel and at Holiday Beach. She always met people with a smile and a kind word. When she left Lac du Bonnet she held back many an unshed tear. She never wanted to leave.

At this writing, Greta lives with her husband, Tage Mattson, in Tequesta, Florida. Gladys is deceased. Olive, Mrs. James Meagher, resides between Montreal and Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Ralph retired from Imperial Oil and lives with his wife, Cecily, in Weston, Ontario.

Mrs. Shapland died June 21st, 1978. Mr. Shapland still living in a nursing home in Jupiter, Florida. Mrs. Shapland has a twin brother still living at The Pas.

In May 1924, the Sherk family moved to Lac du Bonnet from Winnipeg. Bill, Pearle and their three children, Grey, Bernice and Dave took up residence in a suite above the Granovsky store. Bill was a trainman with the C.P.R.

Bill was one of the founders of the Lac du Bonnet Social Club and through it was very active in community events, such as the big first of July celebrations that drew people from all of Manitoba. He took particular interest in getting the boat races going.

Pearle and Bill belonged to an orchestra and told many tales of getting stuck in the mud going to play at Riverland, Silver Lodge, Old Pinawa, Lee River. Pearle played the piano, Bill the drums, Matte Ritchie the violin, the Haubner boys played the saxophones. There was also a group of residents that took part in plays and worked hard to put on a Christmas concert for the children every year. Pearle did a lot of costume making then.

In 1932, Bill was transferred back to Winnipeg but that was not the end of their love for Lac du Bonnet and the many friends they had made. After retirement, the Sherks spent most of their summers with Annie Waters. Bill and his buddy Joe Sparman were out on the river just about every day trying to fish.

The family seems to keep coming back. Bernice, Mrs. Bob Nicoll, her husband and their three children moved to Lac du Bonnet in 1954. Bob was District man with the Manitoba Hydro. Heather, their 4th child arrived in 1956.

The Nicolls were transferred to Dauphin in 1962 but built a summer cottage in Riverland. In 1973, Judy came back as the bride of Len Hildebrandt. It is hard to say whether or not Heather really ever left the town as she spent almost as much time in Lac du Bonnet as in Winnipeg. She drove the water ski boat for a few summers and is now residing in Lac du Bonnet as Mrs. Doug Abrahamson.

## THE SMALL FAMILY HISTORY

John Charles Small - 1880-1964

Sarah Ann Small - 1880-1938

Children: Aileen Rebecca

Frederick George

"Jack" Small of London, England first came to Lac du Bonnet in 1902, leaving his employment as a tailor in Piccadilly to seek adventure in a new land. He went to J. D. McArthur's logging camp at Old Pinawa. That led to him becoming assistant cook to Tom Wellman at the boarding house for



Aileen and Fred Small, 5 and 4 years of age.

the men working at the McArthur sawmill and brickyard in Lac du Bonnet. Jack's first lesson was in bread making. When Mr. Wellman became proprietor of the Woodbine Hotel Jack succeeded him as chief cook. Alex Dancyt was Jack's cookee. His first lesson was in making bread too. Later Mr. Dancyt started his own bakeshop in Lac du Bonnet.

Sarah Vaughan came to Winnipeg from Ireland in 1908. She went to Lac du Bonnet about 1911 to work at the hotel. Margaret Hamilton, another Irish girl who became Mrs. Tom Wellman, Anna Louise Peterson and Edith Spence shared the work at various times. One evening Sarah was having difficulty lighting a lamp in the lobby when Jack sprang to assist her. That is how they met! They were married in Winnipeg in 1915, at the home of Andrew Steen, a cousin of Sarah's.

Mr. and Mrs. Small's first home was the McArthur boarding house. It had seventeen rooms, one being a dining hall and another a dormitory upstairs. (Later on the J. H. McMillans lived in part of it when Joe was manager of the McArthur farm. He had been superintendent of the sawmill. The McMillans had three children - Beatrice, Tom and Victoria. A farm of their own at Plumas, Manitoba was their next home.)

In 1918 now a family of four the Smalls moved to Old Pinawa where Jack cooked for a crew of 45 men at the staff house. They were building an addition to the power plant. Emil Larson at the age of

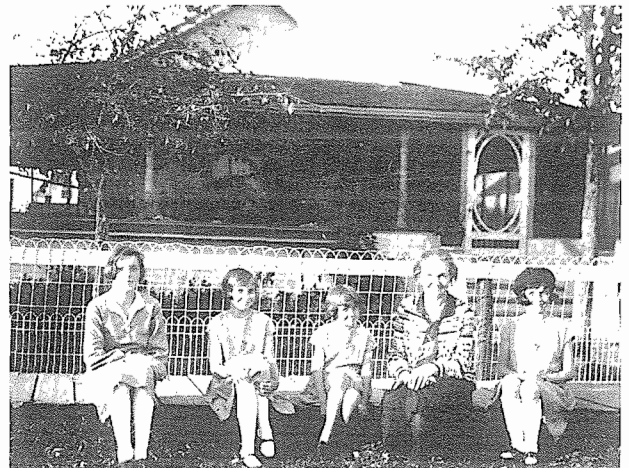
14 was Jack's cookee. Mr. Larson remembers the long hours, 4 a.m. to 10 p.m. (bread had to be made every day) and being paid \$30.00 per month. When Jack received a raise in pay he asked if Emil was getting one also. "No, he's only a boy" was the reply. "But he's doing a man's work!" said Jack... and so Emil got his raise of \$5.00 per month.

Mrs. Margit Mager's father Mr. Thornquist was one of the workmen. When he walked home for the weekend the cook gave him a lunch "for the road". He saved the dessert, which was usually two kinds of pie, for his small daughter - Margit always looked forward to that good pie. "I don't know whether it was the pie or my dad I was happier to see", she says today! Margit's first child was named Ingrid Margreta. She called her the pet name of Baby until a second daughter arrived (Doris). Margit appealed to her friend Mrs. Small, "I must not call her Baby any longer... tell me what shall I call her instead?" "Call her Peggy or Pearl", said Mrs. Small. And so Pearl she became! She is now Mrs. Pearl Warren of Great Falls, Manitoba.

Next the Smalls lived at Pointe du Bois where both of them worked for the Kelly Construction Company. When it was time for Aileen to start school, a small house was rented from J. Letain in Lac du Bonnet, next to Casey's Inn. In 1924 John Rosenberg and son Arthur built the Small residence near the big school.

It is interesting to note that when Aileen became a teacher she taught the primary grades in the little school where she had learned her abc's. Sad to relate, her mother did not live to see this cherished dream of hers fulfilled. It was a proud moment for her, however, when Aileen played the organ at St. John's Anglican church for the first time and taught Sunday School. Fred was rector's warden before he left home in 1940.

The Misses Mary and Ethel Park remember



Aileen Small visiting Mrs. Wellman with the Cameron girls from Winnipeg.



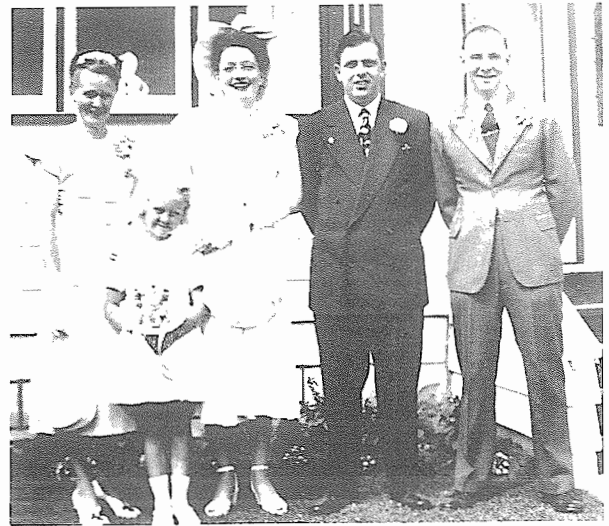
Miss Vaughan as their Sunday School teacher in 1914 at St. John's. When war broke out she told her pupils how troubled she was. Little did she know that a future war would claim the life of her only son.

Young Bill Wellman, Tom's nephew was killed in World War I. His father William Sr. was a foreman at McArthur's brickyard. There was another son Charles and a daughter Kitty who married Jack Stalker in 1909 at St. John's. The Stalkers lived in Winnipeg. They had three daughters, Kathleen, Phyllis and Grace. Mrs. Wellman Sr. and Mrs. Henry Park were sisters.

The Tom Wellmans retired from the Woodbine Hotel to build a summer home in town, probably the first of its kind in the area. A log building was moved from the hotel to Church Street. Mr. Henry Park, sons Harry and Cecil added a screened veranda on three sides, a glazed-in dining area, a small kitchen and a back porch. This cottage became a show place, its grounds were so beautifully kept. The Wellmans, Stalkers, Parks and Smalls had many lovely times there. Mrs. Wellman was a superb hostess whose main interests lay in the culinary arts. She relied on Mrs. Small to entertain the guests! "Uncle Tom" and "Auntie Wellman" as the Small children called the Wellmans spent the winters in California. After Mr. Wellman passed away suddenly in the summer of 1927, Mrs. Wellman lived in Winnipeg during the winter. She died in 1954.

Jack also worked for contractors Alex McIntosh, Frank Waters, Don Currie and Angus Grant. One summer the family lived on railway cars, (that was adventure, indeed) feeding the crews who were repairing and extending the track, so they were constantly on the move. Aileen remembers the haunting call of the whippoorwill and a freight train wreck. A smashed box car of toys and gifts for the Christmas trade fascinated the children. Workmen clearing up the debris kindly gave Freddie a fire engine and Aileen a string of pearl beads. Mr. McIntosh tells this story about Johnny Small as he called him. Once an Australian worked in his camp for the summer to get away from the severe winter down under. When it was time to go back he had this to tell the boss, "I'll never forget the cook here, not just because of the great meals, but one day I lost a pouch of gold I had in my pocket. I was becoming frantic searching for it when the cook asked, "Is this what you are looking for?" as he took it down from a shelf. "No, sir, I'll never forget Johnny Small, your cook." Truth is stranger than fiction they say. Wouldn't it have been strange if Jack's brother Fred, an immigrant to Australia and the woodsman with the pouch of gold had somehow met!

When Jack was working for Angus Grant at the



Wedding of Helge and Aileen Oder July 1948 and attendants Henry and Freda Shipper with daughter Gail.

Halfway House, so called because it was halfway between Great Falls and Manitoba Central Mines he had occasion to cook for 300 men within a few days with limited facilities. They were putting in the hydro to and at the mines. They had to be fed in relays. Arthur Haavisto was pressed into service. He remembers the brown sugar cookies almost the size of a saucer which were always available for snacks, but particularly the pie which he used to help himself to before the main course! It is said that one man put his meat and vegetables on top of his pie to ensure its safety.

W. D. Halliday was barn boss and part time accountant on this venture. He had the responsibility of providing fresh horses for the men freighting to the mines. There was even a stage coach (caboose) for passengers. A frequent traveller was Father Laliberté who often complimented the cook.

When their mother did her housework in an absent-minded way, sang in tuneless fashion "When Jock Comes Home Again", taken from a Scottish air, Aileen and Fred were not surprised to smell cigar smoke when they came home from school one day. Dad was home again!

Their dad always stopped at Jack Park's barber shop for a shave and a hair cut (two bits, no doubt) on the way home, treated himself to cigars and bought a pocketful of chocolate bars for the kids. (They had to hunt for the right pocket). Dad was given tea and toast in bed the first few mornings to make up for those early risings. After he had caught up on all the news-local, national and foreign he read everything in the house enjoying Fred's "Robin Hood" like any schoolboy. Then he tackled the woodpile. After a while he baked goodies saying how "skinny" the kids were. His pancakes were a special treat. He scoured the top of the wood range, greased it and used it for a



Helge Oder while on leave with his mother in Winnipeg.

griddle! Meanwhile mother was washing camp blankets, making new aprons, dishtowels and pillow slips out of the flour sacks Jack had brought home (first removing the lettering). Depending on the season a new mosquito netting might have to be made. Jack's mending kit was checked for thread, buttons, etc. A button off anything was a disgrace. Shades of that tailor shop in London, no doubt Mrs. Small was a fine seamstress who could have hung out her shingle at any time. Notice Aileen's "home made" dress in the picture taken with her brother Fred. (The velvet ribbon sash, the hair ribbon and the beads were green!) Soon enough a knock was heard at the door and Alex McIntosh or whoever would say, "Can you be ready by tomorrow, Jack?" If their dad left early in the morning Aileen and Fred would find a handful of small coins under the pillows when they awoke... Dad had gone back to work again.

Sheltered by a close-knit community, women who guarded the "Homestead" fared quite well. When a bad storm piled drifts of snow sometimes ten feet high around their little house someone from the Pioneer Store would be sent to "dig Mrs. Small out." During the time Fred was very ill with double pneumonia Beatrice McMillan, then in her teens, stayed with the little family to help out. (Dr. Malcolm was the attending physician.) It was 30 to 40 degrees below zero weather! Whenever a letter edged in black came from the old country Mrs. Frank Waters would come over to comfort and sustain. Aileen remembers clearly the time her grandmother-Rebecca Kennedy Vaughan died. Mrs. Waters made tea for her mother and attended

to household chores. Their two houses were the first ones built past the school.

Fear of fire was a real source of anxiety during the cold weather in those days. You never dared leave the house with too much in the stove. One year when folks were going home from the school's Christmas concert they saw a house being rapidly consumed by fire. Soon a crowd gathered but nothing could be saved. Aileen remembers the mother and daughter standing with their arms around each other crying. No wonder one of the prayers Aileen and Fred learned at their mother's knee was this one: -

Lord keep us safe this night  
Secure from all our fears  
May angels guard us while we sleep  
Til morning's light appears.

Fred grew up to become an air engineer and a pilot. He worked for the Manitoba Government Air Service, Lac du Bonnet, and for the Regina Flying school before he joined the R.C.A.F. in 1941. During World War 2 he lost his life while on air operations over Germany October 8th, 1943. Small Lake in northern Manitoba is named in his honour, the name being formally adopted on June 27th, 1944.

Aileen eventually taught school in Lac du Bonnet, Hamiota and East Kildonan. In 1948 she married Helge G. Oder. After the war Helge, who had been in the navy, called on Aileen to thank her personally for the newsletters she wrote to the Lac du Bonnet servicemen overseas. Helge is in his 32nd year with MBE - Dominion Bridge Ltd.

Helge's parents came from Sweden. His mother was Maria Hammerback whose brothers, John and Carl, also lived in the Lac du Bonnet area for a number of years. His sister Jenny (Hegland) Cederwall whose home was in Selkirk, Man. passed away in 1979.

Helge and Aileen Oder now reside in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Submitted by Aileen R. Oder



W. D. Halliday, Jack Small, Stella Halliday, Nels Carlson at the Halfway House, 1929.

## HENRY THOMAS SMITH AND HIS WIFE EDITH EMILY MOULD

Henry Thomas Smith, son of Samual and Jane Smith who lived at the three mile in Lac du Bonnet was born at Westbourne, Manitoba in 1874. His wife Edith Emily Mould was born in London, England in 1878. She and two other members of her family migrated to Canada. She met Henry Smith in Rathwell and moved to Lac du Bonnet with him. They built a log cabin at two mile where where he farmed and trapped. They had five daughters. Henry known as Harry, enlisted in 1914 and went overseas and Edith moved with the children to Winnipeg. Harry was wounded slightly and after his return they moved back to Lac du Bonnet. He worked as a forest ranger and moved into town to retire. About 1923 a forest fire raged out of control forcing many homesteaders to flee at a great loss and setback to them all but luckily no loss of life. Harry died in 1948 and his wife Edith in 1951 and both are buried in the Lac du Bonnet cemetery.



Harry Smith, right with two fire rangers.



Mrs. Harry Smith and Dora in the bush where we lived at two mile around 1910.

Three of the children died in infancy and the remaining two girls Mrs. Tom King (Dora) and Mrs. Fred King (Rose) live in the village of Lac du Bonnet.

Submitted by  
Dora and Rose King

## THE SPARMAN FAMILY Johannes, Gunhild, Elsie, Joyce, Emily

The Sparman family originated in the Scandinavian countries of Sweden and Norway. Johannes (Joe) was born September 9, 1893, in Fugelsta-Marieby, Jamptland, Sweden. Gunhild Regina Danielson was born in Sorli, Norway, on August 14, 1896. She came to Canada in 1907 with her parents who homesteaded near Kenora, Ontario. Joe immigrated to Canada in 1914. He worked for one year on a farm in Reston, Manitoba. After that he worked on elevator construction and as a pump man for the Shoal Lake to Winnipeg water supply. In 1919 he went to work at Great Falls, Manitoba as a mechanic during the construction of the new hydro plant. It was necessary, first of all, to bring in a temporary power supply. This was done and Joe Sparman turned on the first light in Great Falls that year. Joe and Gunhild met, through mutual friends in Winnipeg and were married there on December 20, 1921. Their first home was in Great Falls, next door to the Frank Waters. Their eldest daughter, Elsie, was born there in 1923, the year the power plant was completed.

In 1924 they moved to Lac du Bonnet where Joe opened a garage and service station. He also had the Ford dealership and Imperial Oil Bulk Sales. Later on he was also a partner in the Pioneer General Store with his old friend, Bill Hammerstedt.

Their second daughter, Joyce, was born in 1925 and number three, Emily, arrived in 1928. Our growing-up years were wonderfully happy. We belonged, as a family, to the Lac du Bonnet Community Club and participated in group skiing, skating, badminton, concerts and picnics. This was during the depression years but everyone pitched in and our entertainment expense was practically nil.

Joe helped to organize and build Lac du Bonnet's first curling rink in 1933 and remained an ardent curler until 1975. He was made a life member of the Lac du Bonnet Curling Club in 1954 and a life member of the Manitoba Curling Association in 1965. A proud moment was when he scored the first eight ender of the club in 1936.

Joe Sparman served on the local school board for 14 years, was a councillor for 12 years and when Lac du Bonnet was incorporated as a village in 1948, he became it's first mayor. He was also



Sparman Family (l to r): Joe, Elsie, Gunhild and Joyce. Taken in 1938.

the first fire chief and was instrumental in building the first fire engine.

St. John's Anglican Church has also played an important part in the life of the Sparmans. Mother, father and three daughters were all baptized and confirmed in the church. Elsie was married there in 1941 to Edgar Chapman. Their children, Diane, Bruce and Paul were also baptized and confirmed in St. John's. Diane married Allan Loewen in our church in 1967 and moved to Whitehorse, Yukon Territory. Their three daughters, Paula, Keira and Gina were each brought home to Lac du Bonnet to be christened in St. John's.

Bruce married Carol Queau in 1971 in St. John's. Their son, Anders Johannes, born January 24, 1979, was also baptized in the same church as his father, grandmother and great-grandparents.

Gunhild has been a hard-working member of the Anglican church W.A. women for many years.



Gunhild and Joe Sparman, 1968.

She is also a charter member of the Ladie's Auxiliary, Royal Canadian Legion.

Joe was an ardent worker and sincere member of St. John's Church. He was warden for many years. He was honored with a certificate of merit in 1970 for his great devotion and dedication. He was also presented with a certificate of good citizenship "Order of the Crocus" by the Manitoba Government in 1967. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge, Khartum Temple of the Shrine and the Lion's Club.

Joyce married Patrick Mathews in Winnipeg in 1948. Pat was in the air force so they lived in many parts of Canada before they settled in Richmond, B.C. They have two children, David and Laura.

Emily married Garry Bowyer in Winnipeg in 1950. They lived in Winnipeg for 15 years and they moved to Richmond too. Their three children are Jeffrey, Joanne and Graham.

On December 20th, 1971, the Sparman family gathered to honour Gunhild and Johannes on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. Family and friends came from far and near to attend. On April 5th, 1977, Johannes Sparman left us to mourn a beloved husband, father and friend.

## SPECHT FAMILY HISTORY

Our parents, Peter and Adela Specht came to Canada in 1906, my mother was married at the age of 14 and arrived in Canada from Poland at the age of 17 with two children, my oldest sister and brother, Bena and Steve. My father was born in Austria (taken over by Poland in the first world war) and my mom was born in Poland (quite possibly a part of Czechoslovakia, in the late 1800's). When they first arrived here they settled in Beausejour, then my Dad got a job with the City Hydro and they moved to a log cabin near the bridge in Lac du Bonnet. My brother John recalls the first house he lived in as being on the Lac du Bonnet side of the bridge as opposed to the house that City Hydro provided near the Riverland area in later years on the other side of the bridge. The first house was near Love's place.

Steve recalls walking from Beausejour with my uncle Joseph along the railroad track, with a cow in tow. They followed the track from Seddon's Corner and were about 3 miles from Lac du Bonnet when a train came along. He said they had to step aside in knee-deep muskeg and to hear Steve tell it, it was hilarious!

I can recall my mother talking about the hardships she encountered when she first arrived. There were Indians around their cabin, the area was infested with mosquitos. Imagine coming to a strange country with two small children, not know-



ing the language, no roads, extremely cold winters, being literally isolated. She spent many a day very lonesome and alone, but mother did speak of a Scottish lady by the name of Mrs. McDonald who taught her to speak English, taught her how to make bread and innumerable other things in order to cope with our ever increasing family and adverse conditions.

My brother John told me about walking to the school from the bridge on the railroad tracks as there were no roads. As a matter of fact he helped build the road to the bridge. My late sister Mary recalled all of the good times they had at dances and also the fact that Lac du Bonnet had a "theatrical group" and they used to have concerts etc., periodically.

As long as I can remember we've had a piano, so it was inevitable that some of us learned to play it. That provided a great deal of entertainment at our house, not only for our family, but for all of our friends. My parents were simply tremendous in allowing us to enjoy our home. There was always a lot of fun and merriment with such a big family one could hardly call our life style dull, to say the least!

My dad worked for the City Hydro until the first world war, then was laid off because of being Austrian, so we understand. He did, however get a job as a rigging foreman at Great Falls and was recalled to the Hydro later as foreman until his retirement in 1952. He worked for them for 45 years.

Being the last daughter to arrive on the scene I don't recall our homes near the bridge, but I do remember our house on the farm, 2 miles from Lac du Bonnet and of course, our home right in town.

We used to walk the two miles to school and when one got home, we invariably had to walk another two or three miles to fetch the cows, that particular chore was assigned to Irene and myself. We also had to help do the gardening, stook the grain, pick berries and all of the other chores necessary to keep the house and farm going. We did have some "comforts" on the farm. Dad built an ice-house, also an outside bakeoven, a smoke-house, so aside from having our own produce, we also had our own meat and poultry stock at home, so despite the fact that the depression hit in the early 30's, I can't recall ever going hungry. Our larder was always full. My mother canned over 500 quarts of fruit, made her own bread, pickles, etc., as did many of the other residents of Lac du Bonnet at that time. Dad used to make his own "sauerkraut" and dill pickles by the huge barrel full, and I might add, I haven't tasted anything as good since!

Even in my earlier days at school, I can recall whenever there was a blizzard, the school



Mr. and Mrs. Peter Specht

would phone and have one of my brothers pick us up with the team of horses, complete with granary box, and transport all of us home safely (those children living in our general area). We owned 88 acres of land just out of Lac du Bonnet and had cows, horses, pigs, chickens, etc., which more than provided food for our table.

There was no electricity at the "farm" and I can remember my mother washing clothes all day on the scrub board, "boiled them" and then we used to have to iron them from the iron heated on our wood stove. We used to have coal-oil lamps then, and I can remember having to buy the oil from Hans Johnson's garage. My mother used to give Stella a quarter to buy the oil, she used to ask for 20¢ worth and then we scooted across the street to Campbells store and bought 5¢ worth of mixed candies. My mother never did find out about our "scheme" but I'm sure Hans Johnson knew what we were up to!

Prior to about 1920, I understand we used the team of horses to travel but as long as I can recall we had a car. A lot of oldtime residents will remember our white "perchon" horses, fondly referred to in Lac du Bonnet as the "pink elephants", many a time my dad had to use them for some big job in town, pitting their strength



against that of the tractor in those days.

We all attended school in Lac du Bonnet, and other than my youngest brother Casimer, we all finished our schooling there, Cas completed his in Winnipeg.

My brother Carl and Louis (Ludwig) joined the army at the onset of the war in 1939. John joined the navy in 1942. Carl was in Sicily during the "Sicilian campaign" and Lou was a P.O.W. in Hong Kong.

All of our family (with the exception of our sister Wanda, who passed away in 1949) are married and like myself, most are retired and grandparents. The eldest Bena was married to Alfie Olcen in Lac du Bonnet, she died in May 1975. Alfie still lives in Winnipeg though and he can be reached through his youngest son Jim who owns "Olcen Food Distributors" in Winnipeg. Steve lives in Richmond, B.C. is now retired from the CNR, he was a conductor with them for many years and has five sons. The oldest boy Ken is a lawyer, three sons are school teachers and the youngest son has a "mime" theatre school in Vancouver. The second oldest son was asphyxiated while studying in China.

John lives at Stroud, Ontario 15 miles from where I live, so we are often in touch. I phoned him about this project and got some information from him. John told me about the many times when he and Steve had to milk the cows (across the bridge from where our home was located, was where the barn was). Whenever a bad storm came up they were unable to cross the trestle bridge and had to lie down and hold on to the timbers or else they would have been blown off, they were only about eight and ten years old at the time. Often they were chased by bears and there were a lot of wild animals around at the time, the only other cabin near where they lived belonged to the Botchetts. He has two daughters, both married, and live in and near Toronto.

Mary, who passed away, as you know, was Mrs. Hardie and after Bill died she remarried a Jim Weardon. She had two children, Allan and Marion, they live in Winnipeg.

Carl lives in Thunder Bay and until just recently retired, worked as a steel rigger. He had six children, four boys and two girls. The boys live at Thunder Bay and his two daughters are here in the Toronto vicinity.

Lou has just moved to Kelowna, B.C., he is retired from the Manitoba Liquor Commission. They have three daughters.

Elizabeth, "Lizzie" to Lac du Bonnet residents way back when, is now Mrs. Percival Doherty — she has six children. Betty works for the Blue Cross in Toronto and has been with them for 18 years as an IBM operator. Once her children were

grown up, she went back to school and received her high school diploma and with it her office training — she expects to be retired in the next year or two.

Stella, (Mrs. William Cooley) lives in Port Coquitlam, British Columbia, she and Bill owned a lodge for years and are retired now, they have three children. Victoria (Mrs. Earl Blair) lives in Winnipeg and works in the office at Investors Syndicate, she has three sons and a daughter.

Irene (Mrs. Gerald Watson) lives in Toronto, works on IBM machines in an Accounting office, she has one daughter, (they also own a home in Florida and spends her winters there).

Lillian (Mrs. Rick Harper) lives in Kitchener, she doesn't work, she has four children, Irene and Lillian are the "twins".

I am married to John Lewis, have worked on IBM machines for years (the last few as a computer operator). We've been married for about 33 years, have a daughter, Toni Smith and a beautiful grandson, Taylor Smith (just had to get that in). My husband and I are both retired and spend the winters in Florida and in the summers we come back to the Barrie area. We do a lot of extensive travelling.

Casimer, the youngest of the family, lives in Winnipeg and still works for CNR, he has two children, a son Gary, who is a doctor (chiropractor) and has his practice in Winnipeg, also a daughter Kathy who is married and lives and works in Winnipeg.

It might be interesting to note that as of this writing, with the union of my Mom and Dad (the most wonderful parents that a person could wish for) there are 41 living grandchildren and at the last count, I believe, over 80 great-grandchildren. That is something that should go down in history!!!

## THE ALEXANDER SPENCE FAMILY

Alexander Spence (1853-1942) came to Lac du Bonnet from Little Britain, Manitoba in 1900 to work in J. D. McArthur's lumberyard and brickyard. Mrs. Spence (1858-1933), formerly Ann Elizabeth Gardiner and family John, Arthur, William, Warner, Clara and Nellie arrived soon after the men had built their first home on Church St. (The taxes for the lot had been \$1.50 per year.) Another daughter Elsie was born in 1904 in Lac du Bonnet.

Their grandparents originated from Scotland and from the Orkney Islands.

In 1906 Mr. Spence, sons Bill, Warner and John assisted Tom Houston a foreman at McArthur's with the building of St. John's Anglican Church. A

## TAX NOTICE

School District of *Lac du Bonnet* No. *1235* MAN.To *M. A. Spence* Postoffice *Lac du Bonnet*

You are hereby notified that you are assessed on the assessment roll of the above named School District for the year 1904 for *Town Lot* value *2.00* acres of land, taxes on which at the rate of *7½* mills per cents per-acre amount to \$ *1.50* and you are further notified that the arrears of taxes due by you to the said District amount to \$ *1.50* and you are required to pay the same forthwith.

*W. A. Halliday*  
Treasurer

Dated at *Lac du Bonnet* this *Sixteenth* day of *December* 1904

Note  
10 % discount allowed if paid before March 1<sup>st</sup> 1905  
10 % Interest Charged after that date *W.A.H.*

divinity student W. Ellis was the preacher then. John Spence was the caretaker and Mrs. Roland, the organist. A pupil of hers, Edith Spence, followed her.

In 1913 the Spences acquired a homestead three miles north of town. In 1915 Nellie was assistant to Mr. F. A. Cattanaach, the postmaster. She remembers carrying the day's receipts on the Pointe du Bois "dinky" to the C.P.R. station ½ a mile from town where the money was sent on to Winnipeg by train.

In 1916 Nellie and her sister Edith nursed for a time at the Selkirk Mental Hospital. It was then brother Bill went to war and lost a leg. It is interesting to note that Nellie enlisted during World War II in the Canadian Women's Army Corps, later being honourably discharged as unfit for service.

In 1931 she became a leader of the Lac du Bonnet Girl Guide Company rising to District Captain. There is still a mutual admiration society between Nellie and her Guides especially remembering camp at Silver Lodge.

After being a devoted daughter and sister for years Nellie began a career of her own. She now possesses a Licensed Practical Nurse's Certificate. She worked for several years in Nursing Homes in Winnipeg, Manitoba. She retired in 1968.

Besides Nellie, Edith (Mrs. Fick, of Winnipeg), and Elsie (Mrs. Hayter of Oxbow, Saskatchewan) survive of an original family of fourteen.

Miss Nellie Spence  
July 20, 1978

## THE JOHN SUNDSTROM HISTORY

One of the very early settlers of Lac du Bonnet community was John Sundstrom. He was born and grew up in Stockholm, Sweden. His wife Mary was born in Norway. The three eldest children, Madge, Axel and Carl were also born in Norway, from where the family emigrated to Canada in the early nineteen hundreds, making Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba their first home. Later a son Olaf and a daughter Anna were born in Lac du Bonnet. Mr. Sundstrom worked at Pointe du Bois where the family lived for a time. They also lived at The Pas, Mr. Sundstrom being employed there also. After their stay in The Pas they came back to Lac du Bonnet where Mr. Sundstrom had a home built on the lot where Mr. Blom's store is situated. All of the children attended school in Lac du Bonnet. Mr. Sundstrom later took up a homestead a few miles from town moving the family there, where some members of the family still reside. Their daughter Madge has made her home in California, U.S.A. for a very long time. grandchildren, most of whom are residents of the Lac du Bonnet area.

Mr. and Mrs. Sundstrom spent their declining years on the homestead, both living to a good old age. Their daughter Anna predeceased them and son Olaf passed away in 1972.

Mrs. A. Sundstrom

## AUGUST AND ANNA THOR

August and Anna Thor took up a homestead in the old Pinawa district in the early '20s. Father Thor used a team of oxen for farming until he switched to horses. August and Anna with four children, Fred, Caroline, Christine and Gustav (better known as Gus) came from Sweden in 1907 and settled in Kenora, Ontario. Mother Thor had a cousin living in Kenora and Father was able to find employment with the C.P.R.

Gradually the children immigrated to the United States. First Fred who in later years married and had two daughters. Fred was killed in an automobile accident in 1936 but his one daughter and grandchildren still live in the States.

Next to leave Canada was Caroline, who studied and became a registered nurse in Chicago where she later met her husband Virgil Morse. They finally moved to California where they resided until their death leaving no children.

Christine moved to Milwaukee where she met her husband Ray Nichols. Both are deceased leaving one son Michael married and living in California.

Gus went to the States with his parents. When his parents returned to Canada he remained in the States until in the late 1920s he returned to Canada to help his father on the farm.

After Father Thor's death in 1948 Mother Thor went to live with Caroline in Chicago where she remained till her death. Gus went down to visit Mother and Caroline and married Marie (Roy) in 1949. They returned to Canada living on the farm in old Pinawa district. Gus continued to farm until he retired. We moved to the village of Lac du Bonnet in 1953.

When I came to the farm after our marriage I felt like a pioneer. Having been born and always lived in the city it was a drastic change to live on a farm, no electricity or telephone and outside plumbing. I had to learn how to make a fire in the wood stove and to cook on a range. I was very lonesome as Gus worked early and late seeding and as I had little housework and no outside work to do I spent a lot of time writing to my friends back home.

We usually went to town on Thursday afternoons to shop as it was sure to rain Saturdays and we had to stay home. The roads were bad and we had extra wide tires on our old car and could not keep it in the ruts.

One of the first persons I met was Beatrice Park and whenever possible I would go to her home to visit. When we walked uptown I would ask who everyone was and she very kindly introduced me to many so before very long I knew more people by name than Gus did and he had lived here much longer. Guess I was just more curious. (Really I

was anxious to make friends).

I knew nothing about gardening and when I planted my pumpkin and watermelon seeds I planted them too close together. That fall I had a beautiful watermelon and when it was cut there was a pumpkin inside.

A good neighbor gave us some fish one day and I prepared it for supper. Guess the smell was just as strong outside as inside. We heard a noise at the window and there stood a bear on his hind legs looking in at us. Gus said it was a young one but to me it looked plenty big, and I was glad there was a closed window between us. I screamed and it took off, Gus went outside to look but could not see it anywhere.

Finally in 1953 we moved to town, I did not want to stay at the farm alone while Gus went out to work after the farm work was done. I was able to get a job as bookkeeper at the Ford Garage then owned by Oscar Bjornson.

In 1956 I stopped working when our son, Carl, was born. Stayed home two years when Mr. Jack Wade asked me to work for him part-time. The part-time turned into five days a week. Seemed work agreed with me and I worked for Mr. Wade until he sold his Insurance business. I then worked for Mr. Baldur Holm for a few months and then about that time the Provincial Government opened a Northern Affairs Office in the Village and there was an opening for a stenographer. I got the job and worked in the office until the office was transferred back to Winnipeg. I was unable to move to Winnipeg but fortunately for me through the transferring of personnel in the Manitoba Air Division here in Lac du Bonnet there was an opening for a stenographer. I was transferred to that office and worked there until I retired.

Carl lives at home after attending Red River Community College for one year and is now employed at Tantalum Mine.

Since my retirement I have become involved with the Senior Citizen Pioneer Club and am kept busy with its many activities.

I am glad I came to Lac du Bonnet to live, I have made many dear friends through the years. Although I still have many relatives and friends in the States with whom I correspond and visit yearly I have no desire to go back there to live.

Marie Thor

## HENRI AND CLOTILDE TINANT

Henri Tinant left his home in Belgium in the year 1913 at the age of 19. Clotilda Destruel left her home in France, with her parents, at the age of 12 in the year 1910.

She met and married Henri Tinant in the year 1917 and they settled in the Grande Clairiere area of southwestern Manitoba where they took up farming.

Like most early settlers their lives were not easy. Their first home was with the Destruels. The house was a two-storey, one ply lumber with building paper glued to the inside. It consisted of three rooms, was built into the side of a sand hill, and Mr. Destruel who was a blacksmith by trade had attached his blacksmith shop to one side of it.

Their five children Roger, Robert, Henriette, Therese and Mary were all born at home.

They travelled by horse and buggy or democrat in summer and by cutter or sleigh in winter. The children drove to school in a covered van in winter.

They milked cows and shipped cream. The cream had to be hauled five and a half miles to the station. From there it was taken by train to the creamery in Souris or Brandon. A five gallon can of cream was worth from fifty cents to a little over four dollars depending on the grade and test of the cream and of course what year it was (not the cream).

For entertainment the families visited from one home to another playing cards and dancing to music provided by someone who had an accordeon, violin or guitar.

The boys made their spending money by trapping. Another source of income came from an over abundance of gophers, for which the municipality was paying one cent per tail. They also received one cent per crow egg. For this income they had to compete with the Indians.

All the farm work was done by horses from planting crops to making and stacking hay.

In 1932 after seven years of crop failure due to drought and grasshoppers Henri Tinant moved his family and animals by train to Lac du Bonnet, taking up residence on a rented farm five miles northwest of Lac du Bonnet in the Landerville area.

To enable them to look after their animals Henri, Roger and Robert travelled by boxcar. The cattle were unloaded approximately one half mile east of the village of Lac du Bonnet and had to be herded past where Casey's Inn now stands and on to their new home.

This move was made to save the animals, their intentions were to move back to Grande Clairiere the following spring.

Arriving in the fall of the year with no feed

ready for the animals and next to no money they had to make slough hay for the winter feed for the animals. They found out the hard way that slough hay had no food value.

They cut pulpwood to make enough money to feed and clothe themselves.

When they arrived in Lac du Bonnet the rain was coming down as if it didn't know how to stop. After the sandy soil of the Grande Clairiere area the Lac du Bonnet clay was like lead weights on their feet.

Coming from a French speaking settlement there was a language difference to get accustomed to, there was no place to keep their horses at the school so now the children had to walk three miles, and a new way of farming had to be looked at.

Two years later Henri Tinant purchased and moved onto 40 acres of land one and a half miles northwest of Lac du Bonnet.

In 1944 Robert moved his grandparents to Lac du Bonnet to once more live with them. Elodie (Grandmother) Destruel lived only one year after moving and her husband Joseph died seven years later.

Henri died in May 1963 at the age of 69. Clotilde, his wife, will be 82 on January 14, 1980 and is living with her son Robert.

Roger married Rita Charles and they now live on the original 40 acres purchased by his father. They are in the beekeeping business. Roger and Rita have four children: Lola married to Farron Hansen, they have one son; Richard, Ben and Mark attending school and living at home.

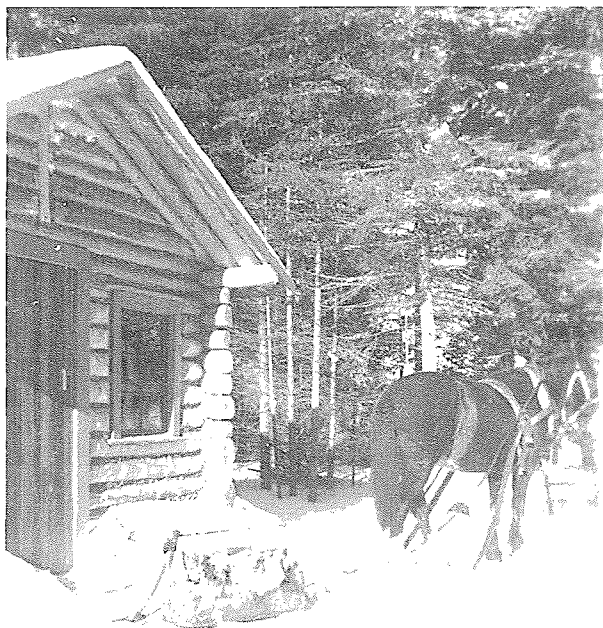
Henriette married Clarence Lintott a forest ranger now residing in The Pas. They have six children: Douglas, Jeaninne, Laurie, Christal, Susan and Kenneth.

Robert married Eli Balness, bought a farm three miles northeast of Lac du Bonnet and they are in mixed farming. They have no children.

Therese married Norm Hetherington, an airforce officer. Now Major Hetherington of Ottawa, Ontario. Terry is at present employed by the Department of Indian Affairs in Ottawa. They have four children: Linda, Craig, Arlene and Bruce.

Mary became a teacher, taught in the St. Ouens area and married George Wurch. They are now in the dairy business in St. Ouens. They have four children: Janice, Philip, Andre and Maralee.

Eli Tinant



Echo Lake cabin, pony on toboggan. - Willie Tucker -

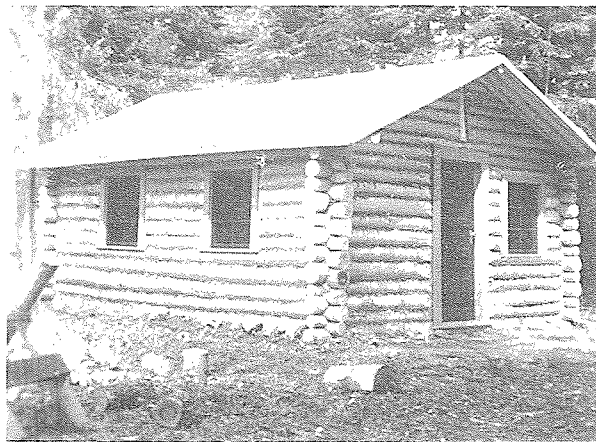
### **WILLIE TUCKER, TRAPPER**

I was born in Sorrelle, Quebec and as a young fellow, I learned to trap. At 27, I decided to go West. I found my place in the vicinity of Lac du Bonnet, Great Falls and Pointe du Bois in 1936 where I remained, working in summer, trapping in winter. I trapped on Crown lands before the government organized the registered trap lines. In 1940 the Game and Fisheries Branch in Winnipeg decided to divide a portion of the Whiteshell Forest Reserve into 34 registered Trap Lines. The Lines extended from 8 miles north of Pointe du Bois and south as far as Rennie and from the Ontario boundary to two miles west of Pointe du Bois then angling southwest to Seven Sisters Falls. The most experienced trappers were given one line each. Line 28 assigned to me, was situated 10 miles east of Slave Falls. We could reach it by travelling the 28 miles up the Winnipeg River from Pointe du Bois. For 17 winters, I trapped the frozen George and Forbe Lakes. For 10 of those winters my wife Annette worked with me. My trapline took me to the big beautiful Echo Lake, with its deep limpid and unpolluted waters, teeming with many varieties of good pan fish. It had many sheltered bays and a few small isles in its 8 mile length. It was three miles at its greatest width. It was home for many ducks and seagulls. A few Loons nested there too and often disturbed our quiet paradise with their shrill calls. We worked hard and enjoyed our life in this vast forest land with two-thirds of its floor covered by rock.

We learned much about the animals. The

remarkable way the beaver fells the trees and builds its dam. What a sociable animal the muskrat is with many houses close together. We learned he is semi-acquatic and likes to live where there is a lot of vegetation growing in the water. That he is very prolific having sometimes three litters per season with eight to 15 young.

One morning we had a frightening experience. About 10 a.m. that morning in early winter Annette and I were coming out to Pointe du Bois. We were going to get our horse Rosie to bring her to camp. We were at the north end of Sealing Lake walking close to the shore, when we saw the timber wolves coming down the river toward us. There were about 17 of them. We carried our lunch but



Cabin on trapline. Echo Lake. - Willie Tucker -



Willie Tucker with beaver and mink skins, 1955.





Mr. and Mrs. Willie and Annette Tucker - June 25, 1977.

we had no rifle. I knew we were safer up on the bank in the trees. Annette was frightened and was going to get up into one of the trees. I knew I could start a fire to keep them away. It was a long wait. They sat and watched us for about half an hour. Then they left.

From 1949 to 1957 I worked during the summers for the Manitoba Forestry. A forest ranger has many duties to accomplish. He must keep a daily record of everything. Patrolling the river he jots down everything he sees. He must look after the cottage owners, making roads for them. He is also a conservation officer responsible for the big game animals, birds, fish and the forest. In extremely dry weather, many long hours are spent in the tower watching for fires. In the cabin of the tower there is broadcasting equipment and a phone. On a round table a bearing is mounted with which he can take aim on any fire and report it to headquarters. An airplane patrol flies over the reported fire and men and equipment are brought in. Then the men walk through the bush to the fire.

In 1957 I quit the trapline and returned it to the government.

Our trapline cabin was built at the southwest end of Echo Lake. It was a well chosen site, on a point, well sheltered on the north side by tall, green Balsam-trees, and its south side facing the Marshy-Bay. The cabin's dimension is five by six metres. It has four large windows: one on the east side, two facing the Marshy-Bay south, and one west. Its floor was covered with smooth boards. The roof was lumber and covered with heavy roofing paper. It had a stove, a combination-cookstove with oven. Bread, cakes, pies and bannocks were baked.

Also, in the same yard, we had a building four by seven metres, half for the horse, the other half for skinning, stretching and drying furs.

It had one little shed for firewood, full of wood, ready cut for the stove, with dry birch bark for kindlings. Also a little icehouse, ice packed with sawdust to keep the meat and butter. The cabin had no curtain in its windows.

A nice Marshy-Bay was on the south side of the cabin. A real paradise with many water vegetations growing there, as, cat-tails, bulrushes, reeds, etc. The world of that Marshy-Bay is never lonely in summer with all kinds of waterfowl, early in spring till late in fall: geese, ducks, seagulls, etc. are crackling away loud on the pond. They do awake us early in the morning. Another awakening is the squirrel chatting its head off, or the partridge drumming on a log laid on the ground.

There is a lot to see on that pond all summer. In our yard, near the cabin, big animals visit us too: moose, caribou, deer, rabbit, partridge, squirrel, etc. They were all our friends, for we never molest any of them in our yard. We never shoot at any time in our yard; and neither on the pond. Even bears visited us around our cabin, but never did anything wrong, because we never kept any garbage around in the yard. There is a proverb which says: never sell a bear skin before killing it, for its claws are long, sharp and a lightning speed, with power behind. A person never knows what a bear might do next, but be sure, he will do it fast. The Marshy-Bay is a real sanctuary for the waterfowl, there is plenty of wild rice to eat. The pond yields approximately 1.5 to 2 metric tons of wild rice each year. Years ago, Indians from the White Dog Reserve from Ontario came and picked wild rice here, with canoes, and took the rice to their Reserve where they processed it. One thing we didn't forget to do is lock our door there, for the bear can open any door.

The Marshy-Bay contains approximately 200 hectares of superficial water, many muskrat houses attract many animals on the pond.

## THE ANDREW USACKIS FAMILY

Emily and Andrew Usackis were both born near Riga, Latvia - Emily on January 16, 1899, and Andrew on August 6, 1897.

Due to political reasons, Emily immigrated to Canada in 1927 and Andrew in 1929. Emily came by boat to Quebec and then she travelled by train to Winnipeg where she worked for several years. When Andy came to Canada, immigrants were needed to work on farms and he farmed for six months in Churchbridge, Saskatchewan. The following winter he worked near Fort Francis, Ontario cutting pulpwood, and later for a lumber company at Keewatin. After that he came to Manitoba and went to work at the Seven Sisters Power Plant for a year, and spent one summer working at Churchill. He then returned to Winnipeg and worked as a tailor for the next seven years. It was in Winnipeg that he met and married Emily (Alpen) in 1939. Shortly after that, in October 1939, they moved to Lac du Bonnet where they owned and operated the Lac du Bonnet Bakery. They had two sons: John born in 1941, and Andy born in 1943. After operating the Lac du Bonnet Bakery for 25 years, Emily and Andrew retired in 1964. They now reside at 10 Johnson Avenue in Lac du Bonnet. Mrs. Molly Usackis died December 21, 1978 and Mr. Andrew Usackis died March 20, 1979.

**John:** John married Teresa Jordan of Winnipeg in 1970. They have one son, Jay, born in 1977. John works for the Department of Highways. He and his family reside in Lac du Bonnet.

**Andy:** Andy married Lynn McCoy of Lac du Bonnet in 1965. They have three children - Davey born in 1966, Dawn born in 1968, and Gay born in 1971. Andy is employed by Atomic Energy of Canada, and he and his family now reside in Deep River, Ontario.

Submitted by:  
John and Teresa Usackis

## JOHN W. WADE

Jack Wade was born in Grenville, Quebec, January 15, 1905, eldest son of Fred W. Wade and Christina Butler. He had three brothers and one sister. The family moved to Montreal in 1916. Jack went west in 1927 with the idea of farming, particularly the production of wheat, but after spending three years working on farms he came to the conclusion that there wasn't the money to be made in farming that the people down east were led to expect from all the propaganda that was passed around. According to the stories all you had to do was get 160 homestead for \$10.00 scratch up the



Mr. and Mrs. J. Wade and Martin with first parka made by Mrs. Joe Desjardins.

ground, throw in a few bushels of wheat and get a bumper crop that would make you a millionaire, but it just didn't turn out that way, not by a long shot. In 1930 he went to work for Carter Haul Aldinger building, the power plant at Seven Sisters Falls and remained there until the job was completed. He went to work for the Canadian Consolidated Grain Company Limited in their Beausejour elevator in 1934 as second man to Lou Pulfer.

On September 20, 1934 he married May Walsh, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Walsh of Pinawa, Manitoba. In December 1934 he was transferred to Lac du Bonnet to manage the new grain elevator for Canada Consolidated Grain Company. In 1948 he entered the wild rice business and in 1950 built the wild rice processing plant situated on the CPR right-of-way between the two grain elevators. In 1953 he resigned from the grain company and started an insurance and real estate business, he became secretary treasurer of the Village of Lac du Bonnet, position held until his retirement in 1970. In building what could be called a secretarial service he became secretary treasurer of the Consolidated School District of Lac du Bonnet, later the Agassiz School Division No. 13. He resigned from the latter position when the Division Board Offices were moved to Beausejour at which time C. L. Cherry was appointed Secretary-Treasurer. He was also interested in community work, was secretary-treasurer, then

president of the Lac du Bonnet curling club, president and later secretary-treasurer of the Lac du Bonnet Memorial Center and President of the Lac du Bonnet Chamber of Commerce. He was a regular attendant at the Manitoba Chamber of Commerce conventions and was elected president of that body in 1959. Jack sold the wild rice business to Indianhead Wild Rice of Spooner, Wisconsin in 1968, sold the insurance business to Balder Holm in 1969 and retired as secretary-treasurer of the Village in June 1970.

The Wades have two children, Martin and Lynn. Martin married Helen Ripad. They live on their farm in the Lee River District. Helen teaches school in Lac du Bonnet. They have three children, Shelagh, Cherolyn and Michael. Shelagh is secretary to the manager of Autopac in Winnipeg, Cherolyn and Michael are attending school in the senior school in Lac du Bonnet. Lynn married Charles A. Bruce, known to his friends as Sandy, he works for Atomic Energy of Canada at their Whiteshell Nuclear Research Station. They have three children, Heather, Barbara and John. Heather is in her second year at St. Boniface College, Barbara is attending hairdressing school and John is attending the Senior school in Lac du Bonnet. Heather majored in French in high school and had an ambition to become fluent in the French language. She attended a six-week crash course at the University of Winnipeg before enrolling in St. Boniface college where most of her subjects are in French. Jack and May are enjoying good health and enjoy life in Lac du Bonnet which has been home for so many years and during the last eight years have managed to get away for a three or four month winter holiday in Hawaii.



L.-R.: Lynn and Sandy Bruce, Martin and Helen Wade.

## WALTER WARDROP SR.

Walter Wardrop Sr. came to Lac du Bonnet from Whitemouth, Manitoba in 1867. He brought machinery by rail to Shelly, then to Lac du Bonnet by horse and sleighs.

He also brought in a sawmill by sleigh. He had the first store and boarding house located where R. McIntosh now resides. Billy Halliday came from Whitemouth to work in the store. Mr. Bouchie came as cook in the camp. Mr. Wardrop had timber limits and mining rights at the time. He owned the land that Lac du Bonnet was built on, also own land known now as Crescent Bay. Later his son Dan farmed the land.

Lac du Bonnet Company was formed in 1896 with Walter Wardrop as General Manager, partners were Walter Kirby of Kirby & Oldfield & Gardiner, Kirby's brother-in-law W. Vivian, Henry Wardrop and Dr. Good. The Company built a brickyard where ski dock is located.

Mr. Wardrop's family was brought in by Indians in canoes from Whitemouth; one of the paddlers was Baptiste Kent.

Most of the goods and necessities were brought in from Whitemouth by horses. The teamsters were Bob Henderson of Whitemouth and W. Wardrop Sr. and son David Wardrop.

W. Wardrop Sr. delivered mail to Ft. Alexander by canoe in the summer and dog team in the winter.

Lac du Bonnet was formerly called Eureka until the post office was established and the name changed to Lac du Bonnet. Mr. Wardrop was postmaster from October 1, 1900 to January 1901.

Lac du Bonnet Company was sold to J. D. McArthur and Walter Wardrop moved with his family to Sparwood, B.C. Later returning to Whitemouth.

## DAN WARDROP

Dan Wardrop, the youngest son of eleven boys of Walter Wardrop Sr., came to Lac du Bonnet in 1931 and farmed at Crescent Bay until 1941 when he was flooded out. He left and later returned in 1952 as he was employed by the Manitoba Government in the Forest Service and was transferred to Lac du Bonnet. He retired from the Forestry Service and resides with his wife Ruth in Lac du Bonnet.

**ANNA LOUISA PETERSON -  
FRANK HOWARD WATERS**

Annie, born in Jamtland, Sweden, came to Canada with her parents in 1906. Frank (Ginger) born in Whycocomagh, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. They were married at Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba, January 3, 1913 with Rev. Clarke of St. John's Anglican Church officiating.

Frank, an only child with an adventurous spirit heard the call "Come west young man," and at the age of 18 found himself on a homestead in Gull Lake, Saskatchewan. I imagine the loneliness caused him to leave and his next stop was Winnipeg, 1905. Frank's life continued to be adventurous until his death, 1953. He earned his papers as a Steam Engineer during the early years.

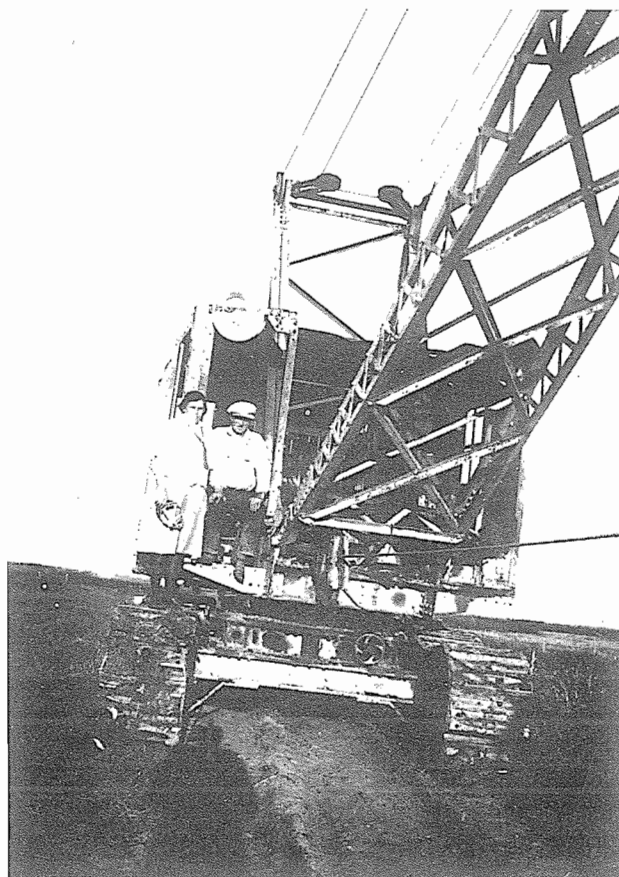
Frank came to the Lac du Bonnet district from Winnipeg to work on the construction of the Pinawa Hydro Plant, first power plant on the Winnipeg River. Later he laid steel on the railway from Lac du Bonnet to Point du Bois, during construction of the first City of Winnipeg hydro plant. In 1912 he installed the pump and boilers for the Water Street steam plant of the Winnipeg Electric Company. He purchased a farm from T. Rosenholm of Riverland, 1917, intending to operate a fox ranch. The bottom fell out of the fox market and he sold to Emil Nasstrom. This property is presently owned by Ed and Irene Kabaluk.

Now he contracted for clearing the right-of-way and gravelling the roadbed for the railway from Lac du Bonnet to Great Falls, when the Winnipeg Electric built the third power plant on the Winnipeg River, also working during construction there and operating a lumber mill somewhere near Mud Falls. Afterwards he worked for some 10 years with the late J.D. McArthur, who did so much to develop the whole Winnipeg area. Among other works with Mr. McArthur, about 1919 he built a dredge and began the drainage for what is now the Catfish Creek settlement southwest of the town of Pine Falls.

Entering business as a contractor in 1926, he took contracts in the northeast area of Manitoba, specializing in road-building and earth removal. During this time they built the road-bed from Point du Bois to Slave Fall for the construction of the City Hydro's second power plant at Slave Falls.

During World War II he handled contracts on the construction of a number of airfields and other defence projects in Manitoba. Since 1943 he began operating pulpwood camps in order to ensure his workers year round employment. Among many other ventures were his mink ranch in God's Lake and many mining projects.

Frank had time also to be a worker for his community. He was converted from Conservative to



Frank and Annie Waters - 1924. Waters' Const. first dragline. Building first railroad across to Pine Falls.

Liberal by Annie the year she worked to elect the late Hon. Hoey, who became Minister of Education and some years later signed her daughters teaching certificate on graduation from the University of Manitoba. Being a reject in World War I Frank worked avidly for the servicemen in World War II and was the organizer of the Lac du Bonnet cigarette fund committee for the boys overseas from the area. As a result of this and his request to Aileen Oder to write one letter in reply to the letters of thanks they were receiving, a book was written by Aileen called "Hello Soldier". This book has been made into a documentary film, which was shown on station CKND, November 11, 1979. This book is a very moving and sincere account of the Lac du Bonnet boys overseas, treasured by their families. It is also a welcome addition to the schools of Lac du Bonnet, the Winnipeg Centennial Library, the University of Manitoba, Manitoba Archives and the National War Museum, Ottawa where it is considered to "vividly recapture and reflect the spirit of those war years". How sad my father did not live to read this book of remembrance for which he unwittingly sowed the seed.

Annie's history is as much Frank's, as she worked every inch of the way with him. Annie was a

great sportswoman, swimming, tennis, skating, hunting, you name it. She could repair anything almost to a dragline. A Mrs. Clean, a marvelous sense of nutrition in her plain cooking, a super mother, a Christian in religion, a compassionate feeling for people in trouble, an ardent politician in the liberal field, and she enjoyed travelling. Can you imagine in 1930, driving to Nova Scotia alone with two brats. This didn't phase Annie. Annie backed and supported any sport the young could think of. She was the representative for Lac du Bonnet for such Government Organizations as Mothers Allowance, Child Welfare and others.

It was not a surprise at the end of a school day to find mother with a lunch packed, to put Russell and I in the car and off to check the draglines for breakdowns, gas, oil, etc. She bounced us all over that Brightstone area and other areas including Stead and Brokenhead.

When Frank passed away Waters Construction became a Company with Annie as President and Russell as Manager until her death in 1974.

Frank lived to see his daughter proclaimed Mayor of Lac du Bonnet but not to know she refused a nomination for Liberal candidate in 1953, not many people do. Thus to my mind two very colorful people pass through the pages of this book, Annie and Ginger.

Family - Edythe Millicent, married Mannifrank Brown, O.B.E., 1937, Dr. Walter Ehrlich, 1964. Russell Philip Waters, married Dorothy Theresa Schmidt, 1945.

Edythe M. Ehrlich

## RUSSELL AND DOROTHY WATERS

Russell Phillips Waters was born April 10, 1920 and lived in Great Falls, Manitoba until he was four years old, when he moved to Lac du Bonnet. He attended school in Lac du Bonnet, completing his Grade Eleven in 1937. He enrolled in United College, Winnipeg, Manitoba where he took his Grade Twelve. While growing up in Lac du Bonnet he was active in hockey, Boy Scouts, the Drama Club and the St. John's Anglican Church choir. When the war broke out in 1939 he went to Regina, Saskatchewan to work for the Air Observers School. In 1941 he enlisted in the R.C.A.F. taking his Basic Training in Brandon, Manitoba. From here he was sent to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan for a few months and to Toronto, Ontario in 1942 where he stayed until his discharge in 1946. He worked with Dr. Banting (co-discoverer of insulin) while he was stationed in Toronto. It was also here that he met Dorothy Schmidt who had moved from Regina, Saskatchewan to Toronto, Ontario in 1942. She

was born in Regina, Saskatchewan, January 31, 1925 and attended school there, graduating from Balfour Technical Collegiate with her Senior Matriculation in 1943.

Dorothy is the daughter of Anne Schmidt and the late Mathew Schmidt. Anne has made her home in Lac du Bonnet since 1969 and is very active in the St. John's Anglican Church and the Ladies Auxiliary to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 164.

Russell and Dorothy were married in the Corpus Christie Roman Catholic in Toronto, Ontario, December 7, 1945. After receiving his discharge from the R.C.A.F., January, 1946 he and his bride moved to Lac du Bonnet. Russ attended the University of Manitoba under the Veterans Education Grant but found that after having been out of school for six years he couldn't get back to studying so started to work for his father's construction firm. He continued in this work until the Company was dissolved in 1978.

Crystal Ann was born July 7th, 1948. She attended school in Lac du Bonnet, graduating in 1956 with her Senior Matriculation. She attended Teacher's College at the University of Manitoba and received her Certificate in 1967. She taught school in Pointe du Bois, Manitoba and in Lac du Bonnet. While in the Pointe she met Patrick Husarski. They were married February 14, 1970. They have two children, Holly, born May 21, 1970 and Dennis, born May 6, 1974. The Husarskis are living in Victoria, B.C.

Gray Frederick was born January 28, 1951. He



Dorothy and Russell Waters



attended school in Lac du Bonnet, graduating in 1969 with his Senior Matriculation. He attended Royal Roads Military College and Kingston Military College, where he graduated with his Masters Degree in Civil Engineering in 1977. He holds the rank of Captain in the Canadian Armed Forces and is presently stationed in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He met Tania Monkholme while he was stationed in Comox, B.C. They were married February 28th, 1976. They have two children, Shannon, born June 18th, 1976 and Scott born November 2nd, 1978.

Russ and Dorothy are very active in Legion work and have been honored with the highest award given 'The Meritorious Service Medal'. Both work not only at Branch Level but Zone and District as well. Dorothy was President of the Provincial Council Ladies Auxiliaries, Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Command from 1975 to 1979.

Russ has always been active in the Community. He spent many years as a Trustee and also Chairman of the Agassiz School Board, Volunteer Fireman for 20 years, was Councillor and Mayor on the Village Council.

In 1977 Russ and Dorothy moved into the Waters home on the river side of Park Avenue and are presently renovating it. Russ found papers in the old insulation 'Free Press Prairie Farmer, Winnipeg, June 4, 1924.' Hopefully they will spend many years enjoying the beautiful scenery overlooking the Crystal Waters of the Winnipeg River.

Dorothy Waters

### ARNOLD WEISS

Arnold Weiss was born in Berlin, Germany in the year 1883. He, with his father and brother, came to live in Washington, U.S.A. in 1902, where he worked as a sawyer for 1 year. In 1903 he came to Lac du Bonnet to work as a sawyer for Mr. McArthur. In 1904 he married Marie Bruneau, daughter of Luis Bruneau. He built a house on Second Street. In those days there were not streets, it was all heavy bush. After living in their new home for five years they sold it and bought a farm one mile west of Lac du Bonnet. Mrs. Weiss was born and raised on a farm in Quebec, so she did the farm work while Mr. Weiss worked as a sawyer. He sawed for Mr. McArthur for sixteen years. He then took a job working on the train for Fraiser Brace hauling gravel from the six mile siding to Great Falls. The gravel was being used to build the power house at Great Falls. Then he worked for Mr. McArthur on the train that brought logs from mile 10 to Lac du Bonnet saw mill. After the logs

were all hauled he worked as sawyer for Alec McIntosh for eight years. When he finished that job he worked on the power line for some time. Then he bought another farm, and farmed two farms both west of the town of Lac du Bonnet. He went away to work as a sawyer whenever he was called, working in B.C. and in Manitou, Manitoba. Mrs. Weiss always managed to run the farm with the help of the neighbors son and their eldest son Albert Weiss. In 1921 Mr. Weiss took the contract to build the road from Lac du Bonnet to Milner Ridge. It was the first road there was out of town. Until the road was finished everything came in by C.P. Rail. Mr. and Mrs. Weiss had twelve children, seven girls and five boys. There are four girls living and three boys. Mr. Weiss died in 1961 at the age of 77. Mrs. Weiss died in 1965 at the age of 77.

Submitted by Beatrice Park

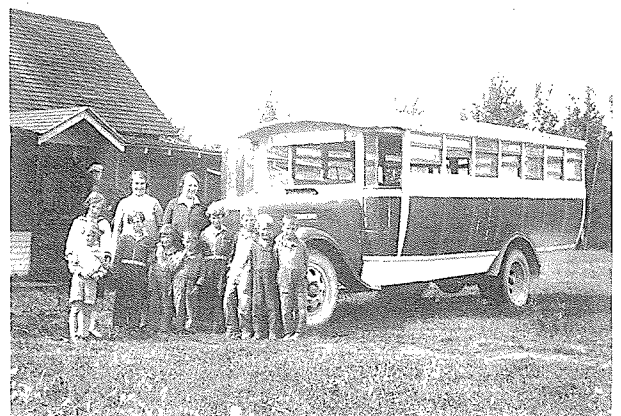
### THE WOOD FAMILY

My father, George Thomas Wood, and my mother, Violet May Wood, came to Lac du Bonnet in 1921 with their five children. Dad and mother, along with Alice, Ralph, Ted and Tom, were born in England. Bob was born in Winnipeg.

The property included a shingled log house situated on top of the river bank. Wilfred was the first of the children to be born in this new home, followed by Mary and myself.

At that time, there were no roads in the area, just bush trails to town. It was a two mile hike to the train station. My parents would walk, or sometimes received a ride from neighbors who owned a horse and buggy. For the first couple of years supplies from town were usually brought in by boat in summer, and dog team in winter.

There were very few conveniences those early years. Water was carried up by pail from the river. In winter it meant chopping a hole in the ice. Later Dad built a long platform out from the top of the



In front of our old home about 1928. Family and friends in front of Stuart's bus.



Our old home about 1928, Stuart's bus to one side and white cottage in background was the one by Eaton's angling club by the season.

river bank. This extended about thirty feet, and he put a hand pump at the end with a line to the river. This was an improvement from hauling water up the hill.

Electricity was not to be had for many years to come, and mother had all the washing to do by hand. Ice blocks were cut in the winter and put in the old ice house, then covered with sawdust. Dad later improved on this by building a new ice house which had thick insulated walls and did not require sawdust.

By this time both Tom and Ted had started to work for Mr. Granovsky at the old Pioneer store. They moved to town. A few years later Tom was to leave the store and begin work for Mr. Alex McIntosh as his accountant. We provided our own entertainment at home: fishing, swimming, skiing and snowshoeing, playing games, etc. Mother was a beautiful pianist and spent time playing the piano. Mary and I took music lessons in town from Hilma Fransen. Ted was a keen guitarist. We all enjoyed family sing songs around the piano. The piano was a wedding gift from dad to mother. It was brought by train from Winnipeg to Lac du Bonnet, and by stoneboat to the house from the village. On my wedding day the piano was given as a gift to me and my bride.

In approximately 1926 the road was built, and the area was opened up to vehicle traffic from Winnipeg. Regular daily bus service began. In those days mother would give the bus driver, Mr. Stuart, a list of items she needed from Eatons in the morning, and he would bring them back at night. Our place became a popular site for campers and fishermen. It was not unusual to see tents scattered all over the property. Dad put up a few cottages, one of which was later rented by the season to Eaton's Angling Club. They paid the grand sum of \$45.00 for the season. Other cottages rented for \$1.00 per day. We were raising cattle and chickens at this time, and we kept everyone supplied with milk, butter, eggs, and chicken.

We were only 1½ miles from town, so we did not have far to walk to the four room school house. As the roads improved, my parents bought their first car, a Ford Model T Coupe. This served them quite well, even took them to Winnipeg - although it did take about four hours to go in, and

then only in good weather. Later in 1929, Dad bought a 1928 Pontiac. This car provided considerable convenience in travel. However, in a very unfortunate 1931 fire we lost the car, garage, and most of the carpenter's tools Dad brought from England. It was a sad loss.

About this time, Dad started to add on to the house. A new living room, bedroom and bathroom upstairs was built, as well as a balcony. Mother had looked forward to this for a long time. A gas motor and pump by the river provided water to the house - a big improvement to the yoke and pail.

River front property was beginning to sell across the river from our place in the early 30's. Because of the condition of the Riverland road, people coming to their cottages for a weekend could not always rely on getting out on the Sunday. Coming from Winnipeg, they would then leave their car at our place. Each cottage owner had his own horn signal, and would use this signal so that those



Mother and Dad, my sister Mary and Tom behind her, Wilfred (Bud) before Tom and myself on the left. Taken about 1939.

across the river would know who was waiting. A boat would then be sent to pick them up.

In the mid 30's Dad decided to raise mink and fox, as well as cattle and chicken. Shortly after the war began, things looked good for the mink business. There were about 400 new pups. However, shortly after the pups were born an aeroplane, better known at the time as the flying boxcar, came up the river and lifted over our place, just clearing the trees. When mink are frightened they eat their young, and that is exactly what happened. About 1942 the United States put an embargo on Canadian fur and it became very difficult to sell. Dad decided it was best to sell out the fur bearing animals completely.

Dad began to have trouble with rheumatism and sciatica during the early 30's so he built himself a steam bath by the river. This helped him out considerably, and soon became popular with the people in Lac du Bonnet. Every Wednesday and Saturday people started coming from town, and it was not long before we had to set a schedule for the people wanting a steam bath. Ladies came Wednesday and Saturday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. Saturday was men at 4:00 p.m. There was always tea, coffee, home made ginger or root beer, sandwiches and cakes at these times. Saturday evening was different. Ladies came at 7:00 p.m. and men at 9:00 p.m. after which Mother provided a full meal. Later everyone would gather around the piano for a sing song while Mother played the piano. These were evenings that everyone enjoyed.

In 1944 the original steambath burned down and Dad built another one on the same location, about halfway down the hill. This was used regularly and enjoyed by all. We often ran from the steambath into the river. In 1950, the year of the Winnipeg flood, the water was high here too. The river bank washed away and the steambath slid into the river. Dad was able to take it apart, wall by wall, and a tractor hauled it up the hill to a place behind our house. When it dried out, he put it back together again.



Bud (Wilfred) and Bert with a good catch.



Our home in 1943.



Our home in 1979.

In 1939 the original part of the old log home was finally torn down. Dad had the new home all planned out and started building. It took a long time to build, as the war was on and material was hard to come by. Also, there wasn't the convenience of electrical tools. It was finished in 1942 in time for Tom's wedding. Tom and Margaret were married in the new living room in front of the fireplace.

Ralph was the first to go into the service at the beginning of the war and he joined the Air Force. Bob joined the Navy in 1940 and was in active service throughout the war. Wilfred joined the Army early in 1943, went overseas in October and was killed in action in Italy in December, 1943. I joined the Army in 1943, went overseas in December, 1943, and was wounded in France in August, 1944. I returned to Canada in January, 1945, after spending four months in hospital in England.

Alice was the eldest of the children. She married Gilbert Bryden and has one son, now living in Regina, Saskatchewan. Ralph and Molly were married in 1939 and have one daughter. They all live in Sidney, British Columbia. Ted married Frances Hill in Lac du Bonnet. They have three children, all living in Winnipeg. After leaving Lac du Bonnet Ted worked for the Manitoba Government Liquor Control Commission. He has now retired and lives in Winnipeg. Tom married Margaret Menzoski. They have three children. Tom left Lac du Bonnet to work for the Manitoba

Government, Department of Mines and Natural Resources, in Winnipeg, in the timber purchasing section. Since his retirement they have moved to Surrey, British Columbia.

Bob married Margaret Bey in 1943. Margaret had been visiting Lac du Bonnet for many years before the war. They have two children; a daughter in Vancouver, and a son in Lac du Bonnet. Bob worked for a number of years in Winnipeg before returning to the Lac du Bonnet area. Both Bob and Margaret now work for Atomic Energy of Canada at Pinawa and have built a home near the Pinawa bridge.

Mary married Thomas Wetton in Lac du Bonnet in 1951. Tom's father and mother at one time owned a cottage directly across the river from our place. They have four children, two living at home in Winnipeg, and two in British Columbia. Tom also served, and was wounded in the second world war.

I was discharged from Deer Lodge Hospital in 1946. Shortly afterwards I went to work with the Hudson's Bay Company in Pine Falls. I married Audrey Perry in October, 1951. We moved to Lac du Bonnet and purchased the old home from dad and mother. My parents moved to Winnipeg.

We have four children, all living in Winnipeg. Susan completed a Dictaphone Receptionist course at Success/Angus Commercial College. Jeffrey received his Bachelor of Commerce (Honors) degree from the University of Manitoba in 1978. He married the former Coral Melquist, a graduate of Biological Technology from Red River Community College, and they have one child, Patricia. Gregory is enrolled in the Faculty of Administrative Studies at the University of Manitoba. Robert is presently completing his Grade XII at St. John's Ravenscourt School in Winnipeg.

In 1956, due to the lack of mobile home facilities at the newly opened United States Air Force Radar site at Milner Ridge, I installed sewer and water facilities on our property and opened up what has been known as the Lakeside Trailer Park. This was the first mobile home park to be opened in rural Manitoba. There was space for eight trailers only. The trailers in 1956 were very small compared with those of today; the largest trailer at our park then was only 8' x 45'. Until the radar station changed hands most of our tenants were American servicemen and their families. We made a small extension to the park in 1972, but the trailer park will close in July, 1980.

I have been Postmaster in Lac du Bonnet since 1961, after having spent a few years at the Municipal Office.

Dad passed away in Winnipeg in 1959 at the age of 82. In England he worked with the family building business. With several years training, he

became an architect, but specialized in wood carving. A sample of his work can be seen over the fireplace in our home. In Lac du Bonnet, as well as farming, he was involved with prospecting, mining, and trapping.

Dad was an avid gardener and grew many flowers and fruit trees. He was a quiet man who left an established family business in England to challenge the rough freedom of life in Canada, with all its hard labor and uncertainty. Mother likewise left the comforts of a good home in England to join Dad in Canada. She now lives at the Lions Manor in Winnipeg, and celebrated her 92nd birthday in January.

Submitted by Bert Wood

### DR. WILLIAM JAMES WOOD

Grandparents - Robert Wood m. Josephine McKittrick in Perth, 1888 - they had 4 boys.

William James Wood was born in Vankleek Hill, 1894. His father was a baker. They moved west by train when Dad was six years old, settled in Neepawa. Later they moved to Winnipeg. Dad attended University of Winnipeg, took Arts course, then went into Medical school. He joined the 11th



Dr. and Mrs. W.J. Wood.



Dr. W. J. Wood

Field Ambulance in 1916. Stretcher bearer, was wounded at Vimy Ridge, 1917. Graduated 1922. The 11th Field Ambulance have had reunions every year since the First World War. I think the last Dad attended was in 1970.

1921, interned at St. Boniface Hospital, met his future wife, Alice Wallis, married 1923, settled in Sentaluta, Eileen born 1924.

Power Plants offered job in Lac du Bonnet. Moved family to house behind Shaws Drug Store. Built house on lake front before 1928. Lois born 1928.

As you probably know he devised a car that ran on the tracks to get him to places like Pointe du Bois which didn't have a road in those days. He also had a weird looking snowmobile. His journals are full of trips out in the country to visit patients, relief camps, the Power Plants in all kinds of weather, getting stuck either in snow in extremely cold weather, or mud.

Of course you know his great hobbies were gardening, sailing and photography. He showed some of his movies at the Church Hall to raise money for the church organ.

They seem to have had a marvellous community spirit in those days. Badminton, steam baths, skiing. They even put on a play to raise money for school supplies.

This is the cast: Feb. 6, 1931 "Mystery of the Third Gable" - F. Molloy, Miss Scarfe, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Teare, Mrs. Gibson, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Ritchie, Mr. Teare, Const., Dr. Wood.

Those years in Lac du Bonnet were some of the happiest years a child could have. I'm speaking from my point of view of course.

Submitted by Lois Trelford

#### Editor's Note:

A clipping from the Springfield Leader describes the farewell party at Lac du Bonnet for Dr. W.J. Wood.

"Decorated with green boughs and cut flowers, the community hall at Lac du Bonnet, Saturday

evening made a pretty setting for a farewell party in honor of Dr. W.J. Wood and Mrs. Wood, who are shortly moving to Winnipeg where Dr. Wood has been appointed assistant director of public health. Guests from Pine Falls, Great Falls, Pinawa and other points gathered to honor the departing couple who have lived here for the past 15 years. The chairman, Mr. J. Sparman called on Mr. K.C. Fergusson of Great Falls who voiced the regrets of the community and presented the couple with a tea wagon. Dr. Wood in thanking the donors gave a brief sketch of the progress made by the district. R. Molloy and J. O. Jones contributed to the programme, the latter a musical item. A dance concluded an enjoyable evening."

In 1945 Dr. Wood received an appointment as director of a training programme for U.N.R.R.A. health division personnel. After spending some time at a training centre, Dr. Wood, a retired army colonel expects to go to Europe shortly for duty in the Balkans.

#### REFLECTION OF LAC DU BONNET

By Mrs. Richard Booth  
(nee Eileen Wood)

Lac du Bonnet was an exciting place for a child to grow up. There was such a feel of newness and vitality about it's timber buildings and mud or gravel roads rutted more by teams of horses than cars. There was a tremendous mixture of nationalities and colourful personalities abounded. The fact that it was also a base for flying supplies up north brought in the glamour of bush planes and their pilots. It contrasts so strongly with York which had its tumultuous days centuries ago and has a look of benign antiquity and culture now. I feel very lucky to have experienced both worlds.

I remember my early days quite clearly, helped, I am sure, by my father taking home movies. They are a great joy to look at now. They record family events, but also show the town and lumber camps and planes on the ice or the water and pictures from the air.

We lived in a house behind the drug store. Lac du Bonnet had gravel roads and wooden sidewalks and few, if any houses had modern plumbing or running water. Ours didn't. Mr. Bruneau used to bring the water round to the houses where there was a barrel in the kitchen. He also brought the ice. It was covered in sawdust from it's burial in the ice house and had to be washed off before being brought into the house in a powerful pair of tongs and deposited in the top of the ice box where it dripped down the sides into the water bowl.

Down the street from us lived the Sparmans. I spent half my young life there so that the Spar-



mans were like extra parents and have always held a warm place in my affections. When we were older Joyce Sparman and I spent much time in her father's garage taking our bikes apart and then needing help to put some of it together again. All at the garage were very tolerant of us.

When I was four we moved to a house by the river. It was an aladdin house and poor Mr. Rosenberg had great trouble with it as it came cut out and ready to assemble like a giant tinkertoy. He managed after a lot of "trying the pieces" to build us a good house. We had plumbing and an electric motor to pump the river water into huge tanks in our basement. We also had a furnace which burnt cordwood logs. In the kitchen we had a black wood burning stove.

Wooden sidewalks seemed to be a source of hidden treasure to us kids. We were always seeing through the cracks to try and spy out a nickel or dime or even a cent. Sometimes our own precious coin disappeared through the crack and much time and energy was spent trying to scrape a hole in the soil underneath to reach it. Once, running along the sidewalk, I fell, putting my hands out to break my fall. When I got up both hands were a mass of splinters.

School was interesting. There were three grades in a room - always something going on if one got bored with ones' own work. Some of the children couldn't speak English when they came to school. Marigolds, the smell of them, reminds me of our school room - there seemed always to be a jar of them in the sun on the windowledge - I suppose in September but to me they seemed always to be there as much a part of the scene as chalk and blackboards. The Christmas concert was the height of the school year and for weeks ahead we practiced drills under Miss Reid, an experienced drill mistress - and plays and singing - while our mothers made costumes for us. I can remember little of the actual concerts themselves but the excitement of them remains.

The spring thaw was a marvellous time - ditches filled up with lovely blue water, which had an ice base. It was our delight to test the depth, the water frequently, of course, flowing into our rubber boots - or even more disastrous a slip on the ice bottom and complete immersion. We used to sail whole flotillas of boats down these ditches and into harbours made of snow. Sometimes when one was in bed at night there would be a tremendous grinding roaring noise, as two large ice flows ground together against the shore. Running down to the beach in the morning there would be a great pile of sparkling slivered ice.

The shore was another enchantment in the spring as the river was high enough to flow round the rocks and boulders so that it was very exciting to

run on these rocks, leaping from boulder to boulder. As summer progressed the river level dropped to expose a sandy beach; beyond the sand lay mud where water weeds grew. So it was a great incentive to learn to swim so we didn't have to "feel the bottom". (Since the river has been raised the whole character of the beach has been changed). Once we could swim the big dock became a strong magnet. There the planes were repaired and diving for fallen tools turned us all into underwater swimmers, but the swimming was so much better than from the beach as we could jump or dive off the end without touching the bottom.

In winter before the snow came we could skate on the new ice for miles and through it we could see the water weeds underneath. This leant quite a bit of drama to plain skating. When the snow came a rink had to be made - sometimes on the river itself but later it was next to the curling rink. We used to skate ponderously round to such dance music as "Isn't it Romantic" and "I Told Every Little Star". We were never good skaters as we always tried to persuade the hockey boys to pull us round on the end of their sticks, or played crack the whip near the end!

The hill down to the river was very good for sledding or skiing. For a while we had a proper toboggan run with a wooden super structure at the top. I don't know what became of it. Perhaps the interest switched to cross country skiing. A club was formed and it became very popular. All the skis we used had only a loop over the instep. We hadn't moved then to the sophistication of harness and ski boots. We therefore couldn't do stem christies or jump turns. We didn't mind, we were quite happy to get down a straight run remaining upright.

Another delight of winter was making snow houses. When there had been a lot of snow and frost, there were walls of very hard snow on either side of the drive into our house. These we used to hollow out into caves and snow houses. We tried our hand at igloos but we hadn't the knack.

When the snow was soft and feathery we made angels by lying on the snow and moving our arms up and down and then carefully getting up to leave a perfect angel!

The first of July was always a great day in Lac du Bonnet with a regatta in the morning and a field day and fair in the afternoon. There were side shows with this fair where strange quirks of nature were displayed. I longed to go in but was never allowed to, so that their tents always had an air of sinister mystery. The ferris wheel was some compensation - lifting us up high to view the whole town but spiked with the fear of stopping at the top and rocking.

Horses and carts were commonplace on Lac du Bonnet streets. Sometimes the horses would be frightened by the train or a car backfiring and the team would run beserk and uncontrolled through the town. A thundering noise from the wagon and the horses hooves warned us quicker than the shouting as we all ran for safety. The team would thunder by leaving a cloud of dust. I never saw a team actually caught and brought under control but felt the men concerned must have been very brave. A great delight - forbidden by our elders - was to fasten our sleighs onto the back of a big horse-pulled sleigh piled with cordwood and be pulled along invisible to the driver who probably didn't know we were there. The station was the best place for this as there always seemed to be sleighs unloading their cordwood.

The train which came in every evening with a dinging of the bell and puffing a mass of steam provided drama that a diesel train couldn't possible match. Riding on the train was even more exciting as it meant a trip to Winnipeg if the roads were blocked with snow. Going to Winnipeg meant seeing the Santa Claus parade or the latest Shirley Temple film or riding an escalator, or going to Moores for dinner where they had dark oil paintings on the walls and a fish pond with gold fish. Returning on the train Mr. Sherk, the conductor, would light the gas lamps and have a chat as we steamed through the dark night.

House fires were another drama that we as children took a heartless delight in. It happened fairly rarely and we had no effective fire service so when a wooden house took fire it burned to ashes. It produced a tremendous blaze - the most dramatic part being when the roof fell in. It must have been a great tragedy to the people concerned - insurance wasn't as common as it is today but to us children it was a wonderful thing.

Lac du Bonnet has modernized. The different races have melded into Canadian. It is much bigger than the village I lived in. The river level has risen to reduce the river bank by half. But there are still old friends there and it is still my Canadian home - a much loved place.

Submitted by Eileen Booth (Mrs. Richard)  
(nee Eileen Wood)

Daughter of Dr. W. (Bill) Wood

In 1904 the family arrived in Canada. It was in May, therefore, the country must have looked beautiful around Halifax. This made the folks happy to come to the New World that looked as pretty as the one they had left.

My grandparents, Michael Myskowski and his wife Rosalia, and an adopted son, John, formed the senior group. My mother, their only daughter had married my Dad John Zaborniak and had five children. Four were born in Poland, and the fifth, Caroline, on the ship that brought us.

Katie, the eldest was about twelve and looked after the three boys, Mike, Paul and myself, Ignace. The youngest was the baby, Caroline. I am told I was usually carried on someone's shoulders, and would anxiously remind everyone to stick together so that no one would get lost.

Our village in Austria, which is now Poland, was Cieszanow, Huta Rozanietska. The church was in Plaszow, the same as that of the Sikora family of Brightstone, Manitoba.

My family knew some people who had settled in Cook's Creek. There, they already had a Polish Church. We stayed with our old country neighbors, called Rebizant, who lived beside the creek. (The son of this family married Walesiak's cousin).

Our first 30 acres were bought from a farmer called McCormick, an Irishman who had an adopted son, Arthur Young. He used to come across the road to our place. We learned English from him while he mastered Polish so well that he could make up Polish songs. He died in 1977 in the same house he had lived in all his life in the Melrose district. Arthur and I attended high school together with Wm. MacDonald and the young boys, McLeods and McLeans settled close to what is now Highway 44. Later McLennans came and settled in the section across the Cook's Creek-Selkirk road, north-east from us. One of the McLennan girls married an uncle of one of our councillors here, Mr. Belluk.

The people I mention were known in Lac du Bonnet, Angus, my deskmate in Highland Glen school died in 1973 in Lac du Bonnet. Gerry and Jack Young are still here. Norman McLeod used to work for Mr. Alex McIntosh in Lac du Bonnet.

I write this to show that many of the people that settled in the Springfield municipality spread in many directions. The Fetterlys, well known forest rangers here, came from there. One, I recall was busy training Boy Scouts, a job I did in Melrose. Charlie Michalski and myself organized the young people into a group known as "Sokols", a branch of the Polish Falcons, an organization which sent help in 1918 war, under General Haller to aid the

Poles in the war to free Poland from Russia. The "Sokols" and the Polish combatants are quite active in Winnipeg. Charlie's son is our Agricultural Representative now.

Coming back to our life in Melrose or Cook's Creek - our first house was built of logs. A temporary door was a blanket. The chimney was of willow sticks woven around four rails and plastered with yellow clay. This was white-washed with lime bought from Garson Quarries or from Selkirk. There were two large rooms at first and a large shanty was added later. The single windows were not very large and there were not many of them. The roof was of rafters with poles nailed horizontally. Sheaves of slew-hay were tied to them by a handful of long grass. A good heater was necessary and wood was cut either when land was cleared or often brought from forests as far away as ten miles with horses and a sleigh.

When I was about 8 or 9 and my brother 12, we had one steer to pull a sled father made with a single shaft or pole for steering. This pole was tied loosely to the animal's neck and turned the load of wood wherever the ox was persuaded to go.

My father was a carpenter in the old country and a handy man at many other jobs, like making spoons, wagons, many types of kitchen utensils such as wooden bath basins for babies, containers for kneading bread, furniture and most of the tools needed for clearing the land. These were made when employment was not available or after hours when working in the quarries at Garson or Tyn-dall.

In time there was a full dozen of us children, spaced about two years apart. Each had to work, from an early age and go out seeking jobs when able at about 16 years of age. Katie went to work at 14 and Mike at about the same age. Often boys from the district teamed together and went harvesting far from home, stooking and threshing. How proud we were when we came home with some money to help out at home and some for ourselves to spend in winter for any entertainment!

There was much joy in being able to help when we brought wood with one ox, we watched the windows to see if neighbors saw us on "such a big load" of dry wood. Today a boy has to have a motor bike or power toboggan to have what he calls "fun". So often he is maimed or killed seeking that thrill which we found in our day in doing ordinary chores well.

Dances were held every Saturday or Sunday. We gathered in some home where a family had a marriageable daughter or son and danced and played games. Folk and square dances were popular. The older folk had parties and dances as well. Christening of babies brought families together. Drink was easy to get for sometime. Prohibition

helped to start "bootlegging". Liquor was spiced with different herbs and used as medicine and liniment.

Women gathered in homes to carry on religious exercises, singing of church songs, reading of the gospel, when there was no priest in the parish. Sometimes a priest came from Winnipeg once a month. The Bishop from St. Boniface came for confirmation. Attending church was a must. People dressed as well as they could afford and either walked or drove horses to get to church. Little barns were built to shelter horses during winter. In summer they drove democrats or wagons. What a sight it was to watch the farmers show-off their horses and race on a road that had no ditches! Hang on to your hats boys and hold on to the edge of the wagon box - or else.

We had to travel eight miles to West Selkirk or 12 miles to Beausejour for supplies like lumber, machinery, or to the doctor or hospital in Selkirk.

School was four miles away. Later Highland Glen school was built just one mile across the bush from our home. The first school was Melrose. When it became too crowded we were transferred to Ashfield - close to Lockport, about four miles from our home. Walking was the only way to get to school. In winter some of the well-to-do farmers with girls or small children attending, used sleighs or one horse cutter to take the children to and from school. This also was done in Brightstone and most other schools. When I came to Brightstone to teach in 1928 I had my two sisters aged 10 and 12 to stay with me. This way they did not have to walk 3½ miles to get their education.

During these pioneer days the people from Austria (the Polish and Ukrainians) were living on their little farms and often bought machinery together. Those that could afford a binder cut the grain for their neighbor. Once, one very wet fall, a farmer near Garson hired my dad to cut his whole crop with a scythe and a cradle on it. The wife tied the grain in the old country way with stalks of grain from the sheaf she was tying. The sheaves were hauled home and stacked in round piles with 4 to 8 wagon racks to a stack. Threshers came with steam outfits late in the fall and the sheaves were pitched into the separator. Later when more threshing outfits appeared, grain was brought in by neighbors straight from the field and threshed. When tractors became common, no horses were needed. The tractor brought a load to the feeder and took away the empty wagon for another load.

My family moved from Melrose to Brightstone in 1931. We settled on four quarters of land on Section 6, Tnsh 15, R. 10. The land is now owned by Banasheks and Guzinski.

My father died in 1936 and mother in 1954. John Danowski and my sister Caroline left their

farm for London, Ontario. Two of my brothers left for the States at age 16. Paul, after working in a quarry became a barber and at age 80 still clips his old customers' hair. Joe, my younger brother became a millwright in a steel pipe factory. This year (1978) he celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary. Millie (Mrs. Zaleski) died in 1973. Katie, the eldest died in Garson in 1966. Brothers Stan and John left Brightstone and are near Caroline at London, Ontario. Andrew, Mary Stanko and Regina Beznoski are still in Brightstone farming. My older brother Mike became a fur rancher in Birds' Hill. He died in the late 1940s.

I was the only one in my home that saw the need to study. I was frail so a good education was my only hope for a better future. I took up correspondence courses thinking studying while working would get me somewhere. Nightschool proved to be the most helpful. The teachers encouraged me and in three or four months I was able to write the grade eight entrance exams and pass. (In the rural schools I had attended grade five was as far as most students reached.) I then enrolled in Garson Highschool and attended till Christmas. Unfortunately the school burned down and I lost most of my books. Classes were held in churches and halls, while the school was rebuilt. For Grade XI I attended St. Johns' Tech. for a while, then returned to Garson and batched at an old couple's place. I was already in my twenties. While working in the city, I attended night school at Daniel McIntyre High School taking Grade XII history and literature. In 1927 I reached Manitou Normal School and in 1928 began teaching a class of 66 pupils, grades one to eight, in Brightstone.

I got on the train at Tyndall. I recall the agent - a Mr. Taylor - telling me that the road to Brightstone was inundated and I would have to detour for several miles to reach Mr. Sikora's place. He was the school Secretary.

Lac du Bonnet was very small. I saw one team of a horse and ox stand close to the station and another wagon with two horses and a seat high up. Mr. Kolody offered to take me, since he was passing Mr. Sikora's place on his way to the Red Deer Post Office. We drove over a corduroy road which was full of broken logs. As the wagon wheels passed over these holes the high seat would sway quite far from side to side. The horses had caps made of gunny sacks pulled on in such a way that the ears were covered to stop flies from getting inside. For years I walked on that swamp road to and from Lac du Bonnet. Local councils kept repairing, draining and building up the narrow, high grades on which vehicles often turned over. Passing with machinery was difficult. Then the province took over the road building. Where we could not walk

across we now go 60 miles an hour. Where there was swamp, crops now flourish. The country schools are gone and we see school buses carrying students to the schools in Lac du Bonnet.

During 31½ years I have taught in Brightstone, Melrose, Landerville, Glenmoor, Red Deer, Brookfield and finally in Lac du Bonnet.

Since teaching jobs were hard to keep I also farmed in Brightstone from 1933 to 1975. Our farming experiences alone would make a book by themselves. Getting a piece of land, clearing the bush on it, breaking the land, picking the stumps, roots and stones is in part a painful story. First we used horses, later a tractor and other machinery were slowly acquired. During the depression of the thirties and later, the war years, life was a constant struggle to gain independence.

In 1930 Normalites were sent out to country schools to observe and thus learn what they could expect from teaching in a rural school. I happened to get one to practise teaching in Brightstone. After she taught a year in Pine Bluff school, near Mountain Road, we were married.

My wife, nee Olga Tomiuk, was born in what is now the Ukraine in Sniatyn. She arrived in Winnipeg at the age of one. She is the eldest of eight children. She attended Norquay, Machray and St. John's Tech. in Winnipeg and later the Winnipeg Normal school. Most of her farming was learned from books.

School concerts were an important part of the school program and were well attended. The children worked hard at the folk dances, singing and acting in plays. Two or three concerts were held each year. Clothing and garden clubs were organized with the help of the Extension Service of the Department of Education. Later these became 4-H clubs. Along with the farm work life was very busy and even exhausting.

On the farm, in spite of the lack of a good well, we raised chickens, (hatching up to 1000 chicks) turkeys, geese, goats, sheep, cattle, pigs, bees, angora rabbits (for their wool to sell) and even two horses. Being surrounded by forest and swamp one had to be constantly on guard for predators. It took time to get passable roads (we had to walk through a swamp to reach our farm at first or detour through neighbors' farms) and proper drainage. The sheep were obtained from the University of Manitoba with money won in a Family Herold contest on sheep. Wolves and bears were a great problem. Lack of well water required storage of rainwater and the melting of snow in winter. And were those cows thirsty!

Low prices for produce and the long distance to a market made it impractical to keep raising livestock, though we derived pleasure from our accomplishments. It was all new to a person from the

city as my wife was and we were inclined to try to do too much. Making pets of the animals made it hard to sell them for butchering. When the Brightstone School board asked my wife to teach until a teacher could be found she got up at 5 a.m., did the chores, walked three miles to school, taught 48 pupils and back home to finding the cows and sheep, etc. I was teaching in Landerville at the time, keeping our son Ronnie with me and coming home weekends. After three months of this it was decided to sell the livestock and only grow crops on the farm. At this time we also bought land on the Winnipeg River where we now live. As this land was heavily forested we had more work clearing and building along with teaching and farming - 12 miles away. In 1963 I retired from teaching.

A tractor accident on the farm kept me hospitalized for months. Arthritis set in and it was not till 1977, after two hip operations that I became mobile enough to walk with the aid of canes. My wife continued teaching in Lac du Bonnet until 1976. The farm was sold.

In 1955 a son was born to us. Our oldest son married Karen Romanow and settled on Vancouver Island. Gardening, two ponies, and a small trailer park keep us occupied.

In spite of all the trials life is still sweet and wonderful just to be able to enjoy my family of wife, two sons and two grandsons and a wonderful daughter-in-law.

Submitted by I. J. Zaborniak

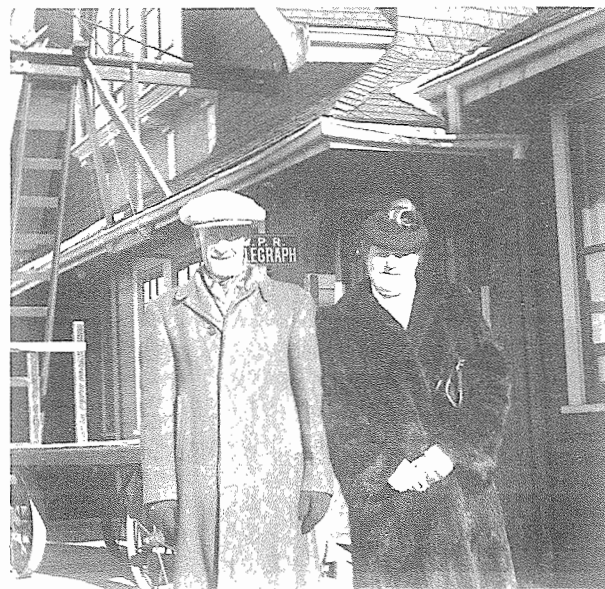
### DMYTRO ZAHARA

My father was born in Romania in 1885. He came in his twenties to Canada and worked for the C.P.R. under section foreman Mr. Letain at Lac du Bonnet. He also made his home with them at first. After a visit to Romania he came back to Lac du Bonnet. He met a girl, Katherine, from Poland in Winnipeg and they were married in 1914. They bought a house on Second Street. In 1929 he bought 80 acres near town from Mr. Gilsson. He later sold this land to Mrs. Frank Waters and bought river property near the old brickyard. .

I, (his daughter Jennie Lofstrom) live on a 1/2 acre of this river property. Later he worked at Kenora and Molson and retired early on account of a heart condition and moved into Winnipeg. His wife Katherine passed away on October 14th, 1965. Dmytro died October 8th, 1973. He was predeceased by a daughter, Mary, in 1969 and son Michael 1970.

Dmytro and Katherine had four children:

**Jennie** married Julian Lofstrom and have two children. Marlene who married Sheldon Peterson who manages a Hudson Bay store in Lac du



Mr. and Mrs. Dmytro Zahara.

Bonnet. They have two children Sharlene and Kevin.

Dennis married Rosalie Merke of River Hills. Both work at the Atomic Plant at Pinawa.

**Mary** married George Marr and were in the restaurant business in Winnipeg. They have four children: Gerald, Millie, Fowler, Betty Lavery and Frank Marr.

**Michael** — deceased; had one son Joe.

**Joe** married Ann Thoms of Saskatchewan on his return from being a prisoner of war in Japan. They have two daughters, Lori and Donna.

Submitted by  
Jennie Lofstrom

### PETER ZALESKI

My father Peter Zaleski was born in Poland. He was the son of a wagon maker. In April of 1930 he left his family and made his way to Canada. His first job was for C.P.R. in Winnipeg for three months. Later he worked for Nick Arseniuk and Harry Holyk in a sawmill (near Berryland). For a while he ran his own sawmill. The old steamer he used can be seen now at the Austin Museum. For several years he worked on construction at Slave Falls, McArthur and Powerview.

In 1941 he built a small home on 14 acres along the river. His house was built near the foot of the present Centennial Street. It was small and there was no electricity. The furnishings were simple. I remember a homemade table and bedroom boxes that we kept our clothes in. The house was heated by a furnace made from a 45 gallon drum in the basement. A cook stove was used in the kitchen. Since there was no electricity we did our studies



under coal oil lamps. Most of our food was smoked, salted or canned. Dad used the land as a hobby farm, raising chickens, pigs, and a cow. He built a smoke house where fish, bacon, ham, etc. were prepared for household use. In the spring, ice was brought from the river, sawdust saved from the wood pile was used as insulation, and the smoke house became an ice house.

Our nearest neighbours were Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bright and the Frank Waznys. Across the river - the Haavistos and Bill Buckmaster and Ross McLeod. There was no telephone, so whenever we needed a neighbor to help we would put up a flag. Whenever the Haavisto's relatives would come from Winnipeg to visit them, they would stop at our house and borrow our boat to get across the river because the roads were impossible. When we had company that would stay overnight all of the children and some adults would sleep in the hayloft. We had to melt snow for water in the winter time and get it from the river in the summer. Since we lived on a hill, dad rigged up a pulley affair where we would send the pail down to the river - it would fill with water and we would wind it up to the top. Beats carrying it up the hill!

We were three girls in the family. I remember one time when we were five and four and our six month old baby sister fell in a tub of water while mother was out. We tried to get her out each pulling from opposite sides. Mother came and rescued her. We learned to swim at a very early age because we were beside the water. At times, others on the farm had to go swimming with us. We took the ducks, cats and dog. Being the oldest I was the first to learn to row a boat. One day when I was six and my sisters were 4½ and 2 years old I took them out in the boat. By the time mother realized where we were - we were halfway to Pickerel Point. Mother stood on the shore waving her hands wildly. We helped look after the animals and carried wood after our two mile walk from school. The free time was spent swimming and in winter skating. We did build ourselves a playhouse and furnished it with things made from wood.

When the river was raised in 1955 we moved to town on 5th Street. In 1973 mother died and dad retired after working for Building Products for twelve years as a steam engineer. Dad married Millie Zaborniak from Cooks Creek area during the time he owned his own sawmill. When their second daughter was born it was midwinter so mother didn't get to a hospital. Dad had to be midwife.

I remember when we travelled far in the cold weather heated bricks or stones were put in the sleigh to keep us warm. Christmas trees were trimmed with apples and oranges. The dentist came to our home and liquor was used as an

anesthetic.

The family today:

**Agnes** married Roy Taylor and lives at Lac du Bonnet. They have four children.

**Adeline** married Cornelius Thiessen and lives in Winnipeg. They have four children.

**Evelyn** married Garth Rowe and lives in Winnipeg. They have two children.

Their father, Peter lives at the Bonny Vista Lodge.

## JOSEPH ZALUSKY

Joe as he is known to all his friends was born in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia February 28, 1900. His father, Walter Zalusky, was born in Poland and came to Canada in 1899. In 1901 the family moved to Poplar Park, north of Selkirk, Manitoba. Joe married Mary Brezmanin in 1923 and farmed at Libau until 1928 when he moved to Lac du Bonnet, where he farmed on the south west of 1-15-10E and where he still resides. They had four sons and four daughters: Alexandra was born in Libau in 1927, she is now in Denver, Colorado. Victoria was born in 1928, she now lives in Kelowna, B.C. Alexander William was born in 1929 and lives in Lancaster, Ontario. Beatrice was born in 1930, she now lives in Winnipeg. John was born in 1932 and Julian in 1933, both live in Lac du Bonnet. Joyce was born in 1934 and lives in Calgary - her husband is in the airforce. Walter was born in 1939 and now lives in Winnipeg.

Joe lead a varied life besides farming, he worked as a barber in various shops, sheared sheep, was a steam engineer on threshing outfits and worked on some of the big outfits around Rathwell and Treherne. He enlisted in the army in December 1940 and was with the Winnipeg Rifles in the ordinance corp, Valcartier, Quebec in 1941. In May 1941 they shipped for Scotland, but traveled from Halifax to Iceland and then Greenwich on account of submarines in the Atlantic. He was at Ft. George barracks at Inverness, Scotland until they went to Normandy in 1944. He was in the army of occupation in Germany until Christmas of 1946. He returned home on the Queen E., landed in New Jersey February 1947 and was discharged March 17, 1947. Drive out to the farm and Joe will still give a hair cut as he reminisces about the old days, he still makes his daily trip into the village where he is a well known figure.

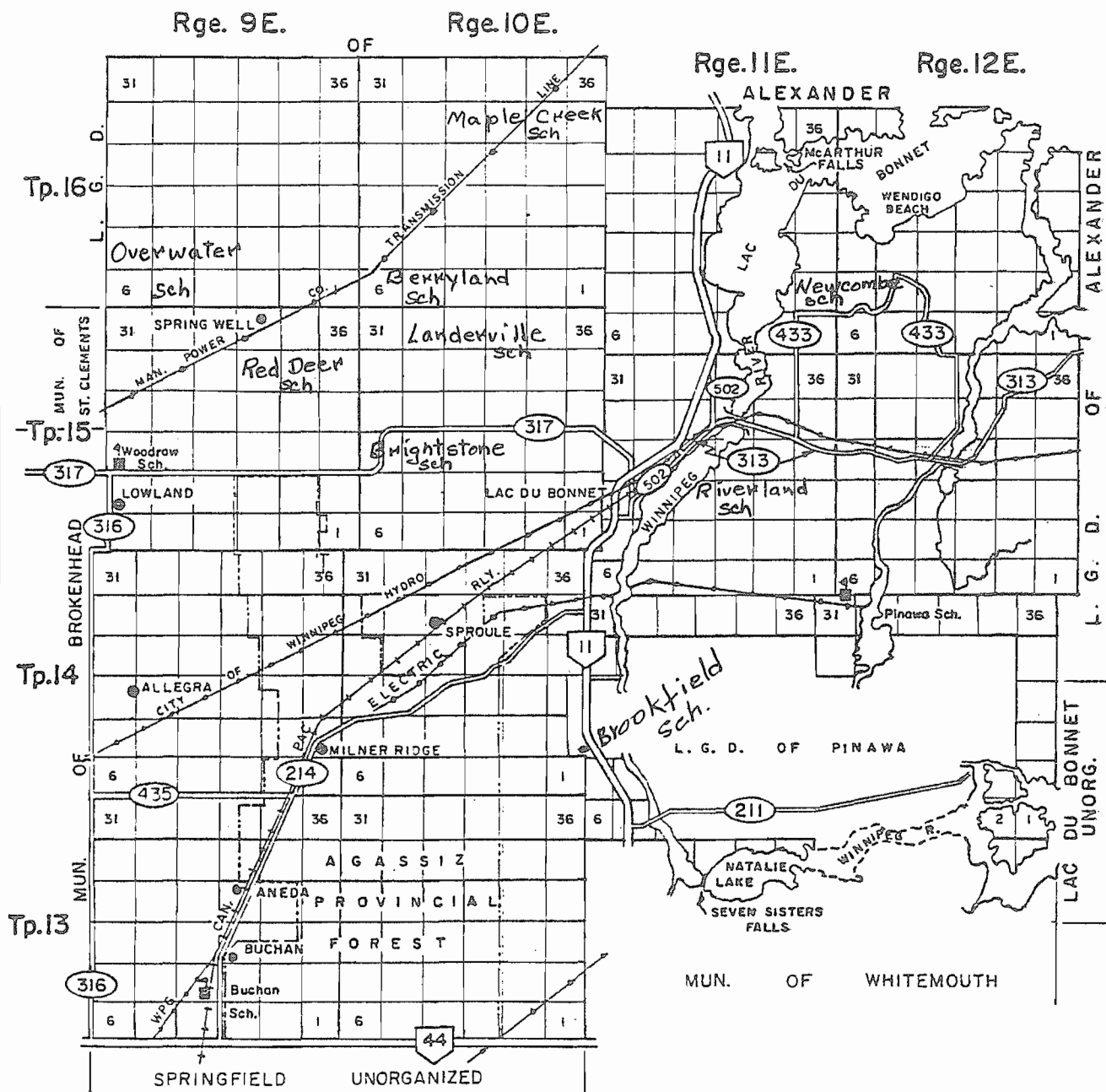
## MUN. OF LAC DU BONNET No. 44

PROVINCE OF MANITOBA

HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT

DESIGN OFFICE

WPG. OCT, 1968

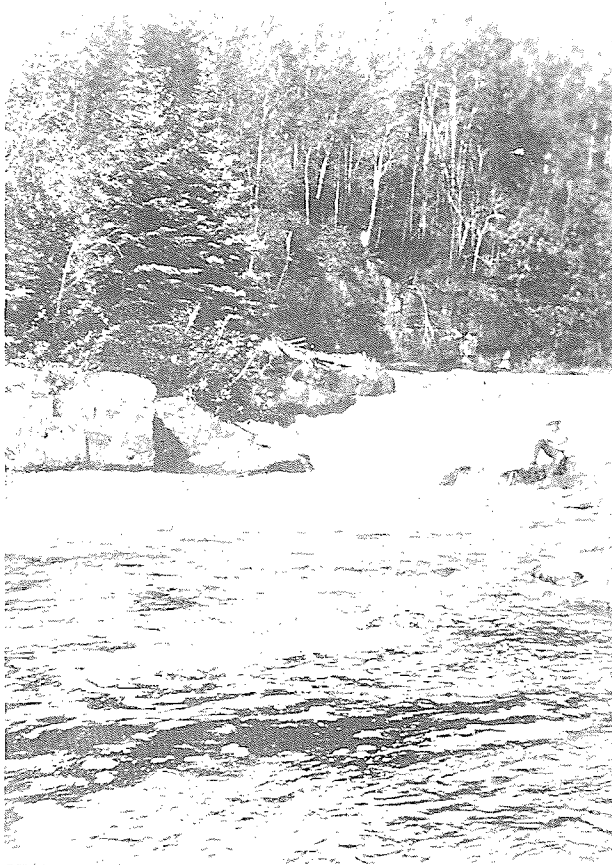


## PROVINCIAL ROADS

### PROVINCIAL TRUNK HIGHWAYS

RAILWAYS

# Bird River



Bird River Falls

## BIRD RIVER

Taken from the diary of W. D. Halliday

In 1904 Joseph Drawson of Poplar Park made enquiries for a homestead land and would like to be outside any intended Municipality. Mr. W. D. Halliday took him by boat to Bird River and as they passed Bouchie's Point a skunk was on the point and looked a very good shot from the boat. Mr. Drawson had a shot gun and not withstanding advise to the contrary he had a shot which terminated the skunk, but neither butter or bacon was eaten by the party on the rest of the journey. Arriving at the mouth of the Bird River, we met with a big hay meadow. This looked good to the intended

settler but further up the river we came on quite large patches of nice cleared land, some spots as much as five acres in extent and while exploring same, we were met by a party of Indians, trappers returning from their hunt in the North and headed for Fort Alexander. When questioned as to how those patches of cleared land happened to be, they told us that the time of Selkirk Settlers to the Red River, a few of the Scotsmen made their way up the Bird River and settled there and for a few years had quite a prosperous settlement, with a Hudson Bay Fort on Wendigo Island. After a few years of occupation, small pox broke out in the settlement and most of the settlers died. The few that remained, left the district and their homes, anything they had left was burned. This sounded a reasonable explanation to the new homesteader who did not hesitate to make claim on the land. After Mr. Drawson, more settlers came on, a Post Office was established and the school, the river boat was started.

Submitted by  
Stella Hammerstedt (Halliday)



William Halliday

## GULBIS FAMILY HISTORY

My father, Willis Gulbis, was born in Zlekas Muiza, Latvia in 1870, immigrating to Brazil in 1906 and later to Canada.

He arrived in Lac du Bonnet in September 1910, along with his wife Mina and her parents Josep and Margareta Grinin. They travelled by steamship from Rio de Janiero to London, England and then to Quebec City and from there by train to Winnipeg and then to Lac du Bonnet. Here he purchased a rowboat in which he loaded all their worldly possessions including a dog and a rooster with a dozen hens and they set out for the Latvian settlement of Bird River some 24 miles away.

During the night a storm arose and they were forced ashore on Wendigo Island. The next day they reached their homestead located on SE¼ Section 10, Township 17, Range 13 East and set up a tent on the south side of the rock hill. Their first house was a small log cabin in which they spent the first winter. My father worked in a lumber camp and the next spring they set about clearing the land and building a large log house. Their first crop of wheat was cut with a scythe, threshed with a flail, and the grain ground in a hand-turned grinder to make flour. The bread was baked in a stone oven.

He continued to work out for the next few years at Pointe du Bois and Old Pinawa power sites. Transportation was by rowboat in summer, oxen or horse and sleigh in the winter and on foot. He walked to his place of work, even walked back to the farm on weekends to see the family. In



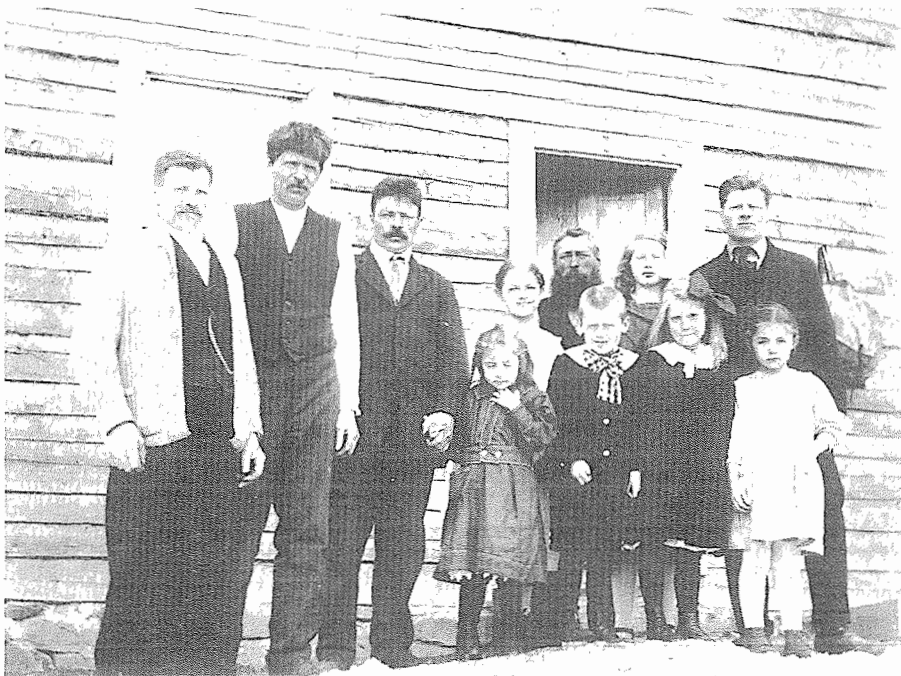
Willis Gulbis, Arnold Sarapu, and Mina (first wife). The first horse he bought, with colt.

December of 1916 he walked to Beausejour, a distance of some fifty miles, to buy a horse for \$115.00. Eventually he acquired more livestock. A farm record for the year 1920 shows he sold on the 15th of January, 15 lbs. of butter for \$8.25, 7 dozen eggs for \$4.50, etc., etc. Subsequent records show he sold a carcass of beef in October of 1938, weighing 532 lbs., for 5¢ a pound. A milk cow was sold for \$20.00, in 1939 for \$30.00. Another was bought for \$32.00 and sold in 1945 for \$80.00.

Mina Gulbis died in November 1922. Josep Grinin died in October 1923 and his wife in 1930.

Julia Lindenblat arrived from Ventspils, Latvia September 1924 and was married to Willis Gulbis. I was born September 12, 1926.

Milda Melanie Freiman of Ventspils, Latvia,



Front row, L-R: John Ledin, John Strasdine, Mike Schuman and daughter, Arthur and Lily Peterson, Myrna Hermina Strasdine.

Back row: Wilma Ledin, Willis Gulbis, Zelma Osis, Ed Peterson.

niece of Julia Gulbis, joined our family in the spring of 1927. She married Edward Sarapu and they moved to Chicago. Melanie passed away in 1977. She is survived by two daughters, Rita Lagerstedt of Chicago who has two sons; and Anita Otis of Independence, Missouri who has three sons. Willis and Julis retired to Lac du Bonnet in 1954. Willie died in 1958.

I worked with the Manitoba Telephone System in Winnipeg as a stenographer till August of 1953 when I was married to George Turton of Swan River, Manitoba. There we resided until 1977 when we moved to a farm in the White Beech area of Saskatchewan. We have four children, Donna who is presently working in the mine at Leaf



**BIRD RIVER SCHOOL 1940**

Back row, L-R: Aina Gulbis, Clara Raban, Miss Connie Neufeld, teacher, Ainslie Raban, Lorne Goulet. Front row, L-R: Everett Miller, Clifford Lebert, Clara Peterson, Martha Peterson.



**Birthday party for Julia Gulbis, 1956. Front row, L-R: Matilda Stradline, Mrs. Rosenberg, Julia Gulbis, Emily Apsit, Kristine Karklin.**

Back row, L-R: Amalie Urban, Leah Zeemel, Mrs. Loftstrom, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Karklin.

Rapids, Manitoba, and Raymond, Glenda and Darcy at home.

Here is some information on the Bird River School District. The names of the teachers we had during the years 1934 to 1943 are as follows — Misses Mary E. Bentley, Lorna L. Duxbury, Ethel K. Burrige, Eldera I. Sissons, Concordia Neufeld, Miss Doherty, Anne Apostle, Audrey Bray, Mrs. E. McKay and Miss E. Gibson.

Submitted by Aina Turton

## **FLORENCE MORAN**

When she was an infant, ninety-nine years ago, her life was saved by the Grey Nuns of St. Boniface.

When she was twelve, she herded cattle riding a pony which had belonged to Louis Riel.

She has missed by one year marking her own personal Centennial in conjunction with that of Manitoba.

She was born Florence Hodgins on June 17th, 1871 in a log cabin situated where the Royal Alexandra Hotel now stands. Her father and his brother had come west some years earlier from the Gatineau country. The family had originally come from Belfast. Both fought in the Riel Rebellion in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. After becoming established in Winnipeg, they sent for their wives and families who travelled via the United States to St. Boniface.

Florence was a late arrival in her family and the need for fresh milk became urgent, a serious problem arose. Her family was not yet sufficiently affluent to afford a cow. No help was available in Winnipeg and her father appealed to the Sisters in St. Boniface who thereafter supplied a quart of fresh milk daily to the baby. Without it, it is doubtful if she could have survived. Infant mortality was very high in those days. The Sisters gave freely of their services to any in need who asked their help and Mrs. Moran speaks with warmth and gratitude of the comfort and assistance which they gave to many of the settlers.

Asked to describe the Winnipeg of her childhood, Mrs. Moran said simply, "It was a mudhole". It was useless to wear boots as they became mired in the gumbo. A bucket of water stood constantly on a bench by the door to be used before entering. The long skirts of the day complicated matters considerably. The battle for cleanliness was a formidable one. Soap was homemade and buckets of water had to be hauled to fill the big boilers wherein the clothes were literally boiled clean.

To augment the family income, her mother did laundry for some of the government and military



personnel in Fort Garry. Her father built a sort of trailer with which her brothers picked up and delivered the clothes, pushing it as they did not own a horse. Before her mother would begin the ironing of the elaborate linen, the children were packed off to bed so that no dust would be raised to mar the heavily starched shirts and stock collars and the deep cuffs. With the money earned, her mother bought the much-needed cow. Louis Riel was a customer and so was his bitter opponent, Dr. Schultz, who later became Lieutenant-Governor. (The Schultz papers have just recently been opened in the Manitoba Archives.) At that time, the Schultzs lived in the only white-washed log house in town at the corner of Euclid and Main Streets.

Her mother grew hop vines around the windows for the making of bread which was baked outside in a stone oven with a metal top "bought in St. Boniface where you could buy anything if you had money". She also grew tobacco and this was a popular article for barter with the Indians. They brought big pails of fruit, raspberries, strawberries, blueberries and saskatoons which they exchanged for some leaves of the precious weed. All the family clothing was homemade from material which was bought by the 'web', which were large bolts.

Mrs. Moran's first school was a log building on what is now Alexander Avenue. There were no teachers, and again the kindly nuns gave instruction in reading, writing and spelling and also "taught us our prayers". Her first Sunday School was a feed storage building where, dressed in their Sunday best, they perched on bags of grain. Piled bags made a pulpit and two singers who accompanied the preacher from the States sang so beautifully the congregation kept asking for more.

One day, her father attended an auction and bought, for fifteen dollars, a pony which had belonged to Louis Riel. Her mother was askance at such an expenditure for an animal which was past its prime, but her father had plans for making a bit of money with it. The well-to-do owned cattle which wandered at will. Young Florence, with her dog, rode the pony over the prairie, the area now known as Transcona and Elmwood, rounding up the stray animals and returning them to their owners. When the pony was no longer able to work, her father wouldn't have him destroyed. In a truly Irish gesture, he ferried the pony across to St. Boniface and gave him into the care of Riel's friends who would give him an honourable retirement.

Florence was too young to be aware of, or touched by, the stirring events taking place around her. Her father and his brother were involved in the Rebellion but politics have no reality for a child. She recalls that St. Boniface was the thriving com-

munity when she was young. It was the railway terminus and a steady flow of people and merchandise went through there. Winnipeg was a somewhat rowdy pioneer community, whose growth really began with the completion of the C.P.R.

When she was 23, Florence married Arthur Moran, also an Irishman, and they moved to Bird River to homestead, travelling by boat from Lac du Bonnet. It was a harsh life in a remote area with only a handful of settlers scattered here and there, miles apart. There was the constant clearing of land, a reluctant soil and all the privations and loneliness which is the lot of pioneers. There was tragedy, too, when her eighteen-year-old twin sons were killed when on a July 1st holiday in Kenora.

The Mounties were frequent and most welcome visitors. On their constant patrols, they checked all homesteads frequently and the settlers came to rely on their helpfulness. A Mountie's wife was the only attendant at the birth of Mrs. Moran's children.

Always, there was the incredibly hard work and the shortage of ready cash. "It was the same for all of us," said Mrs. Moran. At times, her husband worked for the C.P.R. laying ties for fifty cents a day; he sometimes worked in the bush camps for J. D. McArthur.

They eventually left Bird River and moved to a more favourable location in Lettonia where they remained until the building of the dam at McArthur Falls necessitated expropriation of their land in 1953-4. Her husband died a few years later and Mrs. Moran moved to Riverland and later to Lac du Bonnet where she has resided since.

Small and wirey, her Irish eyes shining and alert, and often glinting with mischief, Mrs. Moran is deeply interested in the world in which she has witnessed such dramatic changes. Her father, the pioneer and veteran of the Rebellion, was appalled at first sight of an airplane and took refuge in his Bible. His daughter takes new advances in stride. The newspapers are her favourite reading. An independent spirit, she lives in a small house on Third Street with a part-time companion and the dog 'Popeye'. A broken hip suffered a few years ago has slowed her down somewhat but she still enjoys some social outings and visiting with her many friends. She is fully appreciative of the amenities of modern living but feels that in gaining them, some quality of life has been lost. "Everyone is too busy," she reflected. "Everyone hurries too much."

Mrs. Moran has a wealth of anecdotes and reminiscences to give us from the days when Manitoba was young.

**Note:** Mrs. Moran passed away shortly before her 100th birthday.

## J. SARAPU HISTORY

I, Jack Sarapu, am 80 years old today, July 19, 1978.

The Sarapu family came to Canada by way of the Baltic provinces, Russia and Brasilia in South America. We came through Quebec and landed in Ottawa where we had a hard time finding rooms, not knowing the language. At last a Ukrainian family let us have a room upstairs in an attic where we slept on the floor, no bedding just our baggage.

Dad came to look for land in Winnipeg as they suggested. There he heard of Bird River and some names he knew from Brasilia. And so we landed in Bird River the 25th day of October, 1910. We built a little house 18'x24', there were seven of us and we had two bachelors also, Jack and Ed Peterson, who asked for lodging the first winter. For entertainment we got some books. One of the Peterson boys was an excellent reader so we'd sit and he'd read aloud. For eats we didn't have much grub but there was lots of moose in the bush and all the fish you could eat right by the door in Bird River. People were very friendly, nobody had any money but everybody had fellowship.

Well, as the years went by the next thing we knew the First World War is declared. I was too young to volunteer so we survived, but after six or seven years in Bird River we decided to move to Lee River, about 12 miles closer to civilization. There we were about two miles from the city hydro railroad track.

Over the years we built roads and a school. The government provided the lumber and the farmers the labour. Our first teacher was Miss Crelock. She had all the kids, and things weren't too bad at all.

Time went by, the 1920's, the 1930's and then the Second World War started. Churchill said, "Give us the tools and we'll finish the job." Well, I was a bit older and didn't go active but I went east and worked through the war years in an aircraft

factory, making it as a journeyman. My wife worked in Eaton's and we saved our money to buy a farm in Lee River where we have been ever since. Farming wasn't easy at first but we made it. We had a son Jimmy. I lost my wife about seven years ago, so am living by myself now. I have lots of friends and neighbours to visit me weekends so I can't complain. Canada doesn't owe me anything and as far as the world goes today, Canada is just as good a place as any to live in, and that's my story.

Another story I can tell is about travelling to Bird River by rowboat. Dad had to leave two of us behind at a store in town because the boat wouldn't hold us all. Dad started out but when they got about half way towards McArthur Falls, a terrible wind came up so they stopped at Bouchie's Point. There were two other men stranded also, Albert Albekeit, a blacksmith in Lac du



SARAPU FAMILY 1917-18

Back row, l to r: Bill, Ed, Alexander, Jack and Tom.  
Front row, l to r: Alvera, Mrs. Sarapu, Arthur, Mr. Sarapu, Arnold.

Sarapus house completed.





First Lee River School c. 1920. Teacher - Miss Crea-lock of Bagot, Manitoba. Friedoffs, Lodges and Sarapus

Bonnet for many years, and Alfred Kronberg who lived in Lac du Bonnet and also homesteaded at Pinawa. Mr. Bouchie got some potatoes for them and they soon got a fire going and roasted them in hot ashes and drank water from the lake. The next day the storm went down so they made it to Bird River, rested one day and came back with two more good boats.

In the meantime Dad had given us 50¢ to buy groceries - well, two boys, even if things were very cheap, it wasn't much so the storekeeper gave us dried apples. We ate some of them and were we ever glad when Dad and the caravan arrived. We loaded up with groceries and a lot of baggage we had at the station. It was a beautiful October day. With three or four boats sailing with the light wind, we got to Bird River by dark where other settlers had already built camps or shacks. From then on, of course, we began cutting bush down, breaking some kind of land, at first with picks by hand. Dad had bought a pick for every boy.

There was skating for entertainment in winter and swimming in summer. Nobody really got sick except that whooping-cough took two kids one year. Where were we going to get a doctor? The country was so big that Dr. Malcolm couldn't get around it all. That's about all I can tell you.

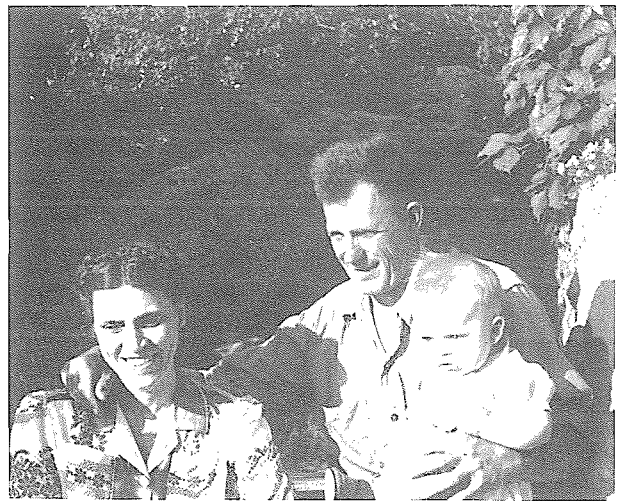
Except that you may have heard about a big lodge that was built about where Wendigo is now by A. J. Davis who was interested in mining. T. C. Anderson, a stock broker, and Mr. Wentworth, an engineer, became his partners. They were working a mine they called Wadhope near Bissett. For eight years in the twenties I was caretaker of Davis Lodge. Eventually the mine was abandoned but that's another story.

**Editor's Note** — From the Free Press, March 18, 1948.

In 1946 Frank Rinehart, a retired lawyer and his wife from Los Fresnos, Texas bought the lodge at Lac du Bonnet. They modernized the building in the wilderness until now every one of the seven bedrooms has its own private bath. Even the name has been changed to "Manitoba Rod and Gun Lodge".

The couple liked winter sports as well as summer ones. The lodge is in the heart of a hunter's paradise and fishing is wonderful in the area. "It's the first place" declared Mr. Rinehart "I've ever been where you can bag your limit within calling distance of a lodge. Friends fly up from the States to visit. A seaplane can land on the water a few yards from the lodge."

Alas when the water rose Davis Lodge was ruined, however, the fixtures were salvaged by some interested parties.



Jack and Lil Sarapu and Jimmy, 1948.



Davis Lodge, east end of Lake, Lac du Bonnet.

## JOHN AND ANNA SCHUMAN

My grandfather John Schuman and grandmother Anna were born in Latvia, although they lived in different countries before they came to America. They settled in Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A. with their family. That included my father Martin Schuman. The younger boys were George, Andrew, Carl and August, also a married daughter Anna Kulikowsky. This was about 1909.

My mother, Emily Osolen Schuman was born in Latvia. She came to Boston to help her sister-in-law who was expecting a baby. My parents were married July 5th, 1910 in Boston, Massachusetts.

In early spring of 1911 my grandfather and his sons Andrew and Carl, came to Canada to look for a homestead which they had heard was selling very cheap. They somehow found the best timber in the (now Poplar Bay) district in the Bird River area. Grandpa, with uncle Andrew, had built a three room cabin of logs and handmade shingles and lumber, all done with a crosscut saw. When we arrived at the homestead July 6th, 1911 they still had to finish the ceiling, for insulation they used moss from a nearby swamp and on top of that they carried up pails and pails of clay for packing the moss down real good. Mother said when it rained like cats and dogs during the summer it was a mess when the roof started to leak. The mosquitoes were terrible, they used mosquito netting on the beds. I was just five weeks old and the mosquitoes really liked me, mom told me.

So the hard work began on the homestead. My grandfather and grandmother still had two younger sons Carl and August. We lived in the same cabin. George and Andrew got jobs elsewhere. They were about 20 and 18 years old then. The same summer they bought a cow for milk. There were lots of game and fish (no game wardens). The next year they worked hard, clearing enough land for hay and some grain for chicken feed, also building a barn and getting huge logs ready for a new house, all done by hand with crosscut saws.

Then year after year they had cleared more land and gained a couple more cows and two oxen for work. Had a good garden and everything was going well as I remember. Later we had a couple of horses and one of them had eaten too much fresh clover in the meadow, it was so bloated it couldn't get up as it was laying on the ground, maybe dying we thought. Uncle Andrew went into the house, got a big darning needle and stuck it in the horse's stomach, it made a bog woosh noise. In a little while the horse got up and joined the other one out in the field. By this time we were living in the new house and I had a little sister (now Mildred Frank).



Anna and John Schuman

A couple years later another sister was born, Leona who never married and later another sister (Molly Winberg), then a brother Robert and another sister (now Minnie Wilkes) and living in Toronto.

We had to attend school and the closest one was seven miles away at Bird River. Our grandma offered to cook and care for two of us older ones, Mildred and me. We were renting a room from Mr. Gulbis at Bird River and at last going to school. Every week dad or mother would walk seven miles and bring us enough food for the week. At the same time walk a mile farther to pick up the mail at Alex Arro's who was the mailman at Bird River. He made trips to Lac du Bonnet by boat in the summer; on horseback in the spring and fall and by horse and light sleigh in the winter. This was about 24 miles one way. The only way we could get our groceries during the summer was Dad would get up at daylight, walk 1 3/4 miles to the lake at Poplar Bay with a box of 10 pounds butter and a 12 dozen crate of eggs to help pay for some of the groceries at the general store in Lac du Bonnet. I'll never forget the very first time I came to town with my dad, when we went into the store and I first saw a couple of 20 pound pails full of assorted candies. I thought how lucky the people in the store were, they could eat all the candy they liked. Dad used to bring home only a couple of

pounds and mother would only give us a few a day to make them last.

A number of years later I married Edward Buckler. Jobs were scarce and he cut cordwood for a neighbor who had a contract at 75 cents a cord. The Gunnar Gold Mines were opening up in 1933 so my husband and Albert Zeemel decided to try their luck. The only and cheapest way they could make it was to walk. They left News Years Day 1934 and eight days later were lucky enough to get a job at \$4.00 a day (how wonderful). As time went on we were at Gunnar Mines for eight years. Things had improved but the Mine was closing and we had to move out. We chose Minaki, Ontario and Ed was employed by the Land and Forest Department of the government. We enjoyed 16 years in this town. Our family grew up in Minaki and later started out on their own. All married and have their own families.

Daughter Shirley Busch and her husband Donald live and work in Red Lake, Ontario. They have a son Timothy and a daughter Audrey.

Our son Edward and daughter-in-law Irma Buckler live in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

My husband Edward passed away April 24th, 1962 and my older daughter Evelyn Neculeac died November 21st, 1966.

Now I am living in a very comfortable Senior Citizens Home "The Bonny Vista Lodge". Lac du Bonnet always was my home town so it is good to be home.

Submitted by  
Anna Buckler (nee Schuman)

#### JOHN AND ANNA SCHUMAN

written by August Schuman

In the spring of 1908 my parents, John and Anna Schuman immigrated to Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A. and settled in North Woburn, a suburb of Boston. They found work, father brick laying, Maring electric shop. The whole family came at that time from Siberia, Russia. My oldest brother Martin had just finished his three year hitch in the Russian army so the family decided to come to the U.S.A.

There was my Mom, Dad, Martin, Anna, George, Andrew, Carl and I, (August), I was seven years old.

I don't remember too much about that long tiring trip to the U.S., but remember arriving in the U.S. We lived in the U.S. four years and Dad heard about the almost free land in Canada. So in the spring of 1911, Dad and sons Andrew and Carl decided to come to Canada and arrived in Winnipeg and got out to Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba and still further east into the now Poplar Bay area.



Anna and John Schuman, Emily and Martin Schuman  
Anna Kulikowsky, 1913.

Dad had applied for his patent on the homestead, which was 160 acres of virgin bush. This cost \$10.00 and when they had cleared and improved on the land according to specifications, they received their patent (which must be their clear title).

In July of 1911, my mother, Martin and his wife Emily and infant daughter Anna (now Mrs. Ed Buckler) and myself, arrived in Lac du Bonnet and stayed with a family, Mr. and Mrs. F. Zeemel, for a few days. So we started out for our new home, walking through the bush, following the surveyor's line to the Pinawa River. Dad had his row boat waiting there and we crossed the river and walked the remaining 1 ½ miles carrying the baby and our belongings. I remember some good person had given me a puppy dog, which got tired so I had to carry it.

Dad was prepared for our arrival. He had gone to Beausejour, Manitoba and bought two milk cows, and he led them all the way back to Lac du Bonnet. He couldn't afford to hire someone to haul them. He was crossing the bridge east of Lac du Bonnet, was half way across, and saw the train that ran between Lac du Bonnet and Pointe du Bois, coming full speed. He let the cow find its own way off the bridge, flattened himself on the outside



Andrew and George Schuman at haying time.



of the rails and the train went on, the engineer screaming, and I am sure using a few choice swear words.

In 1912 that bridge consisted of a very narrow crossing. No railing it was a miracle he was not pushed off. He picked himself up, and went back and found his cows. Carl was with him, they had each led a cow so Dad's cow was with Carl. So they went on their way home.

In 1913 my sister Anna, her husband Adam Kulikowsky and their daughter Lucy (now Mrs. George Drawson) and baby son Carl, arrived from the U.S. and got a homestead next to Dad's. Eventually we got a post office in Bird River.

An Estonian family, Mr. and Mrs. Arro and family lived at Bird River, their son Alex had applied for the job of post master and got it. He had horses and drove into Lac du Bonnet in winter for the mail, every Friday. Left home early in the morning. He also shopped for the settler's groceries. Summertime he used a boat, he was post master for many years. And every Sunday someone went to Bird River for the mail and groceries and news from the outside. We walked it many times or rode horseback, seven miles each way. There was a lot of hard work and mosquitoes, black flies, etc. We cut our own logs and shingles for our buildings. We also fished in the lakes, used scythes to cut hay and raked it by hand and stacked it. Everything was done the hard way, grub hoe the garden and hope we wouldn't get a late frost. We had oxen to haul logs and hay to the barn.

Dad had a young bull he had trained to haul. One day I decided to go to the lake to meet Mr. Arro who had groceries for us and the bull took after me and knocked me down, rolled me, fortunately he had been dehorned. My puppy, who I had carried home, saw I was in danger and took after the bull, which saved my life.

Later my other two brothers, George and Andrew, came to Canada and also got homesteads. Andrew married Otily Sihl and their son Fred and family are living on Andrew's homestead now.

Carl and I went out to work for farmers. Carl later went north and trapped and looked for mines. I ended up working for a farmer at Fannystelle, Manitoba, Julie-Hans Andersen in 1925. I married their daughter, Anna Andersen.

We farmed at Fannystelle for 41 years, selling the farm in 1967 and moved to Winnipeg.

My dad died in May 1923, mother in October 1945.

Carl married Lillian Corethey from Winnipeg in August 1937. They lived at God's Lake, Manitoba for a few years. Their daughter Bernice was the first white female baby born at God's Lake, 1939 or 1940. When Bernice started school they moved

to Guelph, Ontario, where Lillian still resides.

We have three children, Clifford Allan, born August 16, 1926; Rita Aileen, born March 21, 1931 and Wayne August, born May 16, 1940. Allan married Lorraine Robinson of Vancouver December 16, 1953. They have a son Clifford Robin 19 years, daughter Teresa Lorraine 16 years. They live in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Rita married Gordon Ives October 15, 1949, he died May 1963. They had three daughters, Heather married to Gilbert Rikken, has two sons, Michael born August 2, 1978, Shawn born September 9, 1979. Rita remarried February 1969 to Neil McCall.

Melva married to William Lyons.

Shirley married to Paul Chevalla, had a son Bradley James (1½ years). Above families all live in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Wayne married Nancy Havill March 7, 1971, one daughter Kelly Jenifer, born April 3, 1978, they live in Toronto, Ontario.

## JOHN AND ANNA SCHUMAN

by Mildred Frank

As I remember growing up with my family, father and mother, sisters Anna, Leona, Molly, Minnie and a brother Robert, we had good times and a happy life on the farm.

I'll never forget the pails and pails of blueberries we picked on the nearby rocks. Mom or grandma would come with us kids so we wouldn't get lost in the bush. We always took some lunch and a honey pail full of water in case the kids got hungry, but how could you after eating handful after handful of grape-size blueberries. We finally used to sit on the rocks, peel the berries then eat some more. When we came home with our pails full, guess what we had for dessert at supper time? Blueberries and thick fresh cream. I also remember how we used to help work in the garden, feed the chickens, carry in some wood for mom.

During haying, we were so proud, Grandpa had made a rake for each of us kids out of wood, according to size and age. In fact all the rakes were made by grandpa and dad those days.



Making logs in winter, pulled by mules.



Martin and Emily Schuman, Annie, Mildred, and Uncle Andrew Schuman.

It was during the spring of 1931 when I went to work for the first time. My wages were \$5.00 a month, it was a babysitting job, but before I knew it I was doing all the housework too. By then I wanted to find another job, but with more pay, it was \$10.00 a month. Jobs were hard to find those days, except the mines, if you were lucky enough.

I married Clarence Frank June 1935. We moved to Gunnar Mines, where Clarence was employed already. We arrived at Beresford Lake with Roy Brown Airways and settled in with my sister and brother-in-law Anna and Ed Buckler, until we got our own home ready. We enjoyed eight years in that community of about 36 families. We were all friends and neighbors until the Gunnar Mine closed in 1942. Most of us moved back to Lac du Bonnet again.

Later we moved to Pointe du Bois where Clarence was employed with the Winnipeg Hydro Company until he retired in December 1977.

Our family of four children are all on their own now. Our daughter Sylvia Wold and her husband Norman live in Lac du Bonnet. They have a son Bradley and a daughter Beverley. Son Mervin and his wife Karen have two sons, Glen and Gason.

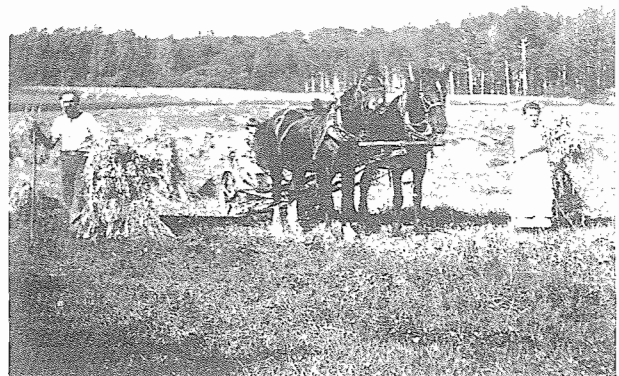
They live in Golden, B.C. Daughter Carole Keller and her husband Ivan have a son Miles and a daughter Kimberley, living in Garson, Manitoba. Son Ronald and his wife Sue live in Calgary, Alberta. They have two daughters, Kim and Sherry and one son Richard.

We have our own home just out of town to keep us busy, cutting grass and gardening in the summertime. But oh the snow sure piles up in the winter around here.

## JOHN AND MATILDA STRASDINE

My mother Matilda Strasdine (nee Preede) was born in Russia, although both my grandparents were Latvian, also born in Latvia. My father, John Strasdine, was born in Latvia but received most of his education in Germany. He spoke four languages and my mother spoke five. My grandfather arrived in Canada in 1907 and my grandmother and mother arriving in 1908. My father arrived in Canada in 1906, met my mother at Bird River in 1909 and were married in 1910 at Lac du Bonnet and settled first at Rat Creek, Bird River in a log cabin where my brother Fred and myself were born. Shortly after my father built a large house at Sandy Bay, Bird River (which is now completely under water). My father was away from home most of the time either prospecting, his first love, or working at lumber camps in the winter and going out west in the summers for the harvesting, mostly in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Our home at Sandy Bay was a stopover for many of the Indians going up the aforesaid river route, to gather wild rice, in their birch bark canoes and many times my mother would permit me to go along on one of their wild rice expeditions. I was five years of age and learned their language with no difficulty. Sorry to say that I have completely



Mr. and Mrs. Peter Preede bring in the oats, about 1919.

forgotten it since.

Our food was from the lakes which abounded in fish: sturgeon, white fish, black pike and of course our very own goldeye. Our meat was mostly venison, moose, also caribou and jack rabbit, also partridge, wild geese and ducks. Wild fruits were plentiful and mother had a big garden. Most of our meats were stripped paper thin and sun dried on racks, later to be put into rawhide sacks and beaten with a mallet till it became like powder and which was known by the Indian name of Pem-mican. A handful of said pemmican put into a large pot and cooked would make enough food for about six people. Our flour was hand ground from wheat and rye, also oats. The fish was either smoked, or sun dried to be used in the winter. We also had ten head of cattle so had plenty of fresh milk and butter. I can still remember my mother who stood all of five feet tall cutting hay by scythe from early morning till after dark.

Our nearest neighbor was at least four miles away. You either went on foot through the bush or by boat, weather permitting. This was either a canoe or rowboat. Our nearest doctor was at least twenty miles away, that was at Lac du Bonnet. To get there you hoped the weather would be fair and travel by rowboat or walk though the bush with no roads. In winter it was by oxen (later by horse) or by dog sled. I have counted as many as thirty timber wolves in one day trying to attack three or four deer in the deep snow. My brother and myself always carried a rifle or rather a .22 single shot since he was about seven years old and I was about six. We knew how to use them at all times. My mother was also a crack shot and I saw her shoot a huge timber wolf who was attacking a calf



Fred (carrying gun) and Myrna Stradsine on the way to school, about 1921.



Peter Preede and his huge moose, about 1920.

at the watering hole in the winter. He was about ten feet from mother when she fired. Thank God she was a good shot.

We had to walk four miles to school through the bush and my brother always carried his .22 gun and there hardly ever was a day that we did not see timber wolves on the lake trying to chase a deer down. Our first schoolhouse was in a private home. It was held in the upstairs big room and I think there were about twenty pupils altogether, ages eight to sixteen. Our teacher's name, I still recall these many years later, was Mr. Quinn who later became a customs officer at the Emerson border. He was a very strict teacher and the old willow switch was never too far away from his chair. To this day I remember the only time I felt the sting of that switch, the reason why I have since forgotten, but the embarrassment will be with me always. Maybe that is why I was a good student. He also was a very humane man, knowing that my brother and I had to walk four miles through the bush to get home, he made it a point to walk with us half way home where there was a big log across the path and he would sit us down and wait till our mother came from the house to see us home safely.

The following year our first school was finished and it was nearly six miles from Sandy Bay our home, to the new school. My grandfather Peter Preede, who lived only two miles from the school, decided that we should stay with him and grandma and continue on to school from his place. My grandfather was a farmer. He was a very strict man, who believed in hard work and more hard work, be it human or animal. I believe all the neighbors were a little afraid of him. I know that my brother and I were but he was a just and



Jack and Myrna Melville.

honest man and helped anyone who called on him.

The first gravesite was donated by my grandfather when two Indians had drowned in the spring thaw and my grandfather found them, but where to bury them was the question. So grandfather gave an acre of his land for the gravesite (which is still there and in use to this day). I am trying to have it preserved as a historical site now. Both my grandparents are buried there and mostly all the old timers who once resided in Bird River. One thing I would like to add about going to the new Bird River school is the teacher we had. He was boarding at the G. Dawson residence (where our first school had been in the upstairs of the house). I believe that the teacher's name was Mr. Weneborne or similar. As soon as the ice would leave the river he would swim to school every morning, about 2½ miles and then swim back at night to the boarding house.

When I was eleven years old we moved to Lac du Bonnet where my father had built a new home about a ½ mile from town. Believe me, going to school was much easier after that and later on we owned a dairy farm on the same three acres. Later on I took up nursing in Winnipeg and finally got my degree in Toronto as a physio-therapist and nursed in Toronto till I was married. I was divorced after five years and married again three years later to a very wonderful man from Ohio whom I had the good fortune of being with for nearly 25 years, the most happy years of my life. We travelled all over the world practically and finally bought a home in Lehigh Acres, Florida. Unfortunately all good things do come to an end and I lost my husband Jack a year ago on Gabriola Island off the coast of Victoria, B.C.

where we had property. I lost my mother twenty years ago. My only brother Fred retired from the R.C.A.F. about twelve years ago and he has built a lovely home for his family on Gabriola Island in B.C. He has two daughters and an adopted son and is also a grandfather. My brother married a girl from Edmonton and they have been married for thirty-four years. My late husband was in the heating and plumbing business in Painesville, Ohio until forced to retire when he was only 46 years old on account of ill health. We spent 20 winters in Acapulco, Mexico and were lucky enough to travel at least four months out of every year.

Submitted by  
Myrna Hermina Melville (nee Strasdine)

### HANS TAGESEN

Hans Tagesen came to Canada in 1927, from Denmark. He married me, Grete Andersen in 1939, who had come from Denmark in 1922. Both having spent most of their time in Manitoba. Hans on farms, then in mines in the Central Manitoba area, me in Winnipeg, going to school and working until we were married. In 1943, we came to Lac du Bonnet, settling in the Bird River area. We were lucky to buy a homestead, (¼ section). That winter Hans, together with my father, took out logs for our cabin. Also logs which we hauled up the river to John Peterson's sawmill, to be cut into lumber. Next summer we built our log cabin with logs and lumber produced from our own land.

That first winter, Hans took over the mail run from Bird River to Lac du Bonnet, from Alex Arro. It was either through the bush on the winter road or across the ice to Poplar Bay, where a road had been started. In the summer it was a thirty mile trip across the lake, taking three hours. When the Post Office closed in , Hans still carried on the tradition of making the mail run every Friday, also bringing in supplies for his neighbors.

Finally they started to work on our stretch of road and in 1948 we brought our car home to stay. For some time we had gone by boat as far as Poplar Bay, where we had our car parked on the Kulikowski farm. Hans helped to build the first bridge across Bird River, using our horses to drive the pile driver, for tamarac logs which he and Andrew Mathews had cut and hauled the fall before. He also helped build the road which eventually went to Bird Lake and Cat Lake. Those first years he did a little of everything, prospecting, working for the forestry, as well as being game guardian during the hunting season. When they started to build Camp 27, for Abitibi Paper company, he got a job there, and worked there until his retirement in 1970.





Hauling logs for lumber.



Postmaster Alex Arro with the mail cart which Hans took over in 1943.



Bird River mail boat, 1944.



Mike Barkus, a Bird River prospector and trapper, in front of his trapper's cabin with the Hans Tagesens.

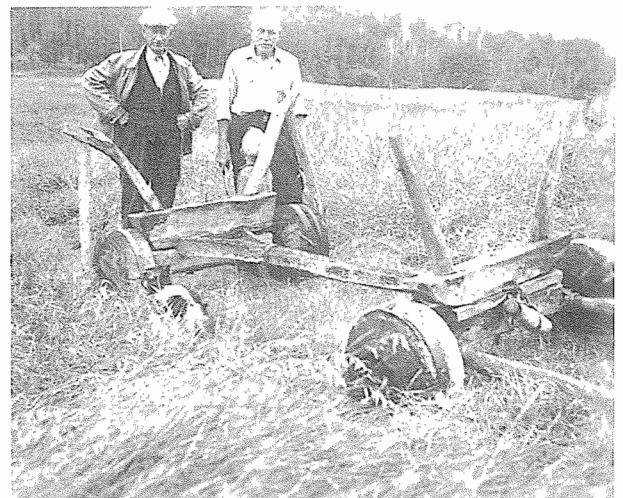
When we moved to Bird River, Erik, our son, was only ten months old. We had a school here then, it was closed soon after as most of the young families moved away. When it came time for school, it was a choice between leaving Bird River or teaching Erik by correspondence. I decided to try teaching for a year or so, it lasted for nine years. In 1956, Poplar Bay could not get a teacher, so I was asked to help out, which I did for a year. Which was as long as one could teach on a permit. It was quite an experience, one which I enjoyed and have never regretted.

In April of 1953, we had an awful forest fire which had started on the Pointe du Bois road. It travelled north to Bird River and threatened the whole settlement. Oscar Kirstine and Mr. Strasdine's homes were destroyed by fire, but fortunately the rest of us managed to save ours, which we did with the help of the forestry and friends. In the meantime all the families had been evacuated together with Erik and myself, we were allowed to return next day. We spent the night with a neighbor in Poplar Bay. All night we stayed up, as we could see the fire burning ten miles away. It lit up the sky, as if it were day.

While Hans worked for the forestry, I operated the Manitoba Government Air Services radio, relay station, here in Bird River, relaying messages between the north and Lac du Bonnet.

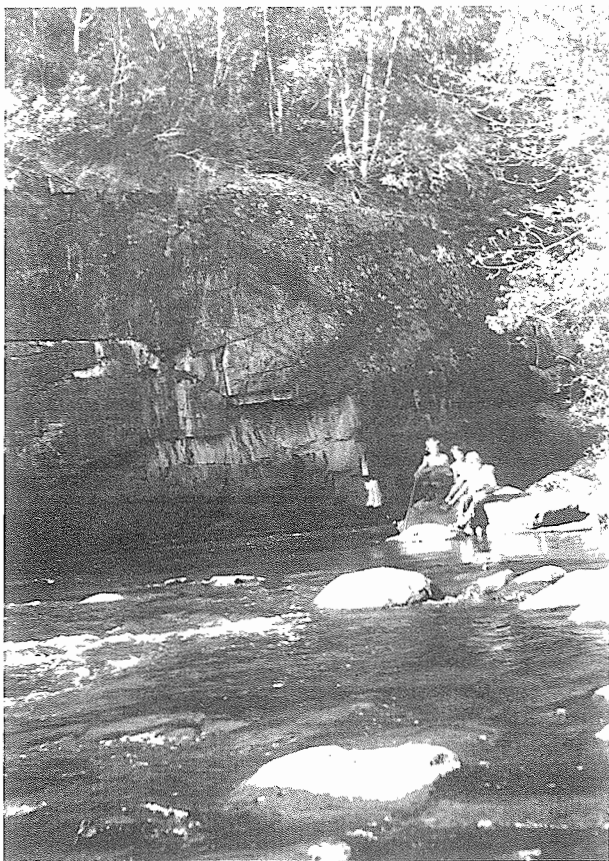
In 1953, Manitoba Hydro was brought to Poplar Bay and onto Bird River. That was another big step in progress for us, now we could have flushing toilets, and all modern conveniences, making our work so much easier. Then when in 1967 we got the telephone, what more could we wish, but still more progress was to come. A few years afterwards, we got a paved road.

In 1959, our chosen daughter, Heather came to live with us. By the time she was of school age, we



Mr. Preede with a friend, together with his homemade wagon.





Erik and friends at Bird River Falls before the building of the McArthur Falls dam.

had the consolidated school system and she was bused to school in Lac du Bonnet, 25 miles away. It was a long day for a little girl of six, she had to get up at 6:45 in order to be on time for the bus as the bus then made the loop around Lee River and Lettonia. But she soon adjusted to it. She is now married to Donald Le Blanc, has a little girl Donna Lynn. Don works for Winnipeg Hydro and they live in Winnipeg.

Erik is married to Evelyn Klassen, one of Peter and Susan Klassen's daughters. Until recently they lived at Pointe du Bois, where Erik is employed. They have just moved into their own home here at Bird River. They have three children, Sheila, Tracy and Ryan.

In 1962, after spending most of our money trying to clear land, we found the soil not suitable for grain farming, so we started to raise turkeys. In 1971 we raised our first lot, since then we have raised many more. It is now a far cry from the isolated spot we came to in 1943, when we had miles to go to see a neighbor, and the only way was by boat in summer and horse in winter. And our doctor was 25 miles away in Lac du Bonnet, as well as a store. It still is, only now we can make it in half an hour instead of three hours or more.

Submitted by  
Grete Tagesen

## Personality Parade BEAVER HIS PARTNERS IN SAWMILL TRADE by L. F. Earl

Of all the one-man enterprises in Manitoba, that operated by John Peterson is one of the most unusual.

Mr. Peterson runs a one-man sawmill. The mill is at the mouth of Peterson creek on the Bird River and about four miles up from where the river empties into the east end of Lac du Bonnet.

He built the whole plant himself. He installed all the machinery. He blasted out the rock of a level creek bed to make a dam and a 28-foot waterfall to get power to run it. He constructed a trough contraption about 250 feet long through which he diverts water which carries the sawdust to the bank of the creek. He used to dump it in the creek but he says the government complained because sawdust wasn't nice for fish.

He says his mill is the only one in the country operated by water power and that he is the only man in a business partnership with beaver.

"And them beaver," he says, "they be big engineers."

He is proud of the trough which carries away the sawdust because when he was building it people used to ask him what he was doing.

He wouldn't tell. The neighbors nick-named him "Cabbage Head." Last year he sawed 50,000 feet of lumber for his neighbors and nearly 250,000 feet besides, all of which he sold. For a cabbage head, he says that isn't bad.

Mr. Peterson is a Lett. There is a colony of Lett settlers along the banks of the Bird River. Most of them came from Brazil about 40 years ago to where they had migrated from Latvia and found they didn't like a tropical climate. One of them was Mr. Peterson's brother.

In 1911, Mr. Peterson was working in a sawmill in Riga. His brother wrote him to come to Canada. He arrived in 1911, working at painting during the building season, prospecting and trapping, and saved his money because he wanted to build a sawmill. He picked out a heavily-wooded 160 acres on



John Peterson's sawmill.

the river and filed his claim with the Dominion Land office in 1918.

Surveyors came along a couple of years later and named the creek on his homestead Peterson creek. He remembers that when they visited him he had a case of dynamite under his bed to blast out the rock in the creek bed.

#### Years of Toil

It took several years of toil to get the mill plant going. The first few years the timber he sawed he logged himself. Soon after the mill was going he found he needed a water control upstream. That made him think of the beaver. The first one he had ever seen was on his brother's farm. He went to the department of natural resources and asked to buy four. He was listed as a fur farmer and got four beaver at \$20 apiece.

He had his own idea where he wanted the dam. When he located the beaver on the creek they started to build at the exact spot he wanted. The dam is there now, 45 feet wide, two and a half to three feet thick, and tight enough to let scarcely through a drop of water. Mr. Peterson says dynamite doesn't work with it and when he wants a bigger flow he has to come back and put a hole in it himself.

He is a stocky man, cordial in conversation, but liable to become unaccountably taciturn if one asks too many questions about his beaver. The department of natural resources is continuously

after him to report how many beaver he has on his fur farm and he doesn't know.

To satisfy the department, he tried to take an inventory. First he bought heavy wire intending to build an enclosure in the creek and get them penned up. He says they chewed through the wire and threw it away. Mr. Peterson salvaged what he could and used it on what he calls his experimental farm. His experimental farm is the yard around his cottage where he used the wire for frames to protect trunks of plum and apple trees and sand cherry bushes.

He tried once more to get the information on his beaver stock for the department. He picked out a big poplar tree on the bank of the creek, about 34 inches in diameter at the base and built a 15-foot watch tower around it. He carried the lumber for it half a mile up from his mill. At dusk he would go to the top of the tower and try to count the beaver in the stream.

When he talks about this he gets very excited.

"Them beaver," he says, "they know I try to count them and say, 'Who are you watching in hell?'"

Mr. Peterson said he didn't want to make them mad and he stayed away for about a week and didn't try to do any counting. One night he came back and the beaver had cut down the tree with the watch tower. The tree and tower are lying horizontal on the ground now.

# Brightstone

## JACOB HAPKO

Our father was born in the village of Krupiec, county Lwow, later called Limberg, Poland in August 1882. Upon reaching the age of 21 years, he had to undergo compulsory military training for three years. Poland at that time was under the domination of the Austro-German empire. No males were allowed to emigrate until they had served their three years. Subject to recall in case of any hostilities until one had become a naturalized citizen of their new country. At age 24 he emigrated to Canada, coming to Ladywood, Manitoba where he had a married sister, Mrs. John Stupack.

That was his home for about three years, going to work from there in various places across Canada. He worked for a time building the Grand Trunk Northern Railway west of Wainwright and Edmonton, Alberta, now the main line of the Canadian National. He worked in Winnipeg as a labourer building the CPR station and the Royal Alexandra Hotel and The T. Eaton Co. main store. Excavating for the foundations was all done with shovels and wheelbarrows, there being no machinery to do that kind of work at that time.

Then he decided to take up homesteading. He came to the place later called Brightstone and settled on a farm on NE-20-15-10E. Here he built a log house and batched for two or three years.

From this place he went out taking jobs, working for J. D. McArthur at Lac du Bonnet in the bush, logging, making railway ties, at the sawmill or at the brick factory. He would also go out west harvesting almost every fall till about 1912. He worked one summer for a farmer at Minot, North Dakota.

Mother, nee Julia Brydilo came to Canada in the spring of 1911 from the village of Dusowcie, Poland. She came to the home of her sister Xenia, married to Mike Malyk. An old friend of fathers from Poland, being a neighbor of the Mike Malyks gave father the chance to meet mother. She was 18 years old. About a month later they were married, moving to father's farm and set to work to make something of it. They put up buildings with the

help of neighbors. All was of hand hewn logs and plastered with clay. Clearing land and digging out rocks. Father built a lot of buildings for other people. Some are still standing. They used oxen, breaking up land, cutting and hauling hay and sheaves into stacks. Also hauling cordwood into Lac du Bonnet in winter to buy groceries, clothing, coal oil for their lamps.

They planted a garden, put away their vegetables. They did get a lot of their meat by hunting prairie and bush chickens, deer and sometimes rabbits. Chickens and pigs were butchered in the late fall and frozen. Bacon was cured.

I remember it was no easy task to drive or work with oxen, especially on a hot day when the bulldogs or horse flies were bad. One day while cutting hay the oxen decided to take a cool dip in a slough and wallow in the water. They went over stumps and between trees and broke the mower to pieces.

In about 1914 the district was fairly well settled. Father was the district coffin maker for years, up to about 1935 people in the district did not have the means to buy coffins or use the services of an undertaker. He was also the district barber, cutting hair for people for miles around.

They visited their neighbors evenings and had the neighbors visit them. They had house parties on holidays or any occasion. About 1925 a hall was built in the district. The school was built in 1916. Concerts, amateur plays and dances were held in the school and the hall. Church services were held in the school until a church was built.

They sent all their children to school. They built some good buildings from logs and lumber which still stand.

Mother and father worked very hard with their neighbors to build a Ukrainian Catholic Church. They organized house parties where meals and drinks were sold. Raffles were held. They held picnics sometimes also at our place. This was all to raise money for a building fund. They collected donations of lumber, bricks, paint, nails and anything anyone wanted to donate. Father worked approximately three months voluntarily on the building. The church was completed about 1939.

For years after there was an annual picnic by the church on July 7, St. John's Day.

The first marriage ceremony held in the new church was a double one. Anna Malyk and I, and Patricia Hunchak and Paul Harasymchuk got married at the same time. The vows between each couple were said separately.

My parents raised eight children. They retired from the farm to move to Lac du Bonnet in 1947. They left the farm to son Rudolph who still farms it.

Oldest of the Hapko children was Bertha. She married George Parker of Armstrong, Ontario. They lived there all their married lives until George's death in 1965. Bertha still lives in Armstrong. They raised three sons, Lloyd, Kenneth and Ronald. They are all working for the Federal Government in Ottawa.

Edward married Anna Malyk. They live on a farm in Brightstone. They have two children, Tom married Vivian Tachynski of Gypsumville, has two sons and a daughter, works as Radio Operator for the Forest Protection Branch in Winnipeg. They live in Stonewall, Manitoba. Betty married Ervin Hemminger, they live in Lac du Bonnet and both work in Pinawa for Atomic Energy.

Rudolph married Mary Brezina. They have six girls: Gail, Cheryl, Carol, Leslie, Lenore and Glenda. Gail works in an office in Winnipeg. Cheryl is a high school teacher, Carol works in a hotel, Leslie is a commercial baker, works in Winnipeg, Lenore and Glenda lived at home with their parents and attended school. Rudolph and Mary live on the home farm of his parents.

Carl married Elsie Okrainec. They had four daughters and a son. Carl operated a Case Farm Equipment Garage in Lac du Bonnet. He died in 1976.

Shirley lives in Winnipeg, Donna in Calgary, Charlie in British Columbia, Jackie in Lac du Bonnet, Penny in Winnipeg.

Millie is married to John Cuculick of Barrie, Ontario. He was a railroad engineer now retired. Still live in Barrie, Ontario. They had a daughter Gail and two sons; Kenneth and Gary.

John married Ann Budzinski. They live in Brightstone, have five daughters. Norma married to Herman Weise, lives in Winnipeg. Karen of Winnipeg, Sandra married in Winnipeg, Marlene works in Winnipeg, Ruth married Dale Smyrski, lives in Winnipeg. John works out on different jobs.

Jean married Walter Pascoe, lives in Winnipeg. They have two sons. Jason who is taking Nuclear Physics, is in his fifth year in Waterloo University in Ontario. John lives and works in Winnipeg. Walter Pascoe works for Swift Canadian Co. in Winnipeg.

Walter married Phyllis Solinski. They live in Lac du Bonnet. Phyllis is from Bissett and was a teacher. Walter owns his own truck and hauls gravel, sand and top soil.

Father died in May 1953 at the age of 70. Mother died in January 1971 at the age of 77.

Submitted by  
Edward Hapko, son

## JOHN MALYK FAMILY

John Malyk, our father, emigrated to Canada from Austria with his parents and two brothers, Mike and Stefan, in 1905 by ship.

Palegia Kasprzyk, our mother, followed on a later ship and John and Palegia were married in Winnipeg where they lived about two years. Father being a qualified blacksmith worked in a shop in Winnipeg on Higgins Ave.

The family then moved to a farm in Brokenhead, Manitoba and lived there for a few years. Grandfather died in Brokenhead and was buried there. The family then moved to the district of Brightstone, each buying their own farms. They were the first pioneers to move to Brightstone. Grandmother died in Brightstone and is buried by the Roman Catholic Church. Stefan sold his farm and moved to Ohio, U.S.A. Father and Mike lived in Brightstone until their retirement in 1947.

Our parents raised four children: Alex, the oldest, Dan, Edward, and Annie.

Their life on the farm was hard. They started working their little patches of field with oxen. They cleared land and an extra job was picking rocks as they settled on a rocky farm. Father worked out part time in Old Pinawa operating a steam shovel, a crane, and also ran a barge; later for J. D. McArthur in the brick yard. Mother looked after the garden, cows, pigs, chickens, sheep and children.

Father then came back full time to the farm. He bought a sawmill, ran it with a steam engine. Opened a blacksmith shop for repairing his own implements and the neighbors. He sharpened plow shares at ten cents a share for walking plows and later for the kind one could ride on. Put steel rims on wagon wheels. He also bought a threshing machine. He pulled the steam engine from neighbor to neighbor with oxen as well as the machine. It was hand fed. There was a small platform in the front for a man to stand on. He pushed the sheaves in by hand. The straw was carried away on a straw carrier. The grain was usually put in bags and then stored in a granary. Later he bought a steam engine that drove under its own power and a self fed thresher with a blower to carry the straw on a pile.

They cut hay for their livestock and hauled it in loose into stacks for winter feeding. All the straw was saved too. They had horses by now and father would also shoe horses in his blacksmith shop. He made a lot of his own blacksmith tools.

Our parents were the first in the district to start shipping cream to Winnipeg. They had a cream separator called "magnet" which was turned by a hand crank. Father would get up at 5 o'clock in the morning and take the can of cream to the station in Lac du Bonnet seven miles away, about twice a week. The cheque for the cream came by mail and the creamery would return the empty can by train which would be picked up on the next cream delivery. Later when the roads were better, a truck from Beausejour started to pick up cream twice a week from the district, as by then a lot of people shipped cream. The price was very low. The average for a five gallon can was approximately \$1.70 to \$1.90 for about (test) 35% butterfat. One time mother got 96¢ for a five gallon can and she broke down and cried. The truck driver took 50¢ out of his pocket and gave it to mother. They sold eggs to stores in Lac du Bonnet for 10¢ to 15¢ a dozen. Any cattle, at first, was sold to a travelling buyer and shipped to Winnipeg by train, sometimes after paying freight one would get left with 2 to 6 dollars for an animal. Later the buyers came by truck and picked up the animals. They kept sheep and sheared them for the wool which we used for making comforters, spun it for mitts and socks. The lambs were sold. Also some of the wool. They didn't like the meat from the sheep so they never butchered any for food.

They also kept bees. Some honey was used at home and some was sold at 10 to 12 cents a pound. They would buy the cans to put the honey in. They extracted the honey from the frames with a homemade machine usually on a Sunday morning. Mother would help and would get stung and would swell very badly. She hardly ever attended the local school picnic because her face was swollen on the Sunday the picnic was held.

Father also had a grain crusher in his blacksmith shop and people would bring their grain in bags and get it crushed at our place. The crusher was turned by a stationary "Stanley Jones" gas engine. Firewood was cut with a circular saw with this same engine.

People helped each other building their homes, barns and granaries. The first houses were from logs and later lumber. Our first house was from logs and after father had the sawmill he built a house from lumber. The barn was from logs and still stands. They would help each other hauling sheaves to the thresher and dig wells and make wooden cribbing and put it down the well to prevent the soil caving in.

They travelled to their closest town of Lac du Bonnet by horse and buggy, or walked. The early roads were brown turf that turned to a powder in the dry weather. They laid poles across called corduroy. It was easier walking by the wagon than riding as one would get real shaken up with the wheels falling between the poles. They would pack their eggs in chaff or grain to take to the store.

They didn't go to a doctor often, but the nearest one was in Lac du Bonnet. Babies were often delivered by an older lady in the district. There was one case that the doctor was called too late and the mother and child died.

They planted a garden and picked wild fruit for jams and preserves. They made sauerkraut and dill pickles in wooden barrels. When jars were available, tomatoes were canned and sometimes pork and chicken. Otherwise meat was salted and put in a wooden pail and lowered into the well to keep cool. In winter the meat was frozen.

We lived  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from school so we always walked home for lunch. Father was a school trustee for awhile. Christmas concerts were held. The tree was lit up with real candles. Meetings were held in school and some night school classes. Church services were held before the church was built.

There later was a hall. The young people rehearsed and performed plays and concerts, followed by a dance. Refreshments were sold. Sometimes a moving picture was shown by a man who travelled from district to district. He used his car for power to operate the projector. House parties were held at each others homes. Music was supplied by anyone who could play any instrument. Father played the button accordion and violin. They danced till dawn.

We at home had a "Magic Lantern" which was lit with a little coal oil lamp and showed coloured slides on the wall. Alex played a clarinet fairly well. Dan played a bit of violin. Edward a guitar and some mandolin. We had the first crystal set radio with ear phones.

We subscribed to magazines and newspapers both in Ukrainian and English. Our parents could read and write well in Ukrainian. We had a windcharger that charged a six volt battery and we were able to have electric lights, as long as it was windy. We never put our Aladdin lamp away. Later there was a Co-op store in the district. People would gather in the evenings and play cards, tell stories. Sometimes "tall", sometimes true and discuss everyday happenings. They would do some of their grocery shopping at the same time. Have a bottle of "Wynola" and a chocolate bar, and were ready to start the next day after a rest.

Our parents retired to Lac du Bonnet in 1947 selling their farm to their daughter Anna and her



husband Edward Hapko, who still farm it. Anna and Edward have two children, Tom and Betty. Tom married Vivian Tachynski from Gypsumville, Manitoba. They live in Stonewall, Manitoba. He works in Winnipeg as Radio operator for the Forest Protection Branch. They have three children.

Betty married Ervin Hemminger. They live in Lac du Bonnet and both work in Pinawa for Atomic Energy.

Alex, the oldest, married Cecelia Beznoski. They lived and worked in Winnipeg and have one daughter Grace. Alex died in 1968.

Dan married Bertha Sydorko and was a blacksmith in Lac du Bonnet for a few years. He is now upholstering furniture in Lucan, Ontario. In winter he retired to Florida, U.S.A. They had two sons. The older, Norman, died in a car accident in 1956. The younger, Arthur, is married with five children and has an upholstery shop of his own in Osoyoos, B.C.

Edward married Nora Karklin and lives in Lac du Bonnet. He works for the Manitoba Government Air Service. They have a son Bruce who just finished school.

Our parents both died in 1964, 3½ months apart. Mother was 76, father was 84.

As their children we think they lived a notable and for us a memorable life.

Submitted by  
Anna Hapko, daughter  
Edward Malyk, son  
Dan Malyk, son

#### **HARRY AND DORA (KORALUK) OKRAINEC**

Harry and Dora Okraimec, with three children Bill, Joe and Ann (born on ship), second eldest son John was left behind because of illness, left Hryduck, Saleiska, Austria (Western Ukraine), arriving in Canada 1899 by boat from Hamburg, Germany.

They settled on a homestead in Ladywood, Manitoba. When they went to register their homestead and pay \$10.00 for 160 acres, they were told they were on Hudson Bay Co. land, which they, the Canadian Government, gave the Bay for opening up the west, half a township.

They went by wagon, with oxen, to Brightstone, Manitoba, eight miles west of Lac du Bonnet in 1909, settling on and paying \$10.00 for section 13, township 9, NE 160 acres, which was all bush, a little rocky, with a creek running all year.

In Brightstone was settled, Mike Malyk family; after came the families of Navrot, Wytok, Stanko, Sikora, Besnoyski, Nigardoski, Kost, Hrycio and



Mr. and Mrs. J. Okraimec

others. They also worked hard clearing the land, walking to Lac du Bonnet to get flour and salt.

The first and only Post Office was run by John Stanko, walking to town for the mail, six and a half miles away.

First Polish Church was built in 1913, first store run by John Holop 1919, Ukrainian Church built 1939, same church moved to Lac du Bonnet.

First School was built in 1916, first school teacher Miss Gorarski, where the old school is now.

First pupils were: Nick, Mike, Mary and Andrew Okraimec; Andrew, Mike and Kay Kost; Stephanie and Stella Nigardoski; Mary, Olga, Charlie and Joe Stanko; Julia, Kay, and Mike Navrot; Willie and George Malyk; Joe, Mike, Elaine and Stanley Besnowski; Pauline, Walter, and Mary Hrycio; Mike, Joe and Andrew Buhay; Stanley, Sophie, and Frank Stupak; Josephine, Eddie, Louis, and Andy Wojciekowski.

Brightstone Cemetery began in 1913.

Harry was born in 1864, died 1941, buried in Brightstone Cemetery; so is Dora who was born in 1877, died 1942. John came from Austria seven years later because he was sick, married Pauline Swetz, had nine children. Born 1895, died 1977, buried Brightstone Cemetery; farmed on homestead 18-15-10 NE.

Bill, born 1893, married Kathleen Mazur, had ten children, died 1952, buried Brightstone



During the Ukrainian Centennial celebrations, July 28 to 31st, 1967, the Okrainec's sons, daughters and husbands and wives were honored at a banquet and dance with over 150 children and grandchildren attending.

Front row, left to right: Kathleen (Bill) Okrainec, Pauline (John) Okrainec, Pauline (Nick) Okrainec, Kathleen (Mike) Okrainec, Lena (Andrew) Okrainec, Mary (Jeff) Porter, Lilian (Edgar) Stelzer, missing Nellie (Morris) Henley.

Back row, left to right: John, Joe, Nick, Mike and Andrew Okrainec, Edgar (Lilian) Stelzer.

Cemetery; homesteaded 18-15-10 SW.

Joe, born 1897, married Rosie Chevki, had two children, worked and lived in Transcona, died 1975, buried in Brightstone Cemetery.

Ann, born 1899 on ship, married John Serafin, three children, died 1944, buried Polish Cemetery, North Main St., Winnipeg.

Nick, born 1902, Ladywood, Manitoba, married Pauline Rojeski, one child.

Mike, born 1904, Ladywood, Manitoba, married Kathleen Malinowski, four children, homesteaded in Brightstone, south of Harry's (dad) farm, 13-9 SE.

Andrew, born 1907, Ladywood, married Lena Malinowski, three children, took over pioneer farm, Harry's (dad), 13-9 NE.

Mary, born in Ladywood 1908, married Jeff Porter, lives in St. Catharines, Ontario.

Lilian, born Brightstone 1910, married Edgar Stelzer, one child, resides in Winnipeg.

Nellie, born Brightstone 1913, married Morris Henley, two children, resides in town since marriage.

When Harry and Dora moved to their homestead in Brightstone, they had to clear their land by hand, planting the grain by hand, cutting the grain and hay with a scythe, raking with a wooden rake. Grain was threshed by a stick with a whip at the end, on top of a canvas or a long sheet.

Kept chickens, ducks, pigs, and cows for milk and for food, hunting for extra food.

Garden was the biggest food storage for winter, they canned all they could. During the summer they had their own vegetables, potatoes for perogies, beets and other vegetables for borscht, cabbage for cabbage soup. Many recipes were brought from the old country. Used scrubbing

board to wash clothes; used the well to keep their food cool in the summer; baked bread in a clay oven built outside by the creek.

The boys in their teens were busy digging ditches to drain the land, building roads, helping neighbors to build homes and barns. All volunteer work just for the food at mealtime. Wintertime the boys went to the bush to cut cordwood to help at home. Nobody wore shoes in the summer, there was never change of a dress or pants, you wore the same till it wore out, except for washing them once a week.

Bathing was done in the creek during the summer months, and once a week during the winter using a big tub, melting the snow for water.

Since Harry and Dora emigrated to Canada in 1899, their family grew to 287; not one person of this family has ever been in jail or drew welfare from the state. Many boys went to war during the First and Second World War, serving overseas and in battle; all returned, some with scars and wounds, all volunteered.

We the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren are grateful to Dido and Baba for coming to Canada and giving us the opportunity to grow and live in a great country like Canada.

Information given by Nick, Mike and Andrew Okrainec.

Submitted by  
Peter Okrainec  
Winnipeg, Manitoba



Sikora family, new house.

## HISTORY OF STANLEY SIKORA

Stanley Sikora was born on May 17th, 1874 in Plazowie, Poland. He married Teresa Habko on October 14th, 1900. He emigrated to Canada in the year 1904 with his wife and his two small children. They settled at Ladywood, Manitoba, 12 miles north of Beausejour. Six years later they moved to Brightstone, six miles west of Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba. Their means of travel were a team of oxen along with one dog, a cow and three young children. Their first home in Brightstone was of logs. Walls, ceiling and floor was sawed by a rip saw which was operated by three men. Chopped straw and clay mixture, lime and moss filled the openings between these logs. This one room home was heated by wood, which was plentiful, and coal. Oil lamp and lantern lit up this little cabin. The windows were very small.

Stanley's main interest those years was to clear his dense bushland to enable him to plant seed and supply feed for his family and animals. During winter months he spent most of his time working in the bush, cutting wood into cords which were hauled into Lac du Bonnet by oxen and sold to local merchants in trade for food and clothing. In summer months we worked hard on the land. Together with his wife and two young boys they tilled enough soil with hand shovels to make a small garden and were able to sow enough oats and wheat to provide for the animals.

In winter he went back to the bush and kept clearing more land. These early settlers at Brightstone were able to get as much land as they required at \$10.00 for 160 acres which was heavy bush and swamp.

Stanley and his wife had eight children, three daughters and five sons: Joseph, Katherine, Mary, Paul, Walter, Cecelia, Louis and Edward.

The family had a trying time. There was not time for pleasure. Hard work was the main topic. Neighbors would gather in each others homes for

church services. When a priest was unable to be present, they would read the Bible and sing church songs. Later as people became more plentiful, dancing and weddings took place in the homes. Travel was impossible in the summer months due to the heavy bog and swamp. During the winter they travelled by oxen and in the summer they had to go on foot. Coal oil and food such as flour, sugar and salt were brought home during the freeze-up and had to last till the following winter. The nearest doctor was at Selkirk, Manitoba which was fifty miles away.

Stanley became Secretary-Treasurer of the Brightstone School and the St. Mary's Catholic Church as he was able to read, write and understand English. He had earned a diploma from the National School of Languages from which he had taken a correspondence course. He also served on the Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet as councillor of Ward 2. His children attended the Brightstone School and walked one mile there. Neighbors assisted each other, mostly at harvest time. The flail, the sickle, the steam engine and the thresher pulled by horses were their most useful machines.

Today there are only two sons living of this family.

Joseph: Deceased, was married to a widow with five children, his widow resides in Lac du Bonnet today.



Paul Sikora, Mike Navrot.

Katherine: Deceased, was married in California and two children survive.

Mary: Deceased - died shortly after birth.

Paul: Retired farmer. Married Elizabeth Sytnick, has five children. Lawrence married Eileen Lavoie and have two children, Lorraine and Grant. Gladys married Ken Melquist and have two children, Dennis and Janice. Elsie married to Ed. Worona and have three children, Debbie, Randy and Karen. Edward married Shirley Galay and have two children, Earl and Wayne. Katharine married Dean Wilcox.

Walter: Deceased.

Cecelia: Deceased.

Louis: Deceased, was married to Eileen Markusson and had one daughter.

Edward: Farmer, married to Viola Tyndall and reside on Sikora homestead. They have seven children. Leona married Ernest Otto and lives at Gull Lake, Manitoba. They have two children: Darrin and Chris. Donald married Patricia Brincheski and lives at Lac du Bonnet. They have two children: Sharon and Kevin. Barbara married Jim Hemminger and lives at Lockport, Manitoba. They have two children: Robbie and Michael. Patricia married Donald Hemminger and lives at Lockport. Brenda married Ronald Ferens and lives in Winnipeg. Teresa works in Winnipeg. Stanley still at home.

Stanley Sikora, Senior, passed away at the St. Boniface hospital on October 25th, 1947.

Teresa Sikora, his wife, passed away at the Beausejour hospital on November 3rd, 1955.

Submitted by  
Viola Sikora

## SOROKA/FIGOL

Alex Soroka arrived in Winnipeg in 1907 from Galicia, Ukraine. He was 24 years old and came with high hopes for a better life.

His father had died when Alex was quite young and he and his mother and three brothers eked out a living on the farms of wealthy landowners. The work was hard, the pay meagre and the family had no way of improving their lot. Under the system of the Ukraine at that time, if you were born poor, you died poor.

When he was twenty-one he served in the Ukrainian Cossack Army for the compulsory three years under the Austro-Hungarian Empire. He was discharged just as Canada was conducting a campaign in the Ukraine for immigrants to settle Canada's western provinces. The promise of one section of land for \$10.00 caught and held the young man's imagination, for he knew that this

was the only way he could break out of the oppressive life into which he had been born. He had managed to save the required \$250.00 from his army pay so with high hopes and some sadness, he bid his family goodbye, knowing that he would never see them again.

When he arrived in Winnipeg after five weeks of very tiring travel, he found that jobs were plentiful as the city was growing at a fantastic pace.

Alex worked as a laborer on roads, streets and bridges. The hours were long and the work back-breaking but he was young and strong and had his dream of owning land to sustain him.

After two years of odd jobs he managed to get a job with the Canadian Pacific Railway. Now his pay was steady and he could save for the things he would need on his homestead.

He boarded with an older couple who were also from Galicia. They were kind to him and helped him to cope with his homesickness. Their name was Figol.

Anastasia and Nazarko Figol had arrived from Galicia in 1908. Nazarko had made a trip to Canada in 1902. He liked the vast land and the freedom it would provide his family so he went back to Galicia to get them.

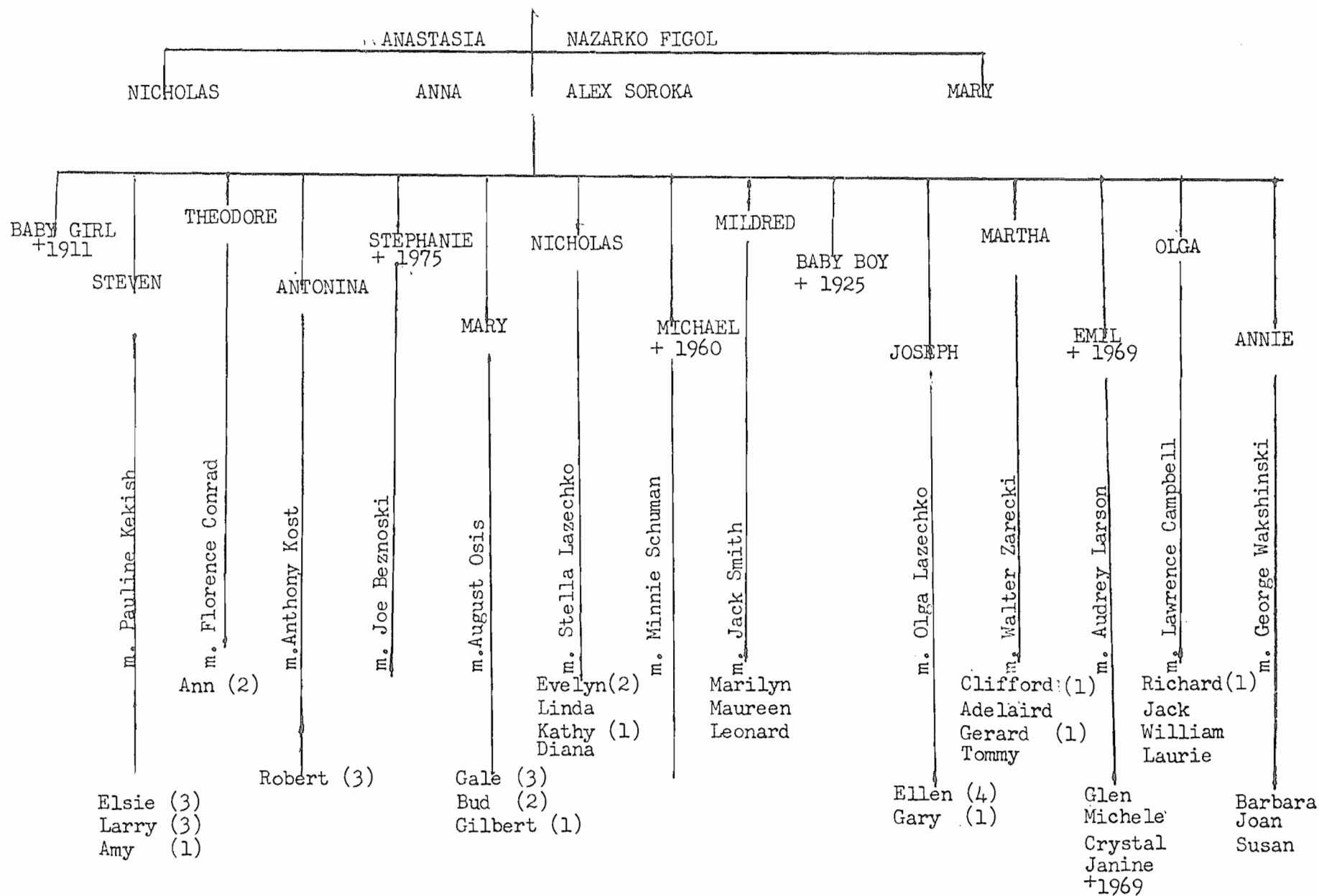
Although they were tradespeople and had a middle class living in the old country, they did not like being under the Austrian rule. They were aware that a war would soon break out in Europe and that Galicia would probably be in the middle of a war zone.

They left their two young children, Anna and Nicholas, with Anastasia's parents in Galicia as they did not have enough money for the whole family to travel together. When they arrived in Winnipeg, Mr. Figol readily found work as he was a shoemaker by trade. His wife kept boarders in their rented quarters and saved every penny she could for the children's fares.

After two years, they finally had enough money and eagerly waited for their children to join them in Canada. What a joyful reunion they had! Anna and her brother were now into their teens and were delighted to find a new little sister, Mary, who was born in Canada and was now one year old.

Alex Soroka and Anna Figol fell in love at first sight and were married in Winnipeg that same year. Alex readily took Anna's family as his own and the two families remained close for the rest of their lives.

They bought two houses side by side on Magnus Avenue in Winnipeg's north-end and while the two men continued at their respective jobs, Anna and her mother kept boarders in their overcrowded homes. There was quite an influx of immigrants from the Ukraine at this time so the boarding house was a very profitable venture.





|                    |                         |      |                          |      |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------|--------------------------|------|
| <u>ALEX SOROKA</u> | Born in Galicia Ukraine | 1883 | Died Lac du Bonnet, Man. | 1956 |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------|--------------------------|------|

|                   |                             |      |                          |      |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|------|--------------------------|------|
| <u>NNA SOROKA</u> | nee Figol - Born in Galicia | 1893 | Died Lac du Bonnet, Man. | 1954 |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|------|--------------------------|------|

descendants :

|                       |                       |      |                     |              |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------|---------------------|--------------|
| <u>NTONINA SOROKA</u> | Born - Winnipeg, Man. | 1911 | Died Winnipeg, Man. | 6 months old |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------|---------------------|--------------|

|                     |  |                 |  |            |
|---------------------|--|-----------------|--|------------|
| <u>TEVEN SOROKA</u> | Born Winnipeg, Man.                              | 1912            |  |            |
|                     | Married <u>Pauline Kekish</u> - Springwell, Man. |                 |  |            |
|                     | Retired Stationary Engineer - Beausejour, Man.   |                 |  |            |
|                     | Children:  |                 |  |            |
|                     | Elsie Gyles                                      | Edmonton, Alta. |  | 3 children |
|                     | Larry Soroka                                     | London, Ont.    |  | 3 children |
|                     | Amy Lagsdon                                      | Winnipeg, Man.  |  | 1 child    |

|                       |  |               |  |            |
|-----------------------|--|---------------|--|------------|
| <u>HEODORE SOROKA</u> | Born Winnipeg, Man.                              | 1913          |  |            |
|                       | Ted married <u>Florence Conrad</u> - Nova Scotia |               |  |            |
|                       | Retired Carpenter                                |               |  |            |
|                       | Lives in Bangor , Maine U.S.A.                   |               |  |            |
|                       | Children:  |               |  |            |
|                       | Ann Tambling                                     | Bangor, Maine |  | 2 children |

|                     |   |                     |  |            |
|---------------------|---|---------------------|--|------------|
| <u>NTONINA KOST</u> | Born - Winnipeg, Man.                                     | 1915                |  |            |
|                     | Married <u>Anthony Kost</u>                               | Brightstone, Man.   |  |            |
|                     | Retired Esso Station Owner and Red Cross Canteen Operator |                     |  |            |
|                     | Widowed - Lives in Lac du Bonnet, Man.                    |                     |  |            |
|                     | Children:   |                     |  |            |
|                     | Robert Kost   | Lac du Bonnet, Man. |  | 3 children |

|                          |                             |                   |                       |             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| <u>TEPHANIE PRYSTYKO</u> | Born Brightstone, Man.      | 1917              |                       |             |
|                          | Married <u>Joe Beznoski</u> | Brightstone, Man. | Seperated             | no children |
|                          |                             |                   | Died Thunderbay, Ont. | 1975        |

|                 |   |                     |  |            |
|-----------------|---|---------------------|--|------------|
| <u>ARY OSIS</u> | Born - Brightstone, Man.                        | 1919                |  |            |
|                 | Married <u>August Osis</u>                      | Bird River, Man.    |  |            |
|                 | Co-owner Osis Building Supplies - Lac du Bonnet |                     |  |            |
|                 | Children:                                       |                     |  |            |
|                 | Gale Apsit                                      | Lac du Bonnet, Man. |  | 3 children |
|                 | Bud Osis  | Powerview, Man.     |  | 2 children |
|                 | Gilbert Osis                                    | Lac du Bonnet, Man. |  | 1 child    |

|                      |                                   |                     |  |            |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|--|------------|
| <u>CHOLAS SOROKA</u> | Born - Brightstone, Man.          | 1920                |  |            |
|                      | Married <u>Stella Lazechko</u>    | Winnipeg, Man.      |  |            |
|                      | Retired Owner - Prairie Aggregate |                     |  |            |
|                      | Lives in Lac du Bonnet, Man.      |                     |  |            |
|                      | Children:                         |                     |  |            |
|                      | Evelyn Funk                       | Winnipeg, Man.      |  | 2 children |
|                      | Linda Sorenson                    | Gladstone, Man.     |  |            |
|                      | Kathy Cook                        | Winnipeg, Man.      |  | 1 child    |
|                      | Diana Soroka                      | Lac du Bonnet, Man. |  |            |

SOROKA Descendents

|                       |                                  |                       |   |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| <u>MICHAEL SOROKA</u> | Born - Brightstone, Man.         | 1922                  |   |
|                       | Married <u>Minnie Schuman</u>    |                       | Poplar Bay, Man. No children<br>Died - Toronto, Ont. 1960 |
| <u>MILDRED SMITH</u>  | Born - Brightstone, Man.         | 1924                  |   |
|                       | Married <u>Jack Smith</u>        |                       | Winnipeg, Man.  |
|                       | Clerk/Typist                     | Provincial Government |   |
|                       | Children:                        |                       |   |
|                       | Marilyn Gregoire                 |                       | Winnipeg, Man.  |
|                       | Maureen Smith                    |                       | Ottawa, Ont.  |
|                       | Leonard Smith                    |                       | Winnipeg, Manitoba  |
| <u>BABY BOY</u>       | Born - Brightstone, Man.         | 1925                  | Stillborn   |
| <u>JOSEPH SOROKA</u>  | Born - Brightstone, Man.         | 1926                  | 1926  |
|                       | Married <u>Olga Lazechko</u>     |                       | Winnipeg, Man.  |
|                       | Mining Superintendent            |                       |   |
|                       | Children:                        |                       |   |
|                       | Ellen Bruchanski                 |                       | Lac du Bonnet, Man. 4 children                            |
|                       | Gary Soroka                      |                       | Winnipeg, Man. 1 child                                    |
| <u>MARTHA ZARECKI</u> | Born - Winnipeg, Man.            | 1927                  |   |
|                       | Married <u>Walter Zarecki</u>    |                       | Springwell, Man.  |
|                       | Clerk - Osis Building Supplies   |                       |   |
|                       | Children:                        |                       |   |
|                       | Clifford Zarecki                 |                       | Pinawa, Man. 1 child                                      |
|                       | <u>Adopted</u>                   |                       |   |
|                       | Adelaird Zarecki                 |                       | Calgary, Alta.  |
|                       | Gerard Zarecki                   |                       | Lac du Bonnet, Man. 1 child                               |
|                       | Tommy Zarecki                    |                       | Lac du Bonnet, Man.                                       |
| <u>EMIL SOROKA</u>    | Born - Winnipeg, Man.            | 1928                  |   |
|                       | Married <u>Audrey Larson</u>     |                       | Lac du Bonnet, Man.                                       |
|                       | Moved to Kalamazoo, Mich.        |                       |   |
|                       | Children:                        |                       |   |
|                       | Glen Soroka                      |                       |   |
|                       | Michele Soroka                   |                       | 1969  |
|                       | Crystal Soroka                   |                       |   |
|                       | Janine Soroka                    |                       | Family all died in car accident                           |
| <u>OLGA CAMPBELL</u>  | Born - Brightstone, Man.         | 1932                  |   |
|                       | Married <u>Lawrence Campbell</u> |                       | Lac du Bonnet, Man.                                       |
|                       | Co-owner Campbell Corner Store   |                       |   |
|                       | Children:                        |                       |   |
|                       | Richard Campbell                 |                       | Thompson, Man. 1 child                                    |
|                       | Jack Campbell                    |                       | Winnipeg, Man.  |
|                       | William Campbell                 |                       | Lac du Bonnet, Man.                                       |
|                       | Laurie Campbell                  |                       | Lac du Bonnet, Man.                                       |

SOROKA Descendents

|                         |                                  |                |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| <u>ANNIE WAKSHINSKI</u> | Born - Brightstone, Man.         | 1934           |
|                         | Married <u>George Wakshinski</u> | Winnipeg, Man. |
|                         | Owner - Ceramic Studio           |                |
|                         | Children:                        |                |
|                         | Barbara Wakshinski               | Winnipeg, Man. |
|                         | Joan Wakshinski                  | Winnipeg, Man. |
|                         | Susan Wakshinski                 | Winnipeg, Man. |

Submitted by Olga Campbell

When war broke out between Great Britain and the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1914, the Ukrainians were declared enemy aliens and forbidden to work in vital areas. With the loss of Alex's job with the railway, the families knew they could not survive in the city. A homestead seemed the only solution. They obtained two ¼ sections of land side by side in Brightstone, Manitoba and proceeded to put their lives in order again.

Nazarko and Anastasia did not farm exclusively as they were getting on in years and breaking virgin land was too difficult a task. They had a garden and their own livestock for food and since their family were grown and away from home, their needs were few.

Anastasia had trained in herbal medicine and midwifery in Galicia. Since Brightstone was still a wilderness and a doctor impossible to reach, she now turned her knowledge to help the community. The supply of roots and herbs was plentiful and she spent many hours brewing the herbal teas and making salves and poultices to help relieve the suffering of the sick. She also delivered most of the area babies from the mid-Twenties to the early Forties.

Nazarko was able to earn extra money by repairing the shoes for the homesteaders and their children.

They spent their latter years content and happy watching their children slowly prosper and raise their children in peace.

Alex's and Anna's first home in Brightstone was a one room plastered hut with a lean-to for the kitchen. The children's beds were built high off the floor, manger style, to protect them from drafts. They cleared enough land the first year for a garden and enough wheat for their supply of flour for the winter. After the crops were in Anna stayed home with the children and continued clearing what little of the land she could with the help of her two young sons.

Alex walked to Pinawa and got a job helping to build the Hydro Power Plant which was the first power plant in Manitoba. The money he earned went toward a pair of oxen and a plow and this

was indeed a great cause for rejoicing. He also worked at Shoal Lake laying the water line which supplies Winnipeg to the present day. He continued working at any job he could find, sometimes walking as far as Fort William. Every cent he could spare was used for things he needed on the homestead, if he was to make it a success. Summers were spent clearing more land and sowing more crops. This way of life continued for ten years before the homestead was producing enough to support the family without outside income.

In 1922 they built a big two-storey house as their first home was much too small to house the parents and six children. Although the new house was quite simple, it seemed like a mansion after the cramped quarters they were in. They raised thirteen children with comfort in their new home.

They continued to make progress, but slowly, as they did not have the money for the machines needed to lighten their load. As the children grew and lent a helping hand, the homestead became a place of much laughter and good times. The parents were loving and caring people and took great pride in their family and their accomplishments.

The Ukrainian Holy Holidays were strictly observed. All the homesteaders of that area had worked together and built a church and school. Now they set about the task of seeing that their children would have the opportunity for an education, a privilege that had been denied the parents in their youth.

In 1926, most of the farmers had machines and horses. They turned their attention to the improvement of their community. They built the roads they so badly needed to link them with other villages. A priest was brought in once every month to conduct church services and add to the childrens' religious training which up until now had been the responsibility of the parents and grandparents.

They surveyed the district with a personal pride, knowing that they had walked in with their bare hands and a few crude tools a few years back and had transformed a wilderness into a thriving and happy community. They passed this pride onto

their children, always reminding them that only in Canada was such freedom possible.

Anna died in 1954 and Alex shortly after her. They were buried from the little church that Alex had help build and where both had worshipped at these many years. As the funeral procession passed the school, their passing was marked by the flag at half mast.

The country they had so loved returned that love by recognizing that they were not aliens but beloved and valuable citizens.

Mildred Smith (nee Soroka)

## MEMORIES OF BY-GONE DAYS

written by J. Stanko

My parents immigrated from the Ukraine to Canada in 1905. Settled in Brokenhead District on a 40 acre farm, was not much, but that's all they could afford, having four children to feed and themselves. Those days a dollar was a lot of money, you had to work all day to earn it, which was work. Nobody new about a coffee break, you just had to move around all day more or less. It was staked out how much you were to do, if you did not want to they had no problem replacing you — there was always someone waiting for your job, there was no unemployment insurance, you just had to work to earn that piece of bread or starve to death. You had that sort of a choice.

My parents, after living a few years in Brokenhead, decided to move out with a few other people, mostly from the same village they lived in in the old country. They had learned that the government had surveyed some land 25 miles further east, giving away as a homestead farm 160 acres for \$10.00. So a few men got together, hitched up an oxen team to the wagon, packed enough grub to last them for a week. If they found the place quite satisfactory, they would put up a few camps to have some sort of shelter when they moved in, as there were women with small children. At the start, five families moved in, but after a year the whole area was taken up. They built their camps wherever they found some dry spot on their farm. Most of the camps were put up so you would have a neighbor across the road. It was just a blazed trail, but anyway they knew the road was going to be there someday.

Let's go back to the history when the winter rolled in, pretty near everyone had an oxtteam, probably a couple of cows to have a supply of milk for the family, and the only way to make a living was to cut cordwood. Those days everybody was burning wood to heat their homes. It took one day to go out into bush to cut a cord of wood and bring it to wherever you lived, and the next day you

would take it to town to get \$4.00 for dry tamarac. That was in trade for groceries. The storekeepers were buying up most of the wood and reselling it to the wood yards in the city. Every time you sold a cord of wood, you would bring some groceries home and stock yourself up with heavy things. Stuff that would keep through the summer months, such as flour, sugar, rice, etc. You would bring it home before the snow melted; after that you had to walk on foot, crossing a three mile swamp. In some places the water was up to your waist. No wonder the old timers complain of having arthritis. And another thing, driving an ox team in 30 below weather, that was no picnic either. Some had as far as 12 miles, I remember those ox teams well. We lived pretty well the last house towards town and all those ox teams would pass by our place. Some days it would be up to 30 teams.

After a couple of years things started to pick up a bit. Folks around got together, held a meeting and applied for a post office. The government approved on that and asked them to pick a name for the place. They called it Brightstone and elected John Stanko for a postmaster. He would pick up the mail in town once a week, which served Brightstone and the area surrounding. He held that Post Office three years till his departure in 1944.

After that they put up a school. Brightstone's first school teacher was a young girl. Her name was Leona Gorecki. She happens to be my sister-in-law. I went to see her this fall; she and her husband live in Detroit. She is 86 years old, still has a very good memory of what Brightstone was in her young days.

To go into the city you had to get up 4 o'clock in the morning to catch the 7 o'clock train.

It was just a hard life living on farms those days, no comparison to what it is now. But as years went by things started to progress a bit, people sold the ox team for beef and bought horses which were a lot easier to handle and much faster. They started to build roads over that three mile swamp. They laid corduroy. It was a winter project and most of that wood was black poplar, 14 feet long, three inches on the thin end — sure took a lot of sticks to cover that three mile stretch. In the summertime a ditch was dug alongside the corduroy with manpower and it was piece work, paid by the yard. If you dug out 10 yards of peat moss and threw it over the corduroy you made yourself \$3.00 plus your own grub. It did not make a solid road, but at least your feet were dry when you got to town. That's how the 317 highway had a start, a rough start, but a smooth ending.

It was a slow hard go, building road with man and horse power, but that's how most of the roads got started. Until later years, Frank Waters bought a dragline which was the real thing for this coun-

try. He is no longer around, but he left a lot of memories of roads and drain ditches in and around the Lac du Bonnet area. The roads became more solid. On a dry day you could have used a car if you had one, but it was mostly horses, especially in the wintertime. But you had a hard time getting through with horses after a blizzard, there was no snow plows in those times. The place where the Hudson Bay store and the Municipal office is — that was the parking place through the day. It was full with horses and sleighs. There was a few other open spaces, but that one was the most convenient. Where the Lakeview Hotel is, Grandovsky Brothers had a store on that spot. Campbell had one where the drugstore is and J. D. McArthur had one on the corner of First Street and Lake Avenue. It used to be a brick building, but after the fire it was remodeled to a different style. There was a brick factory in Lac du Bonnet at one time. It was some place in the area where E. Lavoie Cement and Gravel is now.

The first C.P.R. Station was on the place where the elevators are. It was half a mile away from town, not too convenient for the passengers, but there were two livery teams of horses in town. Paul Swetz and Bill Halliday each had a team. Bill Halliday, most of his trips, was taking people out to the country. Paul Swetz was a handyman around town. During the day he would haul water for the town folks and saw wood, evenings he would go and meet the 8 o'clock train and pick the passengers up, bringing them into town. There was a few rooming houses where you could spend the night.

It took a long time to get anywhere, but in those days somehow people were not in that big of a rush. Even Sundays are different now to what they use to be. They favored it as a Lord's day, but not any more. Some are a lot busier on a Sunday than they are through the weekday, with all modern equipment, and yet don't seem to catch up in these modern times. Years ago it was all hand power. If you lived on the farm, kept a few cows, you would have a supply of butter and milk for your own need, the rest you would sell. At the start there was no cream separators. After milking the cows you would put it into a container, tie the container to a rope and let it down into your well, that was your fridge. The milk had to stay there for about eight hours. It would separate, the milk from the cream, then you picked the cream off and made butter, which you sold to the store for 10¢ a pound; eggs were 15¢ a dozen. Most of this work was done by a housewife, besides cooking three meals a day, washing clothes by hand and pretty well in every home there was a large family. Some had as much as 14 children to look after. Besides that she would help with the field work. I don't recall knowing any

women having a nervous breakdown. In those days, lots I knew were weak and tired towards the end of the day. I don't think too many would want to live that life over again.

But nature works in some sort of way and has its beauty and sadness. Anyway, for all those in the age of 70 and over, I wish them well. They had more downs than ups if anything.

## DAN AND ROSIE SYDORKO

Dan Sydorko emigrated May 6th, 1916 from Rawa Ruska, Galicia and Rosie came from Primyshel, Galicia. They settled on a farm at Brightstone. They travelled by ship and train to reach their destination. They built a log house and proceeded to work the land. Many hardships were experienced and worked long hours to eke out a living. The land had to be cleared and they hunted for some of their food. With others in the district, they had a social life too, with weddings and parties. The Village of Lac du Bonnet was nine miles away and that was where the closest doctor lived. Only dirt roads; and summer travel was with horses and a wagon and in winter a sleigh drawn by horses. The children went to Brightstone school and had to walk two miles. The community helped one another putting up buildings and at threshing time, also in time of need.

Dan and Rosie had nine children and they are:

Sophie — married Mike Pertson and died in 1976.

Bertha — married Dan Malyk, lives in Lucan, Ontario. They are upholsterers.

Catherine — married Romeo Nadeau, lives in London, Ontario. Works for Western University.

Anne — married Michael Hugar, lives in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Mike — married Marj. Scott, lives in London, Ontario and owns a new and used furniture store.

Steve — married Elsa Boland and lives in Lac du Bonnet. Owners of a dairy bar.

Jean — married Jim Jones, lives in London, Ontario and is in the decorating business.

Mary — married Gerry Okrainec and lives in Brightstone, Manitoba.

Millie — married John Hiebert and lives in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Dan Sydorko died November 24th, 1953. Rosie (formerly Andrew Kost's sister) died May 26th, 1977.

Submitted by Bertha Malyk  
Lucan, Ontario



## THE SZMERSKI FAMILY

Ignace Szmerski married Mary Olynyk on August 15th, 1921. They both were born in Skalot, Poland, USSR. They came to Canada on the SS Montrose and landed in Quebec on April 1930. They moved immediately to Brightstone, Manitoba. They homesteaded and Ignace made his living with bush work. They had eight children.

Sophia died at the age of 3 in Poland (1925).

Myroslawa married Andrew Maslo. They have two daughters and two sons. (Leslie, Marie, Nickolas, Ola.) They all reside in Skalot, USSR, Poland.

Ann married Orval Hynds, formerly of New Liskard, Ontario. They have one daughter Kathy and one son Curtis. Kathy married Al Mackay. They all reside in Kincardine, Ontario.

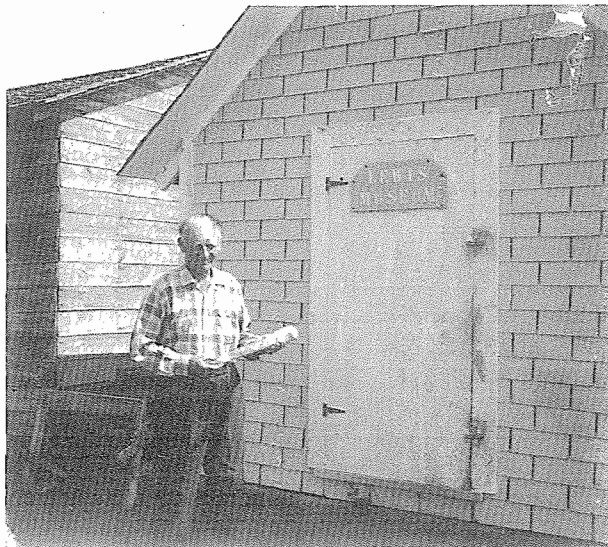
Joe married Velma Cosens of Gunton, Manitoba. They have two sons, Alan and Dennis, and one daughter Louise. They all reside in Lac du Bonnet.

Stanley married Rosalie Hirst of Riverton. They have two daughters, Shelly and Colleen, and one son Lorne. Lorne married Patsy Bonekamp and have two children (Jamie Patricia and Clayton Stanley).

Walter married Dianne Hedin. They have two daughters, Trina and Marni. They all reside in Lac du Bonnet.

Teddy and Paul are not married and live in Lac du Bonnet.

They moved to Lac du Bonnet in 1942. Ignace at this time was working on the CP tracks till he retired in 1961. Mary was deceased on May 31, 1977. Ignace still resides in Lac du Bonnet.



Lewis Wojciechowski at his Natural History Museum, July 1979.

## LEWIS WOJCIECHOWSKI

**Question:** Why did you start your museum?

**Answer:** Twas on September 11th, 1948 that my brother was ploughing a field and I followed the plough and I came upon a stone and of course the other bone object that later proved to be a fibula of an elephant and while that was my first find of an ancient artifact and thereafter I started collecting some arrowheads and well it amounted to 468 arrows and pottery and scrapers and other artifacts of Indian origin and thereafter I thought I needed a little building to house it

**Q:** What happened to the bone?

**A:** Well the bone was, nobody knew what the bone was, but it looked a little bit odd for an ordinary animal of the present day and I took it to the museum in Manitoba, to Mr. Norris Healey who then was in the Manitoba Museum and he did not know from what animal it came from so he sent it to Ottawa to the National Museum and there paelentologists identified it as a fibula of a mammoth or masterdon, thereafter they made a copy of it and sent it to the United States National Museum, the Smithsonian Institute and it was verified that it was of the extinct animal.

**Q:** Is that the first thing you found, Lewis, that got you interested?

**A:** Yea, it was my first artifact found, thereafter my interest grew. Dr. Leachman from the National Museum was here a year right away soon after in May and he told me that well you found that there must be other material here of Indian origin so the only thing is that it had been so far away from a big body of water like the Winnipeg River or the Brokenhead River and I'm just half-way between. The bone implement was about 8" or it would be the bottom of the bone would be about 10" deep in the soil. It had been broken into three pieces and it had never been touched except maybe by the steel lugs of a tractor which made it to be broken into three pieces. The only damage done by the plough share was about four inches long and about 1/8" deep, otherwise it is a complete artifact and maybe a slight tip at the very end which I just ignored it and left it in the ground. I did dig the rafter but I found nothing close by and I thought anything could be deeper down, I did take a post auger and drill the hole but there was nothing.

**Q:** What else have you besides the arrowheads and the bone?

**A:** Well, there is nothing very much that could be, the pottery, 17 different pots of them was identified as being the first that was made in Manitoba, its about 2300 years old and some of the arrowheads or spear points are made of stone that is from North Dakota known as the Knife River

Flint or brown kilsiden, the others are made from chert and some quartz-like and there are some — I have seven of those type that are known as egg and bason type which are quite old, about 7,000 years old that would fit in with the mammoth bone because they tell us that mammoths were here in Manitoba up to the ice age.

Q: Don't you have some rock there, is that native rock or is that stuff that.

A: There is a lot of rock that I have, but its not worth anything, I'm looking for only artifacts.

Q: When did your mother and father come from the old country and where did they come from?

A: My parents came from what was known as Austria, around 1904 or 1905, my father came, my parents got married in Winnipeg in 1907 and they lived in Winnipeg for a year and then they disliked it or something so they went and lived in Ladywood, I believe for a year or two and then after the 40 acres was too small so they thought of looking for a homestead and that's when they arrived here in Lac du Bonnet Municipality in what is known as the Brightstone district in 1911, they travelled in March because there was no means of travelling in the summer because it was all bog or swamp.

And somehow or other nobody was interested in any of those artifacts here there is only one farmer that has a stone hammer, but that's about all that I know.

Q: How many children did your mother and father have?

A: My mother and father had a balanced family, there were five boys and five girls, but there were only nine that lived, because one died before I was born, she died in early 1885.

Q: Who was the oldest, you or Josie?

A: Sophie was the oldest. Sophie, Josie, Eddie, Louie, Ruddy, Francis, Boddie, Laura, David and Henry, the last, so that should equal 10. Laura is the youngest. Father died in 1928, Rudolph died in 1929, now only five left, Eddy older than I and Bea and Laura and Henry.

Q: So you still live on the original homestead?

A: Yes.

Q: What can you think of in the way of stories that your parents told about when you went to school? You all went to Red Deer School, what sort of adventures did you have?

A: Nothing, adventures for myself, I think that finding the bone was the most important thing in my life and except for staying at Manitoba Sanitorium as a patient in 1929 and 1930 so I thought that was the happiest days of my life, otherwise I led a quiet life.

Q: Your father and Rudolph were in the San too?

A: No, no, father died, apparently of a heart attack. Rudolph was the only one, because Ru was there they examined all of us and I had no bugs or anything but they thought it was a good place for me to be because being a large family and my mother being widowed, so it was decided to take one of us away.

Q: What kind of amusement did you have when you were young?

A: No, I didn't have any, I was a quiet fellow, I didn't go to dances.

Q: I mean all of you.

A: No we didn't associate because on account of here being a communist-oriented district so we didn't have no place. When father was alive it was good because father talked back, but we are all you know, everybody belonged to that United Front the Communist Party or so they tell us so we had a quiet life. Father liked his happy days. Father was a happy man, he took everybody to the weddings and everything when they were horse drawn. He took everybody no matter who it was. Father had the first horses in the district 1913.

Q: Now, you see that's interesting, if he had the first horses because for many years no one had anything but oxen.

A: Some of them had oxen up till about 1924, 1926 to 1927.

Q: Do you remember any stories that your mother and father told about the early days here.

A: Father couldn't have told of much because he didn't stay while we were young, but mother had told us lots of stories. When she worked at that hotel, the Empire Hotel she thought it was the best years of her life, she thought it was biggest most important hotel called the CN station and we took her once there a few years before she passed away and she thought, why it looks so small.

Q: What did your dad do when he first came here, what did he work at?

A: Well, he was from the old land, he was taught to be a cooper, making of barrels, so he had a hard time here because everybody was having barrels here for sauerkraut, for pickled fish? and when the barrel would fly apart everybody says they can't fix it got to get it to Wojciekowski's because he knows how to put them together, they'd kind-of listen to him, he puts one, he knows how to, what makes it, take a bullrushes to put between the staves of a leaky barrel, or he'd get barrels apart and then bring them all broken up to pieces.

Q: That was an important trade years ago.

A: But otherwise well there is nothing, he just farmed.

Q: When was this house built?

A: This was built in 1926, its not the original, the original was over there.

# Brookfield

## BALNESS — CHRISTOPHER AND CATHERINE

In 1927, at the age of twenty, Christopher Balness left Norway for Canada. In Winnipeg he met and married Catherine Sloan who had left her home in Scotland in the year 1926 when she was 21 years of age.

They lived in Winnipeg in the early 1930s, living as best they could on the few jobs that were available and renting rooms in different parts of the city.

Their first three children, James, Eli and Christian were born in Winnipeg.

In 1936, they moved to Lac du Bonnet where they settled on a rented farm in the Brookfield area approximately nine miles from the village of Lac du Bonnet. They lived there for the next six years making their living from farming, wood cutting, carpentry and going out west with threshing crews.

The next two children, Marian and George, were born here. They then moved to another farm approximately a mile away where they lived for about a year. From there they moved to what they fondly called the muskeg. Here you took off your shoes and socks at the road and splashed through the mud and water up to the old log shack.

Here you could pick frogs by the pailful only to be told to "take those frogs and dump them in the ditch along the road."

While in this last home their last two children, Gerald and Howard, were born. The children were all born in Winnipeg hospitals.

School was attended in Brookfield where everyone walked to school. The first home was a mile and a half from school, the last home three miles. When it was time to go to high school the walk was one mile longer and Lac du Bonnet was the school attended.

In the winter the horses and sleigh were the mode of transportation, but in the summer shanks ponies did the work. Finally, at about fifteen years of age, James got a bicycle. Many a little weasel went towards this purchase.

Memories of Christmas concerts and school picnics are fondly remembered. At the end of every school year a picnic was looked forward to.

**James** went north to Bathurst Inlet with the Hudson Bay Co. for a few years, returned to civilization, took up teaching, married Martha Middlestead and they now reside in Winnipeg. They have two children, Craig and Becky (Rebecca).

**Eli** married Robert Tinant, settled on a farm in the Lac du Bonnet area, three miles from town and they are still farming. They have no children.

**Chris**, after doing a bit of travelling about the country, married Netta Hatland and settled two miles south of Lac du Bonnet. He is employed by Atomic Energy of Canada and works in the warehouse. They have three boys.

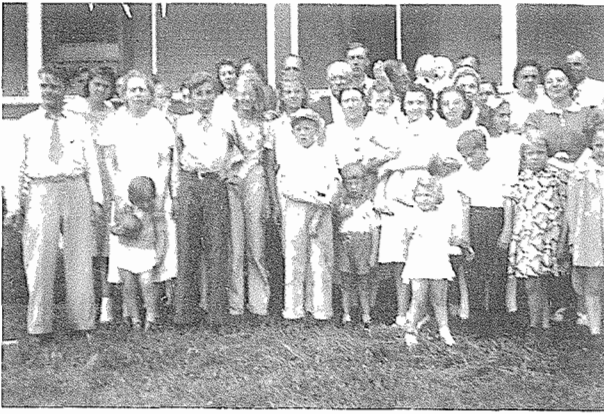
**Marian** took up teaching, married Peter Burchuk, who worked for Dominion Stores; they now own two stores of their own. Even though they live in Winnipeg, someone has to spend the day in Stonewall. They have three children: Shannon, Robert, and Elanna.

**George** had a variety of jobs, one which took him to Africa. He married Mary Ann Noel and they settled in the Seven Sisters area. He was a trucker at the time of his death in 1976. They have four children: Duane, Lyle, Kimberly and Sherri-Lynn.

**Gerald** joined the air force, came back to civilian life and got his papers as an electrician. He married Evelyn Bendereiter and they now reside on a farm four and a half miles from the village of Lac du Bonnet. They have two children: Jeffrey and Vicki.

**Howard** became a mechanical technologist and is employed by Atomic Energy of Canada. He married Elizabeth (Betty) Davidson and they live approximately three miles from Lac du Bonnet, along the Pine Falls Highway. They have two children, Nicole and Jarrat.

Submitted by  
Eli Tinant



Bloomquist family, 1940.

## JACOB F. AND CLARA M. BLOOMQUIST

Left Gotenborg, Sweden, on the 9th of July, 1913, by way of steamer for Liverpool, England. Left Liverpool on the liner Empress of Ireland on the 11th of July. Arrived in Quebec City, July 18.

Travelling steerage with a family of 10 children was no mean task in those days and it must have been with a sense of relief when they saw land. Another wearying trip lay ahead as they boarded the train for Winnipeg. Stayed in Winnipeg for four years where Mr. Bloomquist worked as a carpenter. He also took a homestead in the wilderness, eight miles south of Lac du Bonnet, which in later years became known as Brookfield S. D. No. 2052. In the middle of this homestead was an outcropping where blueberries grew in abundance and is now the location of the Cold Spring Granite Quarry.

Moving out to the homestead in 1917 to a two room log cabin with a small one roomer providing overflow bedroom space would have daunted anyone but a hardy pioneer.

The Winnipeg River was the only link with town in the summer but once the muskeg froze in the winter a fair road could be built only to lose it with the spring thaw. Almost complete isolation was the result for long periods every spring and fall. The first car to enter our yard was in 1929 — twelve long years after moving to the homestead. The road would have been a challenge to the modern four wheeler.

To survive those early days took great strength and good management. The land had to be cleared tree by tree, root by root, first by hand and then later by the doubtful help of three oxen. It was slow and painful going but gradually there was room for a garden and then a few fields for hay and grain. Cutting hay in the sloughs with a scythe isn't one of the pleasant memories with the mosquitoes trying to eat you up or meeting a swarm of wasps intent on defending their territory.

The menu was wholesome if not too varied at

times. The garden supplied a variety of vegetables, the river had fish and the forest provided meat — if one was a good shot.

When one of the lads tangled with the mower and got badly cut up it took six hours to get Doc. Woods up to the house and he performed the necessary operation on the kitchen table with a coal-oil lamp for light and a couple of scared teenagers as assistants. It didn't pay to get sick or hurt those days.

The first school was held in the home of one of the first settlers of the area but finally a real school was built and the area got a real name of its own, Brookfield S. D. No. 2052.

The Bloomquist family. Ages are as of year of entry into Canada.

Fritz, age 16. Married Alice Arnett of Deloraine, Manitoba. Retired, living in Vancouver, B. C.

Axel, age 15. Married Nannie Soderholm of Riverland. Homesteaded on the Lee River and still living there.

Annie, age 13. Deceased 1919.

Beda, age 11. Married Martin Nicholson of Brookfield. Retired, living in Winnipeg, Man.

Evelyn, age 9. Married Victor Spitzer of Winnipeg, Manitoba. Retired, living in Vancouver, B.C.

Eric, age 8. Married Stella Spitzer of Winnipeg, Manitoba. Retired, living in Victoria, B.C.

Gunda, age 6. Married Edgar Archer of Winnipeg, Manitoba. Retired, living in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Theodore, age 4. Married Elizabeth Wallace of Winnipeg, Manitoba. Deceased 1948.

Nancy, age 2. Married Henry Steele of Ladysmith, B. C. Retired, living in Ladysmith, B. C.

Charles, age 1. Married Evelyn Stewart of Courtney, B. C. Retired, living in Nanaimo, B. C.

Submitted by  
Charles E. Bloomquist,



First Bloomquist home, 1917.

## ERIC BLOOMQUIST

My father, Jacob Ferdinand Bloomquist came to Canada from Sweden in the year 1911 leaving his family to follow when he had a home ready for them. He had worked as a millwright in a lumber mill for many years but wanted to get on the land.

From 1911 to 1913, he worked in Winnipeg on building construction, and as well, built a house for his family. In July 1913, he sent for his wife and children, five boys and five girls. For three and a half years five children went to school, quickly picking up English. The World War started in 1914, stopped all construction and my father filed for a homestead, and chose a site eight miles south of Lac du Bonnet, much like his native Sweden. During the winters of the following two years, he spent many months building a log cabin or camp in which he lived while building a family house.

Built near the bank of the free flowing creek, it proved to be an ideal location. The house was carefully built of hewn logs of spruce, mitred at the corners with a gable roof and cedar shingles. It had two large rooms, which with the separate camp, served well until two rooms were added later.

March 1917, the five younger children and their parents took the train to Lac du Bonnet, while the four older children who had found work in Winnipeg stayed.

Arriving at Lac du Bonnet, our furniture and belongings were freighted by rented horse drawn sleighs, which was an eight mile drive to our new home.

The land surrounding the house had been cleared, and in the spring of the year, grub hoes and axes were used to prepare the land for planting our first garden of potatoes and vegetables. Later about nine acres of scrub land was cleared and ploughed and planted with winter rye and barley. The following year three oxen were purchased with money my father earned during the winter.

Food was no problem as the Winnipeg River was just three-quarters of a mile from our house, provided us with fish. We feasted on sturgeon, goldeyes and pickerel and fresh vegetables from the garden, and in the summer and fall blueberries, plum, raspberry and many other wild berries were found everywhere. We built a small smoke house and smoked sturgeon and goldeyes and salted goldeyes for the winter. Deer and partridges were plentiful, and we canned and dried enough for our needs until we raised chickens and could afford to slaughter a calf occasionally. My mother soon had raised a large flock of chickens, providing us with eggs to eat and to sell.

Blueberries grew in profusion on the twenty acre granite rock on our property, and wild plums,

mossberries, strawberries, raspberries, etc. grew everywhere which my mother made into jams and preserves for the winters.

We bought very little at the store, just flour, coffee, tea, sugar, yeast, etc. Money was scarce but we were soon able to buy a cow, and gradually raised a herd of five milkers. Cream, butter and eggs were sold in Lac du Bonnet. A cold water spring found near the house was piped into the basement and provided some refrigeration for those products until they were taken by rowboat to town. In the early days a homemade boat was the only means of transportation as roads were impassable through the swamp except in the winter.

At the first heavy snow and freezing weather the men in the area gathered to tramp the road down. They made wooden frames, about a foot square tied to their rubber boots to press the snow down which allowed the frost to freeze the water and moss underneath forming a hard road for oxen and horses to travel on.

The first school was held in Carl Gustafson's house in 1920. The large room was fitted up with small desks for the fourteen or so children who walked up to two miles to attend. An adjoining room served as a bedroom for the teacher and his wife. Their name was Mr. and Mrs. James Hercus.

The name Brookfield was given to the district by the school inspector on his first visit.

Life was hard for us but rewarding. My father had many skills and put them to good use. We often said he could do anything from making potato flour to building a shingle mill. It was powered by an ox walking around. He made many of his own tools and equipment. Deerskins and calf were tanned to soft leather which he made into gloves and shoe packs and other items.

The children made their own fun mostly meeting our neighbors for baseball or football and little parties and later when the school house was built we frequently held dances there, music provided by a young fellow from Whitemouth playing an accordion. The school became the center of many activities.

The red granite rock on our property was a playground for us and the neighbouring children. Mr. Ivor Peterson did some quarrying on the rock, finishing and selling blocks of granite for tombstones in Winnipeg. Later Eric and Ted took over the business but sold the lease after Ted's death in December 1946 to Coldstream Granite Company of St. Cloud, Minnesota.

In 1944, my father Jacob Bloomquist, retired to a little home in Riverland where he died at the age of seventy-eight years. My mother moved to Lac du Bonnet after his death. She took an active part in church activities until her death in 1964.

All the children stayed in Canada. Axel and



Charles served in the armed forces. All did well in their own field. Fritz retired from farming in Deloraine, Manitoba and now lives in Vancouver with his daughter. Axel, now retired from farming, still lives in the Old Pinawa area. Beda Nicholson, a widow, lives in Winnipeg; Evelyn Spitzer, a widow, lives in Vancouver, Gunda Archer now lives in Victoria, B. C. Ted was the owner of a chain of beauty parlors in Winnipeg. Nancy Steele, R. N., widowed, lives in Ladysmith, B. C. Charles, a building contractor, retired, lives in Nanaimo, B. C. and I, Eric, am retired, was a former senior dispatcher for Manitoba Hydro, now living in Victoria, B. C. (since deceased).

### **CARL AUGUST DAHLGREN FAMILY**

by Margaret Gustafson (daughter)

Carl August Dahlgren with his wife Martha Christina and their two daughters emigrated to Canada from Jämtland, Sweden in the spring of 1906.

They first settled in Wadena, Saskatchewan where Mother had a brother. Here in Wadena a third daughter was born to them.



Margaret Dahlgren on the occasion of her confirmation in Winnipeg.

In 1907 they moved to Winnipeg where Dad had a brother and sister-in-law, Oscar and Gunhild Dahlgren. Later that year they settled in Lac du Bonnet. They lived here for seven years and a fourth daughter was added to the family.

In 1915 we again made a move, this time to a farm in Brookfield, seven miles from Lac du Bonnet where we lived until Dad's death in June 1937.

Mother then moved to Winnipeg and the farm was sold in the middle forties.

Mother lived in Winnipeg for 20 years until her death in January 1957.

Their four daughters are: Margaret Gustafson, who has lived in Minaki, Ontario for over 40 years; Christine Jacobson, formerly of Eagle River, Ontario and Kenora, Ontario now resides in Winnipeg; Elsie Dahlgren has always been a Winnipeg resident, and Martha Anderson of Minnitaki, Ontario. (Margaret Gustafson since deceased).

### **"GUSTAFSON"**

#### **CARL O. AND BERET**

(First Pioneer Couple of Brookfield, S. D.)

Left his home at age 17 in the year 1899 from Vastergotland, Sweden. He went on to Nalden i Jamtland where he met Beret Larson of Sorli, Norway, where they married on December 4th, 1900. In the year 1907 he emigrated to Canada where he took up a "homestead" of 160 acres, six miles south of Lac du Bonnet, by the Winnipeg River, on Section 18, Township 14, Range 11. This district is known as Brookfield S.D. 2052. He obtained a job with the Winnipeg Electric Co. at Pinawa Channel, where he worked in the winter months until the year 1942.

In the summer of 1907 his wife and three small children came over by boat. Children were: son Emil of Minneapolis, U. S. A., deceased in 1975; daughter Gunilla Honke, now living in Surrey, B. C.; son Oskar of Brookfield, deceased in 1950. Their first child born in Canada died in infancy; son Victor, deceased in 1940; daughter Freda "Mrs. H. Shipper" of Winnipeg, Manitoba; daughter Emma "Mrs. A. Wilkinson" of Peterborough, Ontario, and son Eric of Brookfield S. D., Lac du Bonnet.

Their first home was made from logs chinked with moss and clay. They made brooms from hazel nut bushes and soap for the laundry from ashes and lye. They worked up the land by hand with grub hoe, later by oxen and then by horse and walking plow. They seeded the grain by hand, cut it by scythe, made the sheafs by hand and threshed it by flail. Also they cut hay by scythe in the sloughs for their first animals. The garden supplied

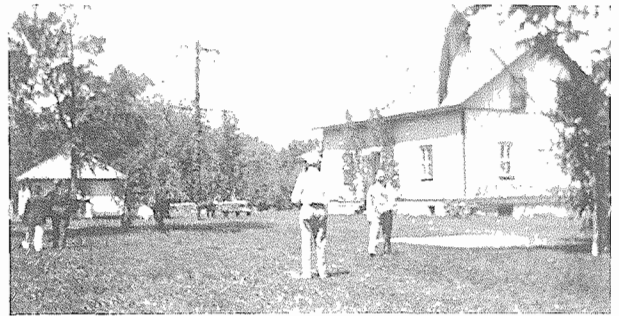
them with vegetables, the Winnipeg River supplied them with fish and they hunted in the winter, snaring rabbits which were plentiful. In summer the wild berries were in abundance so lots of jams and jellies were made. When they obtained some sheep, the wool was carded, rolled, and spun by spinning wheel into yarn for sweaters, socks and mitts for the cold winters.



Gustafson family. Back row, L-R: Oscar, Father, Mother, Victor, then Emma, Eric, Freda.



Do you remember? This photo was taken in 1918 on the Cold Spring Rock Quarry when pioneers of the Brookfield area held a picnic. From left to right are Mr. S. Edlund, J. F. Bloomquist, Mrs. Dahlgren, Mr. C. Gustafson holding Emma, Mrs. Clara Bloomquist, Mr. Lars Malmgren, Mrs. Hulda Malmgren, Mrs. Alfred Thornquist and Mrs. Ingborg Thornquist. Standing in front is Lily Malmgren.



Preparing for festival in 1935. The nine room log house is on the right. It was covered with siding in later years.



Swedish Folk Dancers



Swedish Choir

In winter the coyotes howled outside the cabin door and the moose sharpened their horns on the logs. They travelled six miles by rowboat up the Winnipeg River in summer to shop for groceries, supplies, and to get their mail at Lac du Bonnet. In winter, over frozen muskeg by foot or homemade skis. And this was the only means to get a doctor when needed. The mode of travel changed in 1927 when a road was built into the district.

In the year 1916 their first home burnt to the ground and all their belongings were lost including some things brought from Sweden and Norway. Only the barn and animals remained. So they had to build again. They started another log house with nine rooms with the help of two brothers who had come over in later years. One was John Gustafson who worked for two years with a threshing crew, later got work in Winnipeg at "Swifts", retired in 1956, and died in 1977. His other brother Eric Villander Gustafson lost his life while working at the Pinawa Channel in 1919. One sister (Edith) Mrs. B. Hives resides in Winnipeg.



Dad raking hay with homemade rake. Mom making hay the new way.

When this home was finished, one of the rooms became the first school they had in the district, and one room housed the school teacher (Mr. Coyle).

In 1922 the first school was built which was named "Brookfield School". Brookfield got its name from all the brooks and fields that were in the district. Some of the children had to travel up to one and a half miles to go to school. In bad weather the parents brought them by horse and sleigh. In this school the settlers had most of their entertainment with children's school concerts, dancing and whist drives. They also went as far as Riverland Hall, built in 1919, for dancing. But later the Brookfield Hall was built where all their activities were held.

A big event took place at the Gustafson farm when the Swedish Canadian League known as the "Svenska Forbundet" held one of their annual summer festivals in the year 1935. Members came from far and near to join the celebration. The highlights were the Swedish Folk Dancers and the Swedish Choir (Director Arthur Anderson of Winnipeg) who came by bus to attend. In the evening a dance followed in the loft of their big barn. This was called a "Barn Dance" in those days and was a great big success.

We are all proud of our ancestry and the inheritance left to us by the pioneers. May we work together to preserve our great heritage and contribute to the growth and betterment of Canada as our pioneers did.

Carl O.  
1883-1966

Beret  
1876-1966

Submitted by Mrs. H. Shipper  
"nee Freda Gustafson"

## LARS AND HILDA MALMGREN

written by Ina Larson nee Malmgren

My mother and father and three children came to Canada in May of 1913 and settled in Winnipeg and there our baby Lily was born and we remained there to 1917. Then we took up homestead south of Lac du Bonnet, eight miles south, which was later called Brookfield. My father and I and older brother Bror walked along the river shore and Mr. Hans Johnson who was the sole owner of a motor boat took my mother and the two youngest children Holger and Lily up to Houkers place which was half a mile before Gustafson's place where we arrived and stayed overnight. Mr. Gustafson took us to J. F. Bloomquists place which was three miles south. There we stayed about three weeks until our home was ready to move into.

My father and brother were here and started to put up the log house in the previous fall so there was a good start on our house which was two rooms heated by a cookstove and a Quebec heater. It kept us cosy and warm. It was fall and wood cutting was to begin for heat for the winter. We were now six in the family, my father Lars Malmgren, my mother Hulda Malmgren and



Malmgren's farm at Brookfield.



L-R — Nancy Bloomquist, Lily Malmgren, Edith Larson, Martha Dahlgren, Ina Malmgren, Ted Bloomquist, Charles Bloomquist.

children in successive age, Bror, Ina, Holger, and Lily. Our family led a good harmonious Christian life.

My father got work from Winnipeg Electric together with Mr Gustafson from here to work at Camp 6, which was situated about five miles south of the present town of Pinawa and was the control dam to divert the water to the old Pinawa power plant. The only way he could get home for a visit was by skiing on the ice on the river which was a trip of 10 miles each way so the visits were not too frequent, maybe two or three times during the winter. There was no school until the year of 1920. When a school was started at the home of C. Gustafson, the teacher was H. M. Hercus who was newly married when he and his wife arrived here. It was a pretty lonesome place for a newly married couple so they left after two months of teaching and Mr. E. B. Wiltse came to teach here. He stayed until end of the term in 1921. Mr. Coyle was our next teacher (unmarried) and only 17 years old and the school was later transferred over to John Erickson's house and Emil Gustafson and Hugh Coyle lived in a tent. All the children walked to school which for us was a walk of three miles each way, some on poles across the muskeg, and in 1922 a school was built and we started school in the new schoolhouse in the term of starting 1922 and 1923. Then Marie Holm was the teacher in our new school. The children skied and swam in the creek and our parents got together for coffee and occasional picnics on the rock where the quarry now is and sometimes we rowed up to an island in the fall where Seven Sisters power plant was built in 1929. In the summer of 1923 my



Top row — Violet Strand, Eli Haavisto, Rolf Larson, Emma Gustafson. Second row — Eric Gustafson, Linda Larson, Norman Strand, Alice Strand, taken December 1927 by James Philip - teacher, Brookfield School.



L-R: Mr. Dahlgren, Mrs. Balness, Mrs. Nicholson, Mrs. Strand, Mr. Charles Hammerback, Mrs. Thornquist, Mrs. Larson Sr., Mrs. H. Petersen, Elsie Dahlgren ? Emil Larson and children.

brother Bror lost his life in a canoe accident with Oscar Gustafson and Mr. Wiltse. Bror and Mr. Wiltse lost their lives and Oscar managed to save himself.

I was confirmed in the Anglican Church in 1925 by Bishop Dewdney, Rev. Broughton was the minister. In the winter we travelled with horse and sleigh and in the summer we rowed to Lac du Bonnet for confirmation class once a week. My brother Holger and I were confirmed at the same time, 26th of April, 1925.

Lac du Bonnet was our closest doctor, but nobody in the district was very much in need of the doctor as our district was very isolated. Nobody in the district of Brookfield contracted the Spanish flu which ravaged so savagely all over. However, in the year of 1934 my mother had a serious nose bleed and the Dr. Schepps from Lac du Bonnet was called, but passed out after walking through knee high snow for one mile to get to our place, but after awhile and a good cup of coffee he fixed my mother up and she lived for many years after that. My father passed away in 1951 and my mother in 1965.

I married Emil Larson in 1929 and we had five children, Lennart who lives at Riverland, Elizabeth lives in Old Pinawa, Audrey deceased, Roland of Calgary and Richard is living on our old homestead close to our own place. Lennart married Isabelle Zawistak, Elizabeth married Alvin Tyndall, Roland married Joan Peterson, Audrey married Emil Soroka and Richard married Yvonne Henley. Lennart, Elizabeth and Richard are still living with their families in Lac du Bonnet Municipality. I have 13 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren of which 13 are in Lac du Bonnet area. The rowboat is gone, the sleigh we pulled our groceries on is gone and the horse and sleigh are gone, we now have all the conveniences of modern times and hope to spend the rest of our days here.

signed "Ina Larson"





Sewing Club Achievement Day — "Ladies Aid", a play performed by: Edna Strand, Ellen Nicholson, Aileen Small, Edith Nicholson, Alice Strand, Dagmar Cederland.

### THE NICHOLSON FAMILY

My father, Martin Nicholson, immigrated from Sweden to Wisconsin, U. S. A. After some years there, he moved on to Winnipeg. There he met and married my mother, Beda Bloomquist who had also immigrated from Sweden with her parents, Jacob and Clara Bloomquist. In 1925 they bought the farm of Charlie Nordin, one of the first pioneers in Brookfield. They farmed there until 1949.

There were no roads into the district at that time, and transportation from Lac du Bonnet to their new home was via the Winnipeg River by boat. My father arrived in the spring and was followed a few months later by my mother and two babies under a year and three months old — I've often thought of the courage it must have taken to leave friends and comforts of the city to start a new life. I have the most intense admiration for my parents and all the pioneers of the district.

We all learned to work at an early age and to enjoy work for which I will always be grateful. Some of the things that stand out in my mind are: cutting ice blocks in the winter on the Winnipeg River to put in the ice house, well covered with sawdust, to provide the only refrigeration we had during the summer, canning meat for the summer months when it wasn't possible to keep fresh meat, and planting and weeding a huge garden which gave us not only fresh vegetables but plenty to can for winter. I remember picking berries and plums for preserves and picking and cooking rose hips after the first frost in the fall to make jelly and puddings. I didn't find out till many years later how rich in vitamin C they were.

I so well remember how anxiously we'd be watching the wooded area along the creek, which flowed through our farm, for sweet

crowsfoot blossoms and if we were really lucky, a few of those exquisitely beautiful early purple violets and lily of the valley to present to our Mother on Mother's Day morning.

I vaguely remember the excitement of the first road being built, which was great in dry weather but rather perilous when wet. Visitors arriving by car and getting caught by showers had to be accompanied by the trusty horse and chain till they arrived at the gravel road.

We had the advantage of being closest to the school and it was a very exciting time when we were old enough to attend. Spelling bees, school concerts, ball games at recess, noon hours and after supper when chores were done are all pleasant memories. We were all so fortunate to have such good teachers — Elinor Kronberg, Margaret Billson (later to become Mrs. Arthur Strand) and then Aileen Small. Being a large family, as we got to the higher elementary grades, the oldest would have to stay out a year to help at home and then turnabout with the next oldest.

My memories of Elinor Kronberg are vague but Margaret Billson is well remembered for giving us a thorough grounding in the three R's as well as a



Brookfield School, June 1936. Back row: left to right: Hans Cederlund, Edwin Strand, Edith Nicholson, Joyce Mathews, Edna Strand, Ellen Nicholson. Front row: Waldemar Schultz, Sandford Peterson, Lennart Larson, Gwen Mathews, Gladys Nicholson, Vera Seymour, Esther Schultz, Clara Nicholson.



Brookfield School, 1935





Margaret Billson, 1935

great love and knowledge of nature and the universe. I can still remember the scrapbooks of pressed and dried flowers and leaves, the nature hikes and learning to identify the stars, birds and animals. In 1945 Brookfield School won a prize in a competition held by the Manitoba Game and Fish Association on the subject "Preserving Our Heritage."

Aileen Small further enriched our lives with a love of reading and music. In addition to being our teacher for two years, she found time to form a club through the Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture that included not only the school girls, but also the older girls of the district. Through this club she taught us sewing and embroidery. Sing songs and hikes were a much loved and fun part of the program. On Achievement Day the girls put on a play called "Ladies Aid". It is interesting to note that some of the costumes were dresses of a bygone day belonging to Mrs. R. N. Campbell of Lac du Bonnet.

I remember the excitement of our class entering the music festival in Beausejour in May 1938 as a rural choir, under the direction of Aileen. When I think of it now, teaching a class to sing two festival pieces without even the assistance of a piano was a remarkable achievement.

These are but a few of the wonderfully rich memories of my years in Brookfield. I would like to pay tribute particularly to my parents, to my teachers, bless them, and to all the pioneers of the district. Some are no longer with us but their memory remains an inspiration to me. My father died in 1965. My mother lives in Winnipeg. Their eight children, of which I am the oldest, have given

her twenty-three grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren.

Edith married Bill Beattie and lives in Winnipeg — six children.

Clara married Norman McComb and lives in Abbotsford, B. C. — four children.

Gladys married Mike Kalomy and lives in Thunder Bay, Ontario

Eric married Norma Wurch and lives in Winnipeg — five children.

Marion married Irvin Wurch and lives in Dryden, Ontario — three children.

Harold married Joanne Pasaluko and lives in Winnipeg — two children.

Bert married Joyce Bell and lives in Winnipeg.

Myself, Ellen, married Ralph Smith and now live in Winnipeg — three children.

by Ellen Smith

#### MR. AND MRS. ALLAN OSTERMAN AND GUNNER OSTERMAN (son)

Mr. and Mrs. Allan Osterman with their three-year-old son Gunner arrived from Sweden in January 9, 1949 and arrived at the C.P.R. station at Lac du Bonnet in 30 below zero weather. Not dressed for that kind of weather and not being able to speak English we were very happy to be taken in hand by John Hammerstedt who spoke Swedish. He took us over to the Lakeview Hotel for the night. As our destination was to go to Ivor Peterson's place in Brookfield, Mrs. Peterson came to Lac du Bonnet the next morning to pick us up. At that time the municipal roads were not kept clear of snow in the winter, so were not open to traffic between Brookfield and Lac du Bonnet. Mrs. Peterson was able to get out to the No. 44 highway which was at that time No. 1 highway and around by Seddons corner and the Milner Ridge road to Lac du Bonnet.

We stayed with Ivor and Margit Peterson from January until May 1949 when we bought our own place in Brookfield. It was an old house and an old log barn and it was full of big rats and when we tore up the floor we were able to kill 70 rats right there and then.

Gunner started school in Brookfield in 1952. There was no gravel road and no school bus at that time. Except for a brief absence, Gunner went to school in Brookfield until grade 8 when the school bus system started and he finished his grade 11 at Lac du Bonnet high school.

Allan's first job here was at Seven Sisters power plant where he worked on construction of the new race way in 1949. It was hard to get work and a great change from the green house business that

Allan was accustomed to. To get to work in the winter, he borrowed a pair of skis and skied back and forth about two miles morning and evening on the river ice, but when spring came other plans had to be made and then he had to learn to row the boat and with a good will and lots of ambition it worked okay. Allan has now worked at the Cold Spring granite quarry since 1962 and was retired in 1969. Mr. and Mrs. Osterman are still residing in their house in Brookfield. Gunner was married to Henriette Wilcott from Powerview in 1965 and they have two children, Gail and Bradley and have their house on the south end of the property.

Submitted for publication by  
Elsa Osterman

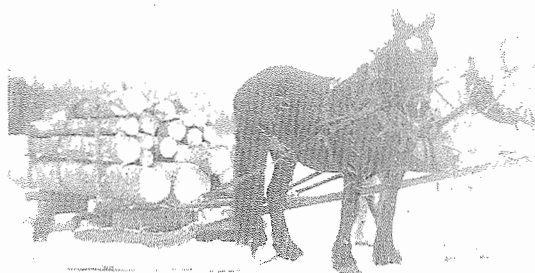
### HENRY PETERSEN FAMILY

Henry and Agnes moved from Tyndall, where Henry was born in 1905, to Lac du Bonnet in the Brookfield district in 1933. The family consisted of Henry and Agnes and three children, Sanford, Connie, and Sidney. Shelley was born in Brookfield 1938. Roads were bad, only mud in summer and snow in the winter, but the bread truck came through and if we needed the doctor or needed our teeth pulled we just hung our flag out at the road and Dr. Reid would call in on his way from Seven Sisters.

Henry worked for the Winnipeg Electric Co. at



Harvesting at Petersens.



Petersen's team.

Old Pinawa and at Manitoba Hydro at Seven Sisters and part time at the quarry in Brookfield. Also had cows, sheep, chickens, and farmed.

All the children walked to school about one and a half miles. Sanford is now married and lives in Brookfield. He married Helen Heinrichs of Herbert, Saskatchewan. They have four children, Louise, Barbara, Sylvia, Stuart. Times are different now — we have paved roads and school buses pick the children up almost at the door. We have telephone, electricity, running water, which were all a luxury our parents didn't have when they settled here. Connie is married to Bill Boyer and lives at Great Falls. They have eight children, Rory, Cathy, Billy, Danny, Craig, Susan, Timmy, Janice. Sidney married JoAnn Morrisseau, they have three children, Vern, Glenda, Dwayne, and live in Great Falls. Sheldon married Marlene Lofstrom from Lac du Bonnet, they have two children, Charlene and Kevin and live in Lac du Bonnet. Agnes passed away in 1970 and Henry in 1977.

Submitted for publication by  
Sanford Petersen

### FRED AND ELSIE SIEG AND DAUGHTER JEANIE

Fred Sieg and his wife Elsie and daughter Jeanie moved from a farm in what is now the Whiteshell Park, more specific, where the gate is to the park, and settled in Brookfield. We had a number of mink in the Whiteshell and we brought them with us to Brookfield. We had to move 125 mink and cages by boat to Seven Sisters and then to Brookfield by truck, where we built the rank up to 500 mink. As there was no electricity and no refrigeration our meat and perishables had to be stored at Manitoba Cold Storage in Winnipeg and brought out just enough for the week and kept in a large ice house that was stocked by cutting ice on the river in the winter and burying it in sawdust.



Bear in front of our door.

But when World War II broke out there was such demand for cold storage space for food, that there was no room for food for mink. So in 1943 we had to close the mink ranch and get rid of them.

When Fred was 16 he worked at Farmers Packers in St. Boniface and learned how to prime meat and make sausage and prepare other meats. This knowledge became very useful on the farm and now at 75, Fred feels he can still get a job in that profession.

Bears were plentiful and accompanying picture shows a bear that was shot just outside of the door of our log cabin home, after it had followed the horses and wagon home, as we had a piece of meat on the wagon. Sam Lucko was the boy who was driving the wagon. The bear was shot by Fred Sieg. After moving three times around the same property we are now living on the west side of No. 11 Highway.

Jeanie married Harry Olenski who was Reeve of the Lac du Bonnet municipality in the early 60's and is very well known. Harry and Jeanie have also settled in the Brookfield district.

Submitted for publication by  
Fred Sieg



Eric and Emelia Strand, 1946.

## ERIC AND EMELIA STRAND

Emelia Rosenholm, daughter of Roseanna and Gabriel Rosenholm left the Island of Aln  (off the east coast of Sweden at Sundsvall), and migrated to Winnipeg, Canada in May 1903.

Eric Strand, 21, son of Kerstin and Hans Olson left Orsa, Sweden and came to Winnipeg, Canada, the same year.

Eric and Emelia met in Winnipeg and were married in the Zion Swedish Lutheran Church, Logan and Fountain, in 1905.

They bought property in the town of Lac du Bonnet, where their first five children were born. Their house was located across from Sparman's Garage. Eric Strand was a carpenter by trade and built many of the buildings in the vicinity.

Emelia's mother and father, Gabriel Rosenholm and spouse later migrated to Canada. They resided on a farm on the north side of the No. 11 highway, at the intersection of the Brookfield Road.

In 1916, Eric and Emelia bought a quarter section of land in the Brookfield School district, seven miles from Lac du Bonnet. The land was densely wooded; with bears, coyotes, deer and other wild animals, not to forget the blackflies and mosquitoes in abundance. After clearing the homesite Eric built a hewed log cabin and barn and moved his family in. The district was totally farmed by Swedish immigrants.

Emelia and Eric had four more children.

It was a hard life. Eric went out to work as a builder while his wife and sons took care of the



Visiting day at the mink ranch.



Feeding the mink at Sieg's Ranch.



Eric and Emelia's farm, August 1941.

farm. There were no roads. The four miles to the No. 11 gravel highway was a trail through the swamp, impassable in the summer. The only means of transportation was by rowboat down the river. The Winnipeg River was treacherous and the boat would often be caught up in the current or whirlpool and spin round and round. The mile back through the woods carrying the provisions was not an easy task.

In the winter the roads were frozen, so travel to town was better as horses and sleighs could be used. Of course the weather was bitterly cold and the round trip was fourteen miles.

One time a neighbor rowed to Lac du Bonnet to purchase piglets and on his arrival back, left the piglets in a gunny sack on the river bank, while he enjoyed coffee with a neighbor nearby. When he returned to get the piglets, they had rolled down the bank and drowned in the river.

The nearest doctor and church were in the town of Lac du Bonnet.

The young folk would drive for miles in the winter to attend dances. Local entertainment usually consisted of whist drives at the various homes on Saturday evening.

After a mud road was constructed in the thirties, a community hall was built on the north-east corner of Eric Strand's property, which he donated for this purpose. Banquets, dances, concerts, and card parties were enjoyed at the Social Club by everyone in the district and surrounding areas.

In 1946 Eric and Emelia Strand sold their farm and moved to Winnipeg, where many of their children resided.

Emelia passed away in 1960 and Eric in 1972. They are buried in Glen Eden, North Winnipeg.

Their children and grandchildren are living all over Canada and the U. S. A.

Elsie, married Sam Seymour, a widow, Winnipeg, one daughter; Dagny, married Fred Warren, a widow, Winnipeg, one daughter, and one son; Walter, unmarried, Winnipeg; Arthur, (deceased 1944), married Margaret Billson, Gimli, Manitoba, one daughter; Violet, married Garnet Johnson, Winnipeg, one son; Norman, married Mildred Clarke, Toronto, two sons; Alice, married Adolph Scheibler, Dryden, two sons, two

daughters; Edna, married Charles Warren, Gimli, Manitoba, five sons; Edwin, married Margaret Ennis, Winnipeg, one daughter, three sons.

Submitted by:  
Edna M. Warren

## ALFRED AND INGEBORG THORNQUIST

This history is written by Margit Mager, daughter of the late Alfred and Ingeborg Thornquist. They emigrated from Stockholm, Sweden in the year 1916 with their hopes set on getting a piece of land all their own. We settled in Winnipeg at Morse Place, which was then pretty well out on the prairie. We stayed there for two years while we acquired a horse, a cow, one heifer and two calves and a bunch of chickens. In March, 1918 we started out for Lac du Bonnet to start life on a homestead. We came by train, me and my mother in the passenger car and my father in the boxcar together with our few belongings and the horse, cows, calves and chickens. We arrived at the CPR Station in Lac du Bonnet, which was a half a mile from Town at the time, at about 8 o'clock at



Pearl Carlson, taken on Second Street where the Hudson Bay Company store is now.



night and it was dark and cold. After father had fed the animals and seen to that they were okay we started walking to Lac du Bonnet. It was 10 o'clock p.m. before we got there but Granovskys Store on the corner of First Street and Park Avenue was still open and a dim coal oil lamp lit up the store so we went in there to ask directions. There was Bill Hammerstedt on duty and as my mother could not talk too good English she was really happy and felt welcome when Bill could speak Swedish to her. He directed us to Mrs. Ahlgren who was a widow, and lived on Second



Pearl Carlson, now Mrs. Pearl Warren. No doubt some of the Lac du Bonnet long-time residents will remember a horse drawn canvas-covered bus that carried the mail and passengers from their home to the station many years ago. The station was then located where the grain elevators now stand. The above picture was taken in 1924 on Second Street with this bus in the background. You can see part of the present drug store building. Seating capacity of this bus was eight passengers and they were picked up at their home in the morning and returned in the evening for the single fare of 25¢. In winter sleighs were installed. Saturday evening found many residents travelling to Riverland for the dance. The fare for this was not known.

Street and she took in roomers, mostly Swedes. She never charged anybody to sleep there or for coffee and buns but as each one got settled they brought her meat and milk and eggs and anything they could produce so it was quite a meeting place for the Swedes for many years. Next morning before we got ready to leave, Mr. Theodore Rosenholm from Riverland came there and he told us all about all the Swedes that lived there. We got the animals unloaded, hitched the horse onto the sleigh and loaded the chickens and calves and our most personal belongings onto it and tied the heifer and the horse. My mother and I walked behind with a little switch to keep the cow moving. As we started out west on Second Street Mrs. Eric Strand came out and when she found out where we were going she told us that her family were moving up there in a month. We landed that night at Charlie Gustafsons and they were very kind and put us and our animals up over night. Next morning we started out again and travelled another three miles to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lars Malmgren. They had lived there since the fall of 1917 or to be exact six months. They took us in and we stayed there about three weeks while Mr. Malmgren and Mr. J. F. Bloomquist helped my father to build us a log cabin and a log cabin to serve as a barn.

We were overjoyed to move into our own first home even if it was only a log cabin. The size of it was 12 feet by 18 feet and the bark was still on the logs. The floor was rough lumber where the cracks were so wide the thistles grew up between the boards and it wasn't long before the roof leaked so we had to get up at night and distribute all our pots and pans around to catch the drips, but we were very happy. The roof on the barn was just poles with mud on top and the first heavy rain was a disaster. When we came out in the morning we couldn't recognize the cows as they were covered with muddy slush and you can imagine how the chickens looked. We had no ice box or anything to keep our milk and butter cold. My father dug a hole into the river hill to stand our milk in and it had to be well covered or the mice would drown in it. We had a hole down in the creek where the cool water from the muskeg ran, where we were able to hang our crocks of butter to keep them cool.

There was no road, not even a path to Lac du Bonnet from our homestead which was located eight miles south of Lac du Bonnet right where the Pinawa Bridge and Highway 211 is now situated, and where I'm still living; but as we lived right on the river bank it served as our way to get to town in the summer by rowboat and two pairs of oars. My father rowed at the front and I rowed the back oars; as we could not carry excess baggage mother had to stay home. It didn't matter as she was afraid in the boat anyway and it was a long trip. It



only took one hour to go to Lac du Bonnet rowing and riding the current, but going home was another story. We chose days to go to town when the wind was in the north so we had help from the wind against the current and it took all the rest of the day to get home. Then we were very tired and had blisters on both our hands and our behind, and it took about a week to heal then it was time to go to town again. It was not possible to row into where the dock is now as J. D. McArthur had a log boom from the picnic point one half mile south of Lac du Bonnet to the brick yard about a quarter of a mile north of Lac du Bonnet so we would land at the picnic point and walk down a bushy path to town. Granovskys Store later located at Third Street and Park Avenue had a horse and a wagon and Bill Hammerstedt took that rig out and took our supplies up to the boat. There were only a few neighbours, Bloomquists and Malmgrens and one-half mile away Strands, Dahlgrens and Nordins about one and a half miles away and Gustafsons three miles away, and Larsons across the river where the Atomic Energy of Canada Limited plant site is now; and only foot paths to each of them in the summer. When one neighbour went to Lac du Bonnet he would take the mail for all of us and as the weekly paper and the Eatons catalogue came it was quite exciting as it was our only source of news and contact with the rest of the country. The Eatons catalogue was, of course, handy to see what was new but there was very little money to buy with. The catalogue entertained the kids for many hours and when the new one came Spring and Fall, the old one took its useful place in the backhouse.

Fish was plentiful and we mostly lived on fish — smoked sturgeon was on our table every day in the summer and mother put down a whole barrel in salt for the winter. Our food was plain but plentiful, and we were very happy but as money was so scarce my father had to go away to work and he was always able to get labour work at the power plant at old Pinawa, and it was there he lost his life in an accident in the Powerhouse on the 6th of June, 1920. Mother and I could not manage alone so we moved away. My mother went out as a cook at various places and I got married to Eric Carlson from Great Falls in 1922. We had six children as follows: Pearl (Warren), Doris (Gustafson), Freddy, Eddy and Chester and June (Wolfstrom), but our marriage did not work out and it was dissolved in 1931.

In 1929 my mother, Mrs. Thornquist, opened a restaurant on the river bank on Park Avenue and we called it the Lakeview Cafe. It was a very busy place and mother became quite well known throughout the district as it was the only big eating place in town and she was a good cook. Mother

passed away in 1947.

In 1933 I married again to Ivor Peterson who was well known for his work as stone mason and quarryman, and for his music, first, as solo accordion and later the girl band (Ivor and the Rhythm Girls). Ivor opened the Quarry for the 'ruby red' granite which is the location where Cold Spring Granite (Canada) Limited now operates off Highway 11. He hauled the heavy stone to Winnipeg for processing, some of the stone was used for monumental work and is still visible today in different areas, including headstones. Our band, in which I played electric Hawaiian guitar, and after a few years changed to Ivor and I and Mike Bruchansky, Rudolph Nedyedly, Norm Sinclair from Lac du Bonnet and Mike Boychuk from Whitemouth. There were many dance halls around here at that time in the 1930's and early 1940's. There was the Lac du Bonnet Memorial Hall, Holiday Beach, Riverland, and Silver Lodge, Lee River Hall, Brightstone Hall and Landerville Hall, and at New Years Eve we played at Pointe du Bois. We had one son, Buddy. Ivor passed away in 1949 after a lengthy illness. I was forced to move away to Winnipeg to make a living for me and my five-year-old son. I married again to Albert Mager and we are now back on the old homestead since 1964, right beside the Pinawa Bridge. My land was right in the path of where they put Highway 211 so I had to give up a few acres of land to make way for the highway; and Buddy is located on part of the land south of Highway 211, and is employed by the Atomic Energy of Canada Limited. Buddy changed his name to Mager and almost everybody around has met Buddy at some time or another.

Lac du Bonnet and the Winnipeg River has always been home to me and I hope to spend my remaining years here at home.

Respectfully submitted by Margit Mager for publication in the History Book.

## THE COLD SPRING QUARRY

In the year of 1929 Ivor Peterson arrived from Sweden to the site of the building of Slave Falls Power Plant where he became employed as rock driller. In 1932, while visiting with my mother Mrs. Thornquist, we started talking about the layout of the surrounding district where I had grown up and in the topics I mentioned about this big rock on the property of Jacob Blomquist. As he was a rock man from Southern Sweden, he became quite interested and we visited Gus and Mrs. Blomquist and wandered around the rock which he estimated was about 40 acres above ground. He discovered that it was a fine quality of red granite. He became quite interested and asked Mr. Blomquist for an



Ivor Peterson in the quarry.



Loading stone in the quarry.

agreement to let him quarry the red granite.

This agreement was made in 1933 and as it was only one half mile from our property, it was very convenient. The agreement was (as I remember it) Ivor was to pay three cents for each cubic foot that he removed from the property, he was to have right of way to drive to and from the quarry site which was the same as it still is and if he hired any labor he was to hire Mr. Blomquist and his son Charlie first if they wished to work for the sum of 35¢ an hour. That is the main part of what I remember of the agreement. There was no electricity in that district at that time and money was scarce.

Once a year we would rent a large air compressor from Winnipeg and the men would drill large holes and with the help of wedges, would split out stones about 1 cubic yard square until they had enough for the season. Then the compressor was taken back to Winnipeg and the real work began, now it was to split the blocks into slabs about six to eight inches thick. This was all done by manual labor, by drilling four inch deep holes about four inches apart. The drilling was done by holding a steel drill in one hand and hitting on it with a small sledge hammer and turning the drill; it was a very slow process. The drills took a lot of sharpening and it was very lucky that we had a very good blacksmith in the neighborhood by the

name of Bill Cederlund.

When these slabs were split they were loaded by a hand winch onto trucks and taken to Winnipeg where Ivor also had a large shop for sawing, cutting, polishing and engraving these stones into tombstones. It was a good sale for this granite as it was a nice red color of even texture. Ivor took sick in 1944 and was forced to sell the shop and the quarry which was bought by Ted Blomquist and Eric Blomquist, who later sold to Cold Spring Granite Company under which name it is still in operation.

Submitted for publication by  
Margit Mager

### THE OLD BROOKFIELD HALL

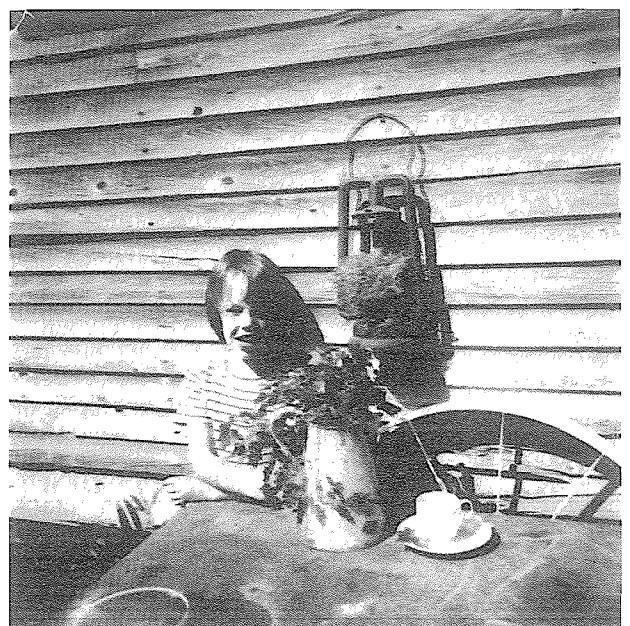
There is one part of my childhood I fondly recall  
It's the good times we had in the Old Brookfield  
Hall!

The Christmas concerts were the annual affair  
With carols and skits and everyone there!  
They came by dogsled, horse or whatever,  
Miss a concert in Brookfield?  
Oh, my dear, Never!

We'd climb into Ed's truck on a pile of clean hay,  
With hot bricks wrapped in burlap and blankets  
for warmth

We were soon on our way.

The road may be muddy, or the snow how it flew!  
Miss those concerts in Brookfield we just didn't  
do!



Stacy Lange with mementos of the past.

Out of the truck now and into the Hall  
Where a fire burned brightly in the old barrel stove,  
Red hot and a'roaring, a'crackling with might,  
Soon made us forget the chill of the night.

The stage was set up at the end of the Hall  
With grey blankets for curtains strung up on a  
wire,  
Children giggling and peeking as they lined up for  
choir.  
The curtains were pulled back and the show would  
begin,  
With songs old and new and plays to fill in.

Then Santa would come with sleigh bells a'ringing  
A pack on his back and the children all singing.  
A gift for each child and that special treat,  
A little brown paper bag filled with peanuts,  
Candy and an orange so sweet!

No one was left out, each got his share  
As the aroma of coffee soon filled the air.  
Good coffee served piping hot,  
In white mugs from a blue enamel pot,  
Cream from the farm so lovely and thick  
With sandwiches, donuts and cake,  
Yes, the ladies of Brookfield a good lunch did  
make!

But before we must go there's the dance to begin.  
The stage folded up and taken out through the  
door,  
Benches moved back and "Sweep up that floor!"  
The musicians were perched in the corner on a  
little round stage  
And everyone danced no matter what age!

The floor it was rough and the walls they were  
thin,  
Still the polkas and squares could make your head  
spin.

Clap your hands loudly, click your heels in the air,  
The dances in Brookfield were a family affair!

We must open the door now, see that cold air rush  
in,

Like mist from the river as the frost tries to win.  
Bundle the kids up and out we must go  
To hear our feet crunch on the new fallen snow.  
The air is so crisp, the moon shining bright  
The shadows from the trees make a beautiful sight.

The building stands empty now, no lamp on the  
wall

Only echoes of Yesterday bounce round the Hall.  
The concert is over, the dancing is done  
Times they were hard then but still there was fun.  
And I never pass by it but that I recall,  
Those good times we had in that Old Brookfield  
Hall.

Elizabeth Caroline Lange

Editor's Note: It is fitting that Betty write about  
the Brookfield Hall because her first home was in  
Brookfield. She spent many of her summer  
holidays with her grandparents, the Gustafsons,  
not realizing that at a future date she would be  
back living almost on the site of her parents, Victor  
and Grace Gustafson's farm.

Now Betty and her husband, Gerald Lange,  
their children Victor, Stuart and Stacy live on the  
site of the old Brookfield Hall in a home they built  
in 1971.

# *Crescent Bay*

## **ELMER AND IVY CROZIER**

Elmer, Ivy and two children, Helen and Jim, arrived in the Crescent Bay district in November, 1936 and settled near McArthur Falls. Elmer came west from Renfrew, Ontario on a harvest excursion. He married Ivy Carvey of Brandon district. Ivy came from Swindon, Wiltshire, England as a four-year-old child. Her family farmed near Brandon, Manitoba. Elmer and Ivy farmed there also for several hard years. Drought and depression sent them looking for a new life in the Crescent Bay district. They moved belongings with a modified International truck which Elmer had cut down to use as a farm tractor in Brandon. The fourteen by eighteen foot chicken house brought from Brandon was lined and served as a first home. This small home was a very busy place. In the winter months meals were prepared for approximately fourteen men who were hired to cut and haul pulpwood. A log bunkhouse was built for the men to sleep in. The first winter a truck load of potatoes was brought from the farm. Not having any place for storage, they froze solid. They were still good food although peeling them was a chore. They were allowed to slightly thaw, then peeled and cooked right away. Crops of sauerkraut were a welcome food supplement for the many meals served.

A garden in the new soil the next and following years was a great help to the food supply. Wild deer meat and berries were both canned. Two or three goats were kept the first years for milk. Once, some gypsies, insistent on telling fortunes, were frightened by the billy goat. When he was held, they promptly left.

The Crozier family's first income was from subcontracting of pulpwood for the Pine Falls mill through Alex McIntosh. Mostly spruce, and some balsam wood was cut into four foot lengths, usually with a swede saw and hauled out of the bush with horses. The wood was then hauled by truck for twenty miles to Pine Falls. Summer employment varied; road building, building cottages, commercial fishing, processing wild rice, cordwood business, concession stand, raising chickens, and

selling ice to cottagers. The ice was cut in winter from the Winnipeg River. It was stored by covering it with lots of sawdust, usually under a makeshift roof. It was amazing how well it kept and how the refrigeration was appreciated, especially when the ice was used for a batch of homemade ice cream. In later years the main family income came from a cattle farm which was established. There were some milk cows at first (a herd bought from Martins), then it gradually developed into a nice herd of Hereford beef cattle.

Life wasn't all work. Evenings were often spent listening to a battery radio or doing hobbies with a coal oil lamp for light. Later a gasoline lantern was a big improvement. School Christmas concerts, weddings, box socials, corn roasts and swimming in the Winnipeg River were all fun. Dominion Day celebrations and the Lac du Bonnet fair were big events.

With the fun came some hardships and one was getting an education. Schooling was almost impossible due to the four and one half mile distance and lack of transportation. Finally the Crozier family bought a pony for this purpose. A light cart, using bicycle wheels was built for summer and a small cutter-like sleigh was built for winter. Rocks were heated on the stove at home and at school to keep feet warm in the cutter. A small shelter was hauled to the school ground for the pony and a bundle of hay accompanied the school lunch pail. There were many days of absenteeism, mostly due to cold weather, but there were also times of breakdown. The pony was a lively one and very frightened of cars and trucks and terrified of the snow plough or anything very noisy (like Harry David's truck). One day on meeting Harry the pony reared its hind legs and jumped over the shaft. The shaft broke making the pony even more frightened. It was a wild race down the road with the cutter being pulled sideways by the shaft. Another time, on meeting a truck, the pony jumped right into the ditch, bending the bicycle wheels on the cart in half. Children and pony came walking home in tears. Often in winter and spring the gravel on the road made the cutter difficult to pull so part of the distance would be travelled on

the river. It was a scary experience to hear the sounds of cracking ice or howling wolves. After a trip like that it was good to come home to the smell of home baked bread or a pot of warm soup.

As the family worked and lived, a new and larger home was their next dream. Everyone helped to saw the lumber with a rented sawmill. It took several years to build the home, a bit at the time. Cement for the basement, which was built on a solid rock, was mixed in a small mixer run by an engine. Then the hard job of pouring with a wheelbarrow began. This home was moved five miles in 1953 when McArthur falls power plant was built and the former land flooded. The home is presently (at time of printing) occupied by the son, James Crozier and family. Jim married Dorothy Schichl, the neighbour's daughter. They have two children, Alvin and Gail.

Helen married Bruce James of the same district. They reside in Winnipeg and have three children, Larry, Danny and Joni.

Elmer served as school trustee in the district. He took part in saving the forest from fires many times and was fire guardian in the district. He died, aged sixty-seven in 1972, predeceased by his wife Ivy in 1967.

#### JOHN BTE. DAVID

John Bte. David, born June 10th, 1857, in Val des Bois, Quebec. He lived there until 1911, then moved to Saskatchewan with his family. His wife and two boys and two girls: Pete, Henry, Diana and Alice. He and the boys took homesteads and farmed until 1936, when we all decided to move, on account of the drought. The two boys were married and Diana was married to Pete Picard, January 1913. Sister Alice had died in 1912.

We all settled in Crescent Bay till 1944.

Mr. J. Bte. David died May 3rd, 1940, was buried in Lac du Bonnet cemetery. Mrs. David died May 28th, 1960, was also buried in Lac du Bonnet Catholic cemetery.

Pete Picard had nine children, eight still living, and all married. One girl was born and died in Carruthers, Saskatchewan. The two boys, Romeo and Alberta, are living in Lac du Bonnet.

Romeo and Mary - two children, Harriet and Tom.

Albert and Mary - four children, Paul, Katharine, Carol and David.

Alice and Omer Lessard, Battleford, Saskatchewan - three children, Rita, Lionel and Arthur.

Bernadette La France, a widow, Lac du Bonnet - has eight children, Eugene, Yvonne, Lillian, Clare, Gerald, Paul, Danny, Albert.

Rita and Fred Barchette, St. Vital, Manitoba - three children, Jerry, Leonard, Lewis.

Marie and Tom Edwards, St. Vital, Manitoba - three children, Diane, Wendy, Daniel.

Beatrice and Bill Player, Winnipeg - four children, Christine, Pierre, Larry and Edmond.

Evelyn and Dan Merecki, Winnipeg - two children, Melanie and Karen.

In 1944 they moved to town in Lac du Bonnet where Pete worked at odd jobs, retiring in 1960. He passed away January 21st, 1977. Mrs. Diana Picard is living in Lac du Bonnet with her daughter Bernadette.

Mrs. Diana Picard

#### HENRY AND ROSA DAVID

Henry and Rosa were married in Val des Bois, Quebec in 1916 and went to Carruthers, Saskatchewan.

Henry and Rosa, along with their six children, left Saskatchewan during the depression years and arrived in Crescent Bay on September 15, 1936.

Upon arriving in Crescent Bay, three children attended school which had just opened the previous year, while the three oldest went out to work. The two older boys went out hauling cordwood. Wages at that time were \$1.00 a day or 25¢ a cord to load in box cars.

In winter, travel to town was done with horses and sleigh and in summer by model A. Our means of entertainment were dances at the Crescent Bay school and house parties in the neighborhood.

Henry and Rosa had seven children.

Lorenzo married Annette Hebert - one son Laurent.

Laurentine married Evangelist Fournier - four children, Therese, Louise, Irene and David.

Victor married Ethel Rawlinson - two children, Rodney and Pat.

Yvette married Gideon Henley - Robert and Yvonne.

Yvette deceased December 8, 1977. Henry deceased December 25, 1962.

Roland married Thérèse Villeneuve - four children, Robert, Lauraine, Jean-Paul and Denise and lives in Quebec.

Lorette married David Zolondek - four children, Darlene, Coral, Lois and Connie.

Victor joined the army in 1941 and returned home in September 1946 with a war bride, and Lorenzo joined in June 1944 and returned home in 1945.

Henry and Rosa continued staying on the farm and Henry was caretaker of cottages along the river, until cottage owners sold and moved out. Shortly after the 1950 flood, Henry joined the



Winnipeg Hydro in McArthur Falls and worked there for eight years.

In 1965 Henry and Rosa sold their farm and moved to Lac du Bonnet. Henry only enjoyed a few years of his retirement, until he died suddenly of a heart attack in October 1967. Rosa continues living alone and maintains good health.

Submitted by  
Rosa David

### LORENZO DAVID

I, Lorenzo David, was born March 12th, 1917 in North Battleford; was raised and went to school in Carruthers, Saskatchewan. In the fall of 1936, my parents, along with my three brothers and two sisters, moved to Manitoba and settled in the Crescent Bay area. Crescent Bay school had only been built about one year when we arrived, and was used not only for teaching but was the main meeting place for church services, dances.

Bush work was the main work in the district. In 1942 I joined the army and took my training in Alberta, went overseas in 1943, came back in 1945 and was discharged and then I started on construction. I got married in 1947, and then worked on most construction jobs in the district. My son Laurent came along in 1949 and he went to school in Lac du Bonnet and is now married and lives in Lac du Bonnet working for the Highways branch. I myself have been working in Pinawa town site since 1964 as a custodian for the Local Government of Pinawa at Gilbert Elementary school. As of July 1979, I am still working there.

Lorenzo David

### PIERRE AND GEORGINA DAVID

Both of us were born in Val des Bois, Quebec and were married in that town in 1916. Later we came west and settled in Carruthers, Saskatchewan and in 1936 we moved to Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba. There we settled on a farm and raised our nine children, six boys and three girls. Pierre did diamond drilling at many mining areas including Uranium City. In 1966 we moved into Lac du Bonnet. Pierre died in 1968.

Sylvio, our oldest boy, died in action October 9th in the 2nd World War. Our second son died at 6½ years in Carruthers, Saskatchewan.

Raymond married Noella Leclerc. They have seven children and live on our farm at Crescent Bay.

Edmond married Carol Snider. They have three children and live in Thunder Bay where he works for Hydro.



Pierre and Georgina with Mrs. J. B. David.



Mr. and Mrs. Pierre David.



Pete and Georgina David with their seven children.

Hector married Betty Kelsh. They have three girls and live in Winnipeg and he works for Imperial Steel in St. James.

Leo is married to Bertha Labossiere and has five children and lives in Winnipeg and is manager for York Tire.

Georgeline married Phil Smerchanski but he died in 1968. She lives in West Kildonan and has five children; two are married and three live with their mother in Winnipeg.

Simone married Jules Belanger and they have four children. Two are married and they live in St. Boniface.

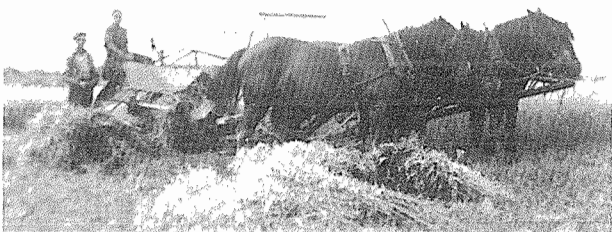
Agnes is married to Eddie Beaudette and they have three girls and they live in Piney. He works for the government as road engineer.

When the Bona Vista opened, I applied and make my home there.

Submitted by  
Mrs. Georgina David

### THE JAMES FAMILY

Ed James was born near Saginaw, Michigan. His father was originally from Brantford, Ontario, and Ed joined the Canadian Army Engineers Corps in World War I. In England he met Nellie Flack from Brighton. They married in England and settled on a homestead in Broad Valley, Manitoba, where John and Bruce were born in 1922 and 1926. They moved to Winnipeg and had a boarding house until the depression when they decided to move to Lac du Bonnet in November 1933. They came by two trucks, one from Moore's Taxi, with their household furniture; got through to the Lorna Doone farm. The other from Lightfoot's Transfer was a dual wheeled truck, containing their two horses and two cows. It got stuck in the snowdrifts and they had to wait until the next day to get it out. They stayed at the Lorna Doone farm on Crescent Bay, owned by Ed Pierce, for two years.



John and Ed James cutting grain with a blinder.



Fishermen - Bruce, John and Ed James, and Larry.

The highway from Holiday Beach to Pine Falls was a mud road. James' horses often pulled cars, trucks and even occasionally the bus through the mud to higher ground. Bus drivers, passengers, and truckers often enjoyed a cup of coffee or tea at the James farm while their vehicles were stalled.

There was no school at Crescent Bay and no way for the boys to get in to Lac du Bonnet to school, so Ed was instrumental in forming a school board, and getting a school built at Crescent Bay. It was a log school heated by a wood stove. Johnny, then in grade six, was the first caretaker. He carried the wood and water and started the fire all winter. At the end of the term, Miles Langthorne persuaded the board to pay him five dollars.

The James' settled on their own place in 1936, when Ed built a two storey log house. It was moved when the McArthur Falls Dam was built, and it was torn down in 1977.

Nellie raised chickens and turkeys. She sold eggs, milk and vegetables to the summer cottagers, and also shipped some in to Winnipeg. One letter from the "Department of Mines and Natural Resources" reads "June 18, 1943: Dear Mrs. James, Your second lot of eggs arrived yesterday before I had paid for the first lot, so I am enclosing my cheque for six dollars before you get after me. I will send the crate back to you for another lot sometime next week. Yours truly, R. W. Gyles." We assume this was six dollars for two fifteen dozen crates of eggs.

Before the war, when eggs were even cheaper, Johnny decided that calf meal was too expensive and eggs were too cheap and he started feeding the eggs to his calves. His mother asked his dad to butcher the hens because she wasn't getting enough eggs. When the hens were full of eggs, she



Nellie and Ed James - Christmas 1941. They could hardly get Ed away from the radio to get his picture taken. Hong Kong fell that day.

accused Ed of butchering the wrong hens. Ed finally got Johnny to confess what he was doing, and the calves were really sleek.

Cream was \$1.25 a five gallon can, table grade test 33-34%. It went in on the train to Winnipeg in the morning and the can was shoved off the train at night with the cheque inside.

Ed helped to haul gravel to build up the road to Pine Falls with his horses. He also worked on other houses as well as farming.

Bruce used to deliver eggs, chickens and vegetables to the cottagers at Belle Acres. John worked in the bush cutting wood with a swede saw, with his Dad, Miles Langthorne, Pat Lodge and Elmer Crozier. He remembers that Miles Langthorne's was the best pay at thirty-five cents a cord, for the wood. They got \$2.50-\$3.00 a cord, cut and piled.

John plowed Elmer Crozier's garden for the first time and pulled stumps with the horses.

John and Bruce both belonged to grain clubs run by the Department of Agriculture. John got top marks for his grain club judging. This helped him to get a job at the Grain Exchange when he came back from overseas.

John joined the ill-fated Winnipeg Grenadiers in 1941, went to Jamaica, then to Hong Kong. He was wounded on Christmas Eve 1941, and lost his left leg below the knee. His parents did not hear anything about him until October 1942, when they got a telegram which read "Ottawa, Ontario, October 16, 1942."

"Mrs. Nellie James, Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba. Official information has been received from Tokyo, Japan, through the international Red Cross, Geneva, that H6912 John Edward James is a prisoner of war at a Hong Kong camp. Stop. Further information follows when received Officer in charge, records." The family did not know he had lost a leg until he was released from prison

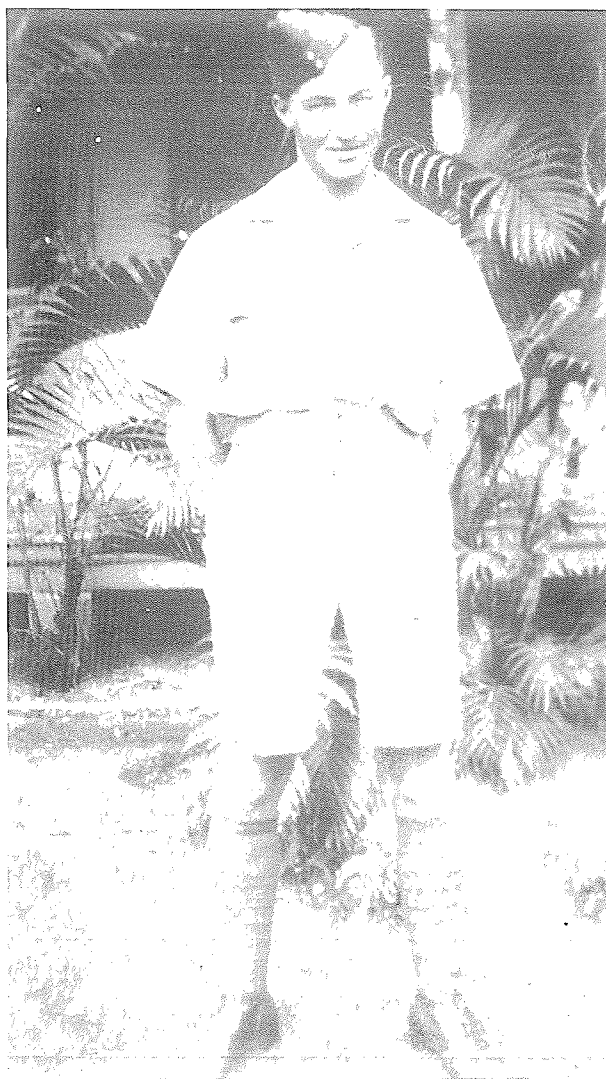
camp in 1945.

After being flooded out for two years, Ed and Nellie lived for a while in a new chicken house on the Seller's farm. Then they moved to the Pentland place.

When they finally got fed up with the flooding, Ed and Nellie moved to Crescent Beach, British Columbia. Ed died of a heart attack while he was working in the oyster beds in August 1944.

John did not know about his mother and dad moving or about his dad dying until he returned on the HMS Glory in October of 1945. When he was in Manila in 1945 on his return from Hong Kong, John met Marcine Hefner, a physical therapist at the 248th General Hospital with the U.S. Army. They married in Winnipeg. They have four children, Carol (Hyatt) in Barwick, Ontario, Judy (Samson) in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Bill in Emo, Ontario and Bruce in Atikokan, Ontario. Marcine and John live in Emo, Ontario.

Bruce joined the army in 1943 and was stationed in the East for awhile. When Johnny returned,



John James in Jamaica.

he was stationed in Vancouver, where he met Johnny at the boat.

Johnny and Marcine lived in Winnipeg for five years where their children were born. Bruce stayed with them for a few months, then he married a home-town girl, Helen Crozier. The rest of his story is in the Crozier story.

Nellie came back to Winnipeg too, and married William Cunningham. After he died, she moved a trailer home to Emo where she lived next door to John and Marcine. When she was unable to look after herself, Mabel (Martin) Bruneau came and helped her out for awhile. Then she went into Raincrest Home for the Aged in Fort Frances. She died in August 1975.

Christmas concerts were held in the school. Cliff Martin used to bring a cutter lined with hot bricks and pick up anybody who wanted a ride. The school was the social center. Dances were held there. Before the school was built, dances were held in Seller's barn.

Putting up ice: James' used to put up ice with Picards and Davids. Ice was cut into 100-200 pound blocks and kept in sawdust. When it was scraped off, you cut it into blocks to fit your icebox. You chipped your ice for ice cream making by hand or else you put it in a jute bag and broke it with the broad side of the axe.

Fishing: One morning Bruce went fishing with a .22 rifle. He shot a lot of fish and gave it to the neighbors.

One time Bruce and Bobby Sellers were fishing with a pole and about 25 feet of string. They were catching a lot of fish. A tourist with a lot of fancy tackle wasn't having any luck and the tourist paid them enough for their poles and string for them to buy fancy new tackle.

Gill nets: We ordered one from Eatons. We set it angle-ways across the creek. Once they caught 84 pickerel and had an awful time getting them out of the net. They gave fish to all the neighbors. They had the net about five years. One day they thought a log was tangled in the net, until suddenly the "log" moved. It was a big sturgeon and that was the end of the net.

Bass: Neighborhood kids used to catch them and spear them. One time Ed James tried to spear a bass with his pitchfork. He fell in and his felt hat went floating down the creek.

Rationing never bothered us much. We had everything we needed to eat on the farm. Sometimes we would trade butter coupons for sugar coupons with neighbors who didn't have a cow. No one had a car, so we didn't need gas coupons.

It was September 1946. Johnny James had just had his new artificial leg a month and he didn't have a job yet. Alex McIntosh had a brand new

tractor and he needed help with the harvest. The first time John got on the tractor, he pushed the clutch in all right with his artificial leg, but when he let the clutch out it caught his leg and pulled it off. Alex could see he was having trouble but couldn't figure what was wrong. John stopped the tractor, jumped down, took off his pants, put the leg back on and had no more trouble. Alex decided to have a little joke on his wife. She asked how things were going and he said "Oh O.K., one of the men lost his leg today" and kept on eating. She was shocked at first, then she realized who had lost his leg.

## HISTORY OF MILES LANGTHORNE

Miles Langthorne came to Canada in the year 1928, from England. He was born at High Wisk, Northallerton (later known as Greystone), Yorkshire. He came to Lac du Bonnet the same year. Bought land in Crescent Bay district, cut logs and built a log house. Also had logs made into lumber which he made some furniture, some are still being used.

Walking was often the only way of travelling. Sometimes they were able to go by train which went to Great Falls. Miles worked at any job to be had. Cutting cordwood was a great help to many people. Worked at sawmills of which he had some knowledge (as his father had one in England) as



Miles Langthorne

well as farming. When Slave Falls was built he worked there. As well as others worked on road building. Helped quite a few people with the building of houses, barns, etc. Worked for the Forestry. Being very interested in education he was very anxious to have a school built in the district. The first one was built of logs. This was built by the people of the district. All help was volunteer. Miles was secretary for the school for some time. Also leader of the young peoples grain club and garden club.

During the Second War he made up newsletters of the district and sent one to all those overseas from the district. In those days people made their own entertainment, visiting, house dances and picnics, etc.

Miles was a bachelor for many years. In 1956 he married a widow. Came to Winnipeg that fall and got work in the city. Weekends and holidays were spent at the farm. Always had a large garden and liked to see old friends and neighbors. Miles took sick the spring of 1978 and passed away in June at Pinawa Hospital. He has three brothers in England.

Submitted by  
Mrs. Ellen Langthorne

#### THE SELLERS FAMILY

The District of Crescent Bay was the family farm home of the Sellers Family, one of the early settlers of the district. Richard (Dick) Sellers was born in Blackburn, England in 1874. He served in the British Army in India during the mid-1890's and the Boer War where he served with distinction until victory was won. In the early 1900's Dick immigrated to Western Canada and settled on a homestead in the Peace River District of Alberta. At the outbreak of the first world war in 1914 he enlisted with the 14th Battalion CEF and served in Canada and Europe until final victory in 1918.

Following his discharge from Active Service, Dick moved to the Lac du Bonnet district of Manitoba, where he settled on property which was a grant from the Soldiers Settlement Board, in the district of what was later known as Crescent Bay. He also purchased the adjacent quarter section of land plus some additional river frontage, which was later sold to the James family. During these early years he worked at Great Falls in the construction of the hydro power plant by the Winnipeg Electric Co., while his farm home was being constructed.

After completion of the family farm buildings, Dick married the former Marie Payette, from the district of Carman, Manitoba. This marriage resulted in the birth of five sons (5): Raymond

1922, Robert 1925, Fred 1927, Kenneth 1929 and last but not least Donald 1931, plus a big step-brother Leonard Watson, who looked after the younger ones in the early days and done the chores. There were no other children close enough in the district for these boys to play with in the early days, so they mainly spent their time with animal pets both tame and wild. In the summer months there was fishing in Wardrop's Creek and swimming in the nice sandy beach of the Winnipeg River, sleigh rides, skiing on homemade skis in the wintertime.

The District of Crescent Bay is located approximately five miles North of Lac du Bonnet, at a point on the Winnipeg River in the shape of a crescent. The earliest known white settler was the Wardrop family who had a homestead near what is known as Wardrop Creek, this land area is now under water as a result of construction of the McArthur Falls Hydro Project. Prior to the early 1930's the only access to this district was by railroad or wagon trail from Lac du Bonnet. Family shopping was mainly done in Lac du Bonnet by travelling back and forth on the railroad gas bus which was operated by the Winnipeg Electric Co., from Great Falls.

Until approximately 1931 the Sellers Family operated a Dairy Farm and supplied Great Falls with their dairy needs, other income came from cutting of Pulp and Cordwood. After depression took hold, Dick sold most of the dairy herd and bought extra horses which were used in the wintertime for hauling freight to Northern Manitoba Mining communities. During summer months he worked at odd jobs and with the horses during the construction and maintenance of the Highway which was built between Holiday Beach and Great Falls between 1933-35.

This being an isolated community it was difficult for the children to attend school. This problem was somewhat overcome when in about 1931 the Ferguson family moved into the district and Mrs. Ferguson taught her children and the Sellers boys, their early education in her family home. The younger children sat around the kitchen learning while Mrs. Ferguson did her housework and supervised the learning. It was not until 1933 that the community got together and decided to petition the government for a district school. Approval was granted in early 1934 and construction was started. The school was built of logs provided by the community with help and supervision plus the finishing work done by Mr. Leonard Peacock and the capable assistance of Mr. Miles Langthorne, who was the driving force behind this project.

By the time the Crescent Bay School opened for instruction in the fall of 1934, the community and surrounding district had grown to the following



families: James, Lodge, Bruneau, Taylor, Labossier, Mansell and Sellers, followed by the Ritchie, Picards, Davids and Croziers in 1936 and 1937. The first teacher at Crescent Bay was Miss Ann James, this was her first teaching assignment and she proved to be a very able and capable teacher. Miss James taught all grades from one (1) to eight (8) inclusive in one room, which was sometimes confusing for the students and very difficult for the teacher. In the warm months when the students were able to play outside it did not appear to be so crowded however, in the cold months of winter when all students stayed indoors from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., it was a hectic place.

Social life for the adults in the early days was very limited, other than the odd house party in the wintertime and the occasional evening at Lac du Bonnet or Great Falls for a Silent Movie, when transportation was available. During the summertime there was the occasional barn dance at the Sellers barn and dances at Holiday Beach, which was approximately three (3) miles distance. When the Crescent Bay School was completed, it became the centre for all activities for the district, Christmas concerts put on by the students for the community, Saturday Night dances, Box Socials, meetings and church services. The moonshine flowed quite freely at some of these events and there were a lot of sore heads the following day, plus the odd cracked one. It is sure a good thing this building could not talk for it sure could have told a few tall tales.

Life for the Sellers family in those days was very quiet and reserved. Some of the main highlights was the highway construction and seeing strangers driving past in their beautiful cars, plus the twice daily bus service, the first day at school in the new school house and meeting the teacher. The meeting of new neighbours when they moved into the district for the first time, travelling to Great Falls to see a Silent Movie and staying there overnight, having our first battery operated radio and the neighbours coming over to listen, having the first bicycle in the family which Leonard bought for himself with money he earned from being a water boy during highway construction.

The old original homestead is still owned by Donald Sellers however, all the buildings have since been rebuilt and updated. When the war broke in 1939 Mr. Sellers was chief security officer at Great Falls. The older two boys, Raymond and Leonard, joined the ill-fated Winnipeg Grenadiers along with many other district boys and spent four (4) years as Prisoners of War, in Hong Kong, they now reside with their families in Winnipeg. Robert joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1943 and served until wars end, he now lives with his family in Winnipeg. Fred and Kenneth purchased homes in the Lac du Bonnet district and continue to live there with their families. Donald, the youngest but not least who kept the homestead, is now living for the time being with his family in Calgary, Alberta.

Submitted by  
Ray Sellers, Ed.

# Landerville

## BILLAN FAMILY

My grandparents on my father's side came from Austria in 1902 and settled on the farm six miles north of Beausejour. They were neighbors to the Schreyer family, grandparents and parents of the present Governor General of Canada Edward Schreyer. That is along the present No. 12 highway. The school district was Cromwell. In 1905, they moved to Lac du Bonnet and settled on the homestead seven miles north west of this village. This school district was Landerville. They made most of their living from operating a sawmill, cutting lumber and in their spare time they cleared land on their homesteads.

Most of the first buildings were built out of logs and plaster with clay, and shortly after that they used lumber. For their first drawing power they used oxen, and shortly after they had horses. They also had the first threshing outfit in the district. It was steam. At harvest they would help each other take the crop off.

For baking bread they built an oven outside. It was built mostly from clay. Most of their entertainment were house parties. There was lots of wild meat and a lot of home brew around.

Music was supplied by the settlers themselves, fiddle, drums and Mr. Gurnick was an expert at autoharp. There were seven brothers and two



The garage my dad built in town. Most of the lumber was from his sawmill. The garage was built in 1938. It was on the corner of Fourth Street and the old No. 11 highway.

My dad also built a building on the third street in 1951. It was rented to the Royal Bank for twenty years.



L-R: Mrs. Metarko, Joseph, Joyce, Eddie Billan, Florence Garvey and Albert Weiss, taken 1936.

sisters. Joseph was married to Pearl Sydorko in 1914 which was my father and mother. They both have passed on. They lived in Lac du Bonnet area most of their lives. Michael was married and lived mostly in Winnipeg. They had no children. Nickolaus was married to Nettie Sydorko of Red Deer, Manitoba and is now living in B.C. Stanley was married and lived in B.C. He also has passed away now. Walter lived most of his life in Oregon, U.S.A. William has been in B.C. for over thirty years, and is still there. Annie is living in B.C., also her sister Josephine is in B.C. Julian married to Annie Swiston. They have been lifetime residents of Lac du Bonnet. Most of their four children live in Winnipeg.

My mother's name was Sydorko and they came from the Ukraine around 1910. They settled eleven miles northwest of Lac du Bonnet. The school district was called Red Deer. As far as I know they made most of their livelihood from the land and cutting wood and hauling it to town.

There were four brothers and three sisters. Their names were Daniel, Peter, John and Nicholas and the girls were Pearl, who was my mother, and Nettie and Christine. All the boys have passed away now. That's all I know about my grandparents and uncles and aunts.

I had four sisters and one brother. Bernice married Stan Rodjinski, they are now living in B.C. They have three children, all living in B.C. Joyce

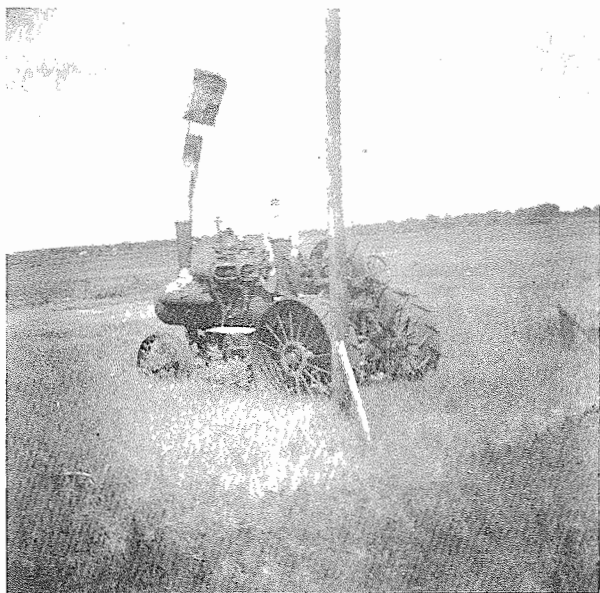
was married to Eugene Dzinkowski of Lac du Bonnet, they have one son Brian living in Winnipeg. Joyce passed away in 1976.

Edward was married to Phyllis Wilkowski of Warsaw, Poland. He had one son Harold who is married to Debbie Derback of Winnipeg. They have a son named Garret. They live in Winnipeg. My wife Phyllis passed away in 1970. I remarried in 1976.

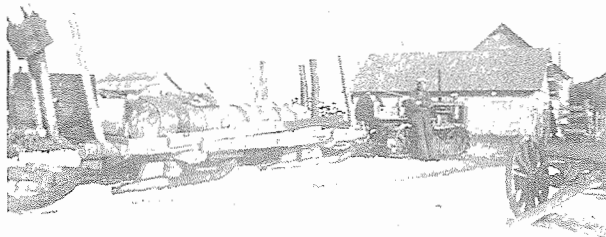
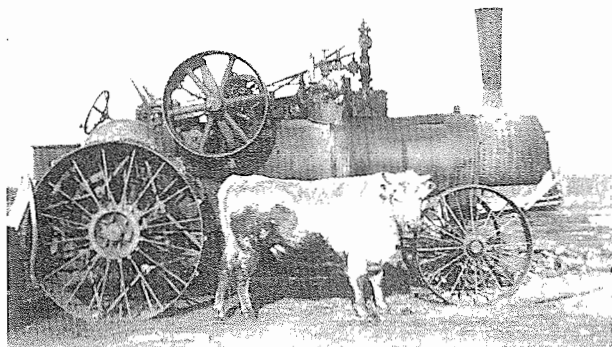
My sister Kay passed away in 1942. They had one daughter, Mary who married Harry Dzioba of Allegra, Manitoba. They have three children, all of Lac du Bonnet.

Joseph is married to Rose Yenboggson of Arborg, Manitoba and they have four children, all of Lac du Bonnet. My sisters and brother all went to Lac du Bonnet school.

submitted by Edward Billan



The steam engine was bought from the University of Manitoba by my father Joseph in 1933. It ran a sawmill at Riverland from 1935 to 1947, and now that engine is at Manitoba Agricultural Museum in Austin. Standing on it is my son Harold.



The sleighs and the caterpillar. My father is standing beside them. The picture was taken in 1941 when I came home from working at the Gunnar gold mine.



The house was built in 1912 by the Spence family, it burned down in 1953. That's where I live now. My sister Mary is standing in front of the house.

## THE BROWN FAMILY

by Beatrix Olafson

My parents William Arenos Brown and wife Mary Jane Stephens moved to Lac du Bonnet to a homestead in the Landerville S.D. in October 1917 from Souris, Manitoba with their family of four children. Elsie May 14 years, Marguerite Alice 12, Guy Elson 7 and Beatrix Olive 5 years.

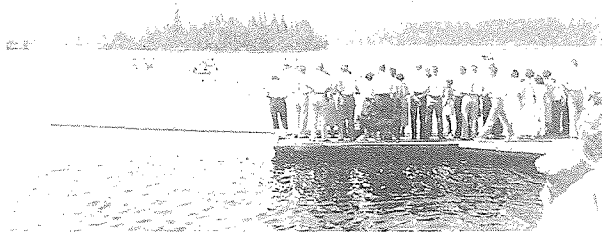
Elsie passed away in June 1919 from diphtheria. Marguerite left to go to Business College in Winnipeg in 1922. She married Bertrum White in 1943. They lived in Ottawa. She died in 1950. Guy married Blanche Fidler in 1938. They have two children Darlene and Derwent - both married and have three children each and live in Ontario.

I remember that upon arriving in Lac du Bonnet we stayed at a boarding house run by Mrs. Lemaire in the Allard building for a few days. Then we had a room at the G. Anderson's until the log cabin on the homestead was ready. The house had a slant roof, a window in each end north and south, and a door halfway down the centre of the east wall. The door was made of one inch rough lumber. It wouldn't shut tight that winter as there was always about two inches of ice around it.

Mother hung a carpet over it. We heated this with a box stove and a kitchen range.

I remember the flu epidemic in 1918-19. Mr. Cattanach who worked in McArthur's store died as did one of the Desjardin boys.

There were no roads in our district. Winter it was fine, but you had to walk on corduroy in the summer. On the way to school through the



July 1, 1935.



Landerville School and cottage, 1932.



J.D. McArthur rooming house, a ruin.



Cyclone in Landerville. W.D. Halliday and son Earl, Dr. Malcolm.

swamps we jumped from root to root to keep our feet dry.

On May 10th, 1922 we had a cyclone pass through Landerville about 1:30 p.m. It cut a great swath of trees off, twisted the school around and demolished the teacherage. It cut fences off at the ground and took the roofs off several buildings, and poured rain and hail. Fortunately there were few injuries and no fatalities. According to the Lac du Bonnet Times, "After all the children had been rescued and placed in safety someone noticed a movement in a pile of bricks which had constituted the chimney. Upon investigation a small boy was discovered, his nose much larger than its normal size. When asked about his well-being he replied that he would be quite alright if only the doctor did not come."

In 1930 I married Axel K. Olafson. Axel was born in Sweden and came to Canada in 1922. We had four children. Two of them passed away as babies. The others are Arvid Lawrence and Patricia Ann. Arvid joined the R.C.M.P. and lives in Victoria, B.C., married and has four children. Patricia lives in Winnipeg and has three children.

Father Brown died in October 1942, Mother in September 1973, Axel in February 1974. Guy and Blanche Brown have lived in Lynn Lake, Manitoba for some years. I am the only member of the family still in Lac du Bonnet and live on the farm at Brookfield.

## WINDY ACRES FARM

There's a strong wind blowing  
and it shakes the old red barn.  
As we do the evening milking  
on Windy Acres Farm.

The hay bales are so heavy,  
They could almost break your arm.  
Still, the stacking's nearly finished  
on Windy Acres Farm.

It's roasting or its raining  
But it won't do us no harm  
Cause we're the old clodhoppers  
on Windy Acres Farm.

The grain and hayseeds looking fine  
If we don't get hail, but darn;  
There'll always be a next year  
on Windy Acres Farm.

Now to finish off this lyric  
I'll say we'd be most charmed  
To have you visit us again  
on Windy Acres Farm.

B. O. Olafson



Marie and Omer Lavoie.

### OMER LAVOIE

by daughter Josephine

My father, Omer, was born in 1884 in Chicoutime du Saguenay, Quebec. His family came to Manitoba a short while after they were married and settled in McCreary, Manitoba. He had six brothers and six sisters - five are still living. Julien in Winnipeg; Alda in St. Catherines, Ontario; Victor, Marie Rose and Gabrielle are in California. His mother died at age 48, leaving the three youngest, seven, four and two years of age. They were brought up in the St. Rose, Manitoba convent until my grandfather remarried. They then left Manitoba to reside in San Francisco, taking the youngest girls with them.

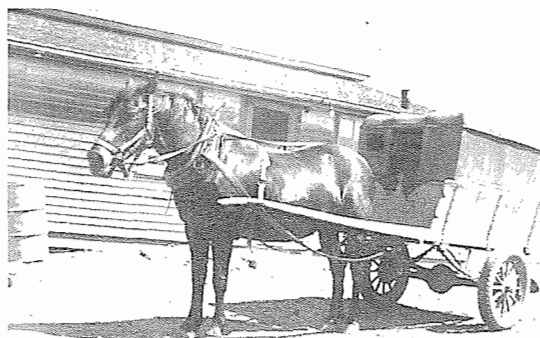
When he got there he bought land in Sonoma, California where he started a tourist resort called Lavoie French Village. He had a livery barn which consisted of two horses and buggy that he used as a taxi. His wife and two daughters did the cooking, washing and looked after the tourist cabins. I was there for a visit and many things are still there: the canopy buggies, the cabins, the old hand washing machine, the old kitchen with all the cast iron kettles and pots, huge pancake griddles which are all beautifully kept. This is just left as a show place. They are still using the huge dining room with the homemade table that seats 24 people, also the scrubbed floor which is old and kept snow white; huge hand-made fireplace and stone wall around it. The place is like when my grandfather sold it. They had added a steam table in the dining room, converted a cabin into the cutest cocktail lounge. As you walk into the dining room there is a beautiful hand carved porcelain bedpan full of nuts and as

you walk out there is another one full of mints. Many details I cannot put down on paper but it's most interesting to me. It was now called Wanita Cousine and the only way you can get in there is by reservations; she always has an arm long waiting list. It is a real tourist attraction as a show place.

That is why I have so many relatives in America, the family split, so it is a good place to go for holidays.

At Lac du Bonnet, Omer worked the land in the summer. From December to March we would take the family to Mile 10 where Omer and the boys cut and hauled pulp. Later years he sawed and operated a sawmill in Maple Creek.

When the children were older we just worked the farm. We all attended Landerville school, which only taught to Grade 8. We walked  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile and were lucky as a lot of kids had a four mile walk. At lunch time it was a real battle as all the kids would stand on desks to thaw their lunches on top of the huge wood furnace which had a mesh grill. The roads were corduroy and no ski pants. Oh how I hated those long bulky woolen stockings that would go up as far as nature would allow. It



Taxi?



Mrs. Marie Lavoie homestead.



was fun as we didn't miss too many school days.

In the early days of my life we travelled by horse and buggy and in winters by sleigh. As we got older during the long, cold winter evenings we would be listening for Sonny Parks horse bells because we knew there was going to be a dance so we would have everything cleared out of the way. Sure enough, there was Sonny and his violin and a load of people would pile out and the dance would go on. We would stop at midnight for lunch and go right back on the floor, young and old, till the wee hours of the morning. Music was provided by Sonny Parks and Pruden Lessard on banjo. Pruden would take the odd break to pinch the girls. We were always on the lookout to hide when he laid his banjo down. My parents would walk miles to the neighbors for a card game. They would take turns so winter was never dull.

People would travel with their family in my day. Summer Sundays were beautiful as we always had company. The young people would play croquet or baseball while our fathers would walk to have a look at the grain fields. Mothers would prepare a big meal.

Come threshing time I would follow dad with his old steam engine and machine to help with the cooking from farm to farm. We made afternoon lunches for the threshers because they would work until dark. Many meals I helped serve with only a coal oil lamp. It was midnight by the time we cleaned up. Up again by the crack of dawn for breakfast. On and on till the harvest was finished. It was hard work but fun and no pay.

Our first radio was an R.C.A. Victor with an earphone, so can you imagine a family of 14 with one earphone. However we all managed to have a turn. Dad loved "Fibber McGee and Molly". He would just kill himself laughing over it. We were green with envy. Then he would tell us the story.

Our first car was a Model A Ford. When dad started to drive I think he went through every barbed wire gate hollering Whoa! Whoa! The horses would stop while he opened the gates but not the car on a holler, but he soon learned. I believe he and Mr. Robidoux were having a contest as Mr. Robidoux did the same.

For the sake of my family who will enjoy this and many of the old timers.

Submitted by Josephine Fournier

## OMER LAVOIE AND MARIE VERHEGGE

I, Marie Verhegge, was born in Belgium West, February 18th, 1892. I came to Canada in 1894 with my father, step mother and two brothers. My mother died at the birth of my youngest brother George.

My grandfather owned a vineyard in Van Beernene, West V.L. Belgium. He had made my father Pierre a partner of the business when he was a young lad. When he married, three children were born, Maurice, myself and George.

A year later, after my mother died, my father married the maid that my parents employed. Guess that didn't please my grandfather so he had him exiled from his country. My father and Mr. J.B. Letain's brother had been pals in Belgium and he had already emigrated to Canada and settled on a farm at Laurier, Manitoba. That is how we got there. My father, broken hearted and sad, having to leave his business and country, settled on a farm knowing nothing of farming, so he had a real hard life.

On my father's second marriage three children were born. One day we all went out picking wild raspberries near the edge of the garden. My brother, age five, disappeared and was never found. Search parties combed the bush till snow fell but all they found was his silver cup. There were many bears around. It was decided he was taken by a bear.

When I was nine years old my father died so mother had to struggle along in a strange country. She could neither speak English or French but we managed. When I was twelve or thirteen, I can't remember, my stepmother remarried and had three children and then her husband left her and we never ever heard from him so there we were, left again with a big family. By this time she managed without government help as there was no welfare in those days.

At a very early age sister Helen was stricken with polio and was left a cripple. Mother entered her in a charity convent where the nuns gave her an education and she became a school teacher and remained single till age fifty when she married. Two years later her husband died and she remarried and again was widowed after 1 1/2 years. Two years later she took ill and was in a coma six months before she passed away. My oldest brother was a railway man and died in B.C. in 1962 at age 71. A stepsister died in 1978. The third family, two Verley brothers own a store in Laurie, the girl I've lost track of.

At age 16 I left home to work in McCreary for a short time, then came to Winnipeg to work. This is where I met Omer, my late husband, and was

married at age 18 on November 10th, 1910. As a young bride we came to Lac du Bonnet and settled on a farm. Omer did bush work in the winter and farmed in summer. Omer was school trustee, councillor and reeve and always ready to give a helping hand. In 1952 we retired from the farm and moved to town. In 1957 Omer passed away.

We raised eleven children, ten are still living.

Annie died of leukemia, December 31st, 1935 at 14 years of age.

Edward married Laura Lussier, farmed in Landerville until he retired and moved to the village of Lac du Bonnet. They have five children: Roger and family; Aileen and family live in the municipality of Lac du Bonnet; Alfred and family in St. Vital; Alice and family in Beausejour and Raymond and family in Fort Garry.

Paul married May Fournier. He owned and operated his own business of crane operator and heavy equipment. They have three children, all married except Jo Ann. Rene and Judy live in Lac du Bonnet. Denise and Tom Woods live in Winnipeg. Jo Ann is a Bay employee and lives with her father. Her mother, May, died in 1979.

Josephine married George Fournier and have five children, all married. Josephine retired from the Post Office after 25 years service. Janeen and Len live in Toronto; Denis and Shirley in Reddett, Ontario; next the twins Leo and Leona, Leo and Mia live in St. Andrew, Winnipeg and Leona and Glen in Dauphin, Manitoba. Patricia and Terry live in Toronto.

Alcide chose to remain single. He owned and operated Lavoie Motors for 25 years. Upon retiring he settled on the banks of the beautiful Winnipeg River.

Ephrem married Agnes Leclere. They have two children, Carole and Omer. Both are single, working in Winnipeg. Lavoie brothers (Ephrem and Wilf) were in the heavy road building equipment for years. Now retired from it.

Eugene married Hallie Cavanaugh. He owns and operates the only cement plant in Lac du Bonnet called Lavoie & Sons. They have five children: Gail in Winnipeg, Ivy and husband Garth in Winnipeg, Dwight in University, Brock and Mark at home.

Wilfred married May Nesbitt of Winnipeg. They have four children: Debbie and husband Craig live in Winnipeg, Allan, Leann, and Darcy at home.

Irene married Bertel Gille and they live at Gillam, Manitoba. The whole family loves the north. Irene and Bert are employed by the Hydro. They have six children. Marlyn and family live in Toronto, Lois and Janice work in Winnipeg, Cheryl and husband Mike live in St. Vital, Donna is at Red River College and Scott at home.

Olive worked at Burns a long time. Late in life

she married Robert Sellers. They have a small son, Dean, and live in St. Vital.

Berthe married Gerry Greenwood and they are living in Castlegar, B.C. They are employed by B.C. Hydro. They have three sons. Lawrance and family live in Burnaby, B.C., Perry and family in Revelstoke, B.C. and Murray is still at home.

Submitted by Marie Lavoie

Assisted by Josephine Fournier (her daughter)

## THE MIKOLAYCHUK FAMILY

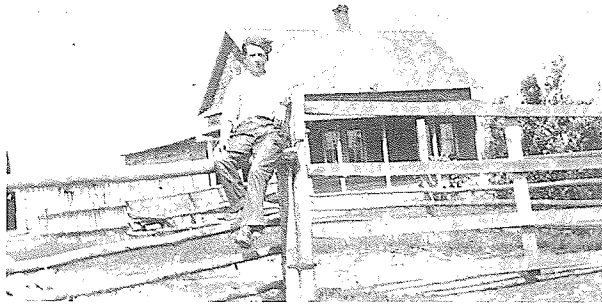
Dad was 21 years old when he arrived in New York City, U.S.A. from Warsaw, Poland in the year 1900. He made this month-long trip by boat. A year later, mother who was 20 years old, followed Dad to New York from her birthplace of Ternopol in the Ukraine. Shortly after her arrival, they were married.

Mom and Dad continued to live in New York City for the next eight years where they had two children, John and Julia. During this time Dad was a stable boss but because he disliked city life, he decided to move his family to Canada. They travelled by train to Bellville, Ontario in the year 1909. That same year Mother gave birth to another son, Mike. Father worked in a Bellville cement factory for the next two years. After witnessing a tragic accident at work, Father quit his job. He then moved his family to Manitoba as this province offered free land for persons who were interested in homesteading. The family travelled by train to Beausejour, Manitoba and they settled in Brokenhead. They farmed here for a few years and then their daughter Annie was born.

After hearing of better land around the Lac du Bonnet area, they moved to Landerville in 1914. They had five more children here: Josie, Eddie, Wanda, Bertha and Mary. Now there was a total of nine children in our family.



Front row: Bertha, Mary, Wanda and mother. Back row: Father, Edward, Josie and Anne.



When new settlers arrived in Manitoba, the neighbors would get together and help with the buildings needed. This was how our first home was built. Everyone would pitch in. The women would do the cooking while the men worked on the house. The neighbors who helped with our home were Mr. Mikitta Lesko, Mr. Andrew Olynik, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Joe Billan. Our house was built with logs, filled in with clay at the joints. It consisted of four rooms, two upstairs and two down. It was considered to be a large home in those days. While our house was being built, the family members stayed with various neighbors.

Not having any farm animals that first year, food was supplemented by hunting. Mother was the hunter in the family and with her gun and her lookout, Mrs. Olynik we were well supplied with rabbits, bush chickens and wild meat. In the summertime, the meat was pickled in pickling spice and salt and then it was preserved in barrels. In the winter, the meat was frozen and was kept in the granary.

We always seemed to have a beautiful and large garden and the vegetables lasted from year to year. Some were kept in sand boxes during the winter. Others were kept in a cool root cellar in the house. One time when Mom and Dad had gone to town for the day, one of our cows strolled into the garden. We tried so hard to get her out but she'd just chase us away. She feasted on all of the cabbage and she crushed other vegetables. We finally had to run over to our neighbor's house to get Mrs. Olynik to help us out. She was able to chase the cow out. This cow certainly wasn't afraid of children, instead of us chasing her out, she'd chase us out.

Wild fruit was plentiful. We were always well supplied with jam and fresh fruit.

The groceries we needed were bought at the store, 7 miles from our home. We remember how our Dad would carry 98 pounds of flour on his back all that distance. Our bread was baked in the outdoors in a large clay oven, both in winter and summer. Fifty pounds of flour was used each time to bake large quantities of bread.

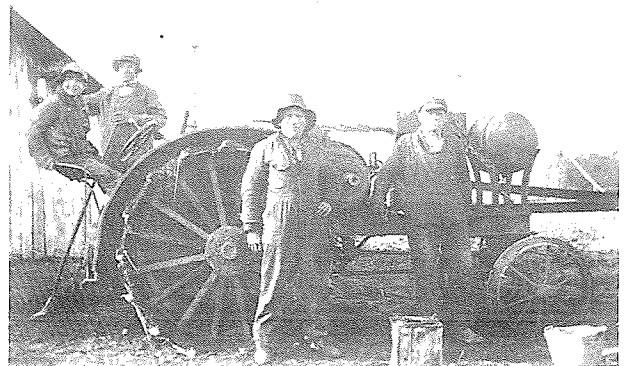
We washed our clothes with laundry soap that we made from lye and beef fat. The solution we used for washing floors was made from ashes.

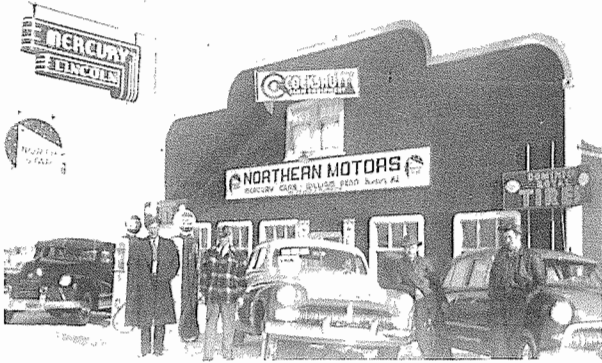
We were getting milk from our neighbor for the first year and then Dad bought a few cows and a team of horses. We then had all the dairy products we needed. In the summer all of these perishable items were kept in the well. And the horses he bought were used to help with the farm work.

All the cooking and heating was done with wood and there was never a shortage of it. Life was very hard in the summer clearing land of bush, rocks and stumps and working 18 long hours a day. In the wintertime, Dad did the logging and cutting the firewood around the homestead. After alot of the land was cleared we were able to begin grain farming. From the beginning the land was seeded by hand until we bought the horses and then they would do this job. It was said that our Dad always had the best horses in the community. We also used the horses for plowing and tilling the land. The threshing was done with a steam powered threshing machine. In the low-lying areas we would cut the hay by hand. During the harvest, the neighbors would pitch in and help each other with the work.

The roads were very bad and in some places there were only trails to follow. Each farmer had to contribute a few days every year with a scraper and a team of horses to maintain the roads. When necessary the doctor or the police had to come from town on horseback. Because our house was situated on high land we could often see people coming from a distance. We remember the R.C.M.P. in their bright red uniforms as this caused us children much excitement. Because of the road conditions and because the doctor was not always available, our mother was a midwife in the district. She had many problems delivering babies as it was not easy to get in touch with the doctor. Mother would either walk to the house to deliver the baby or someone would come by horse to get her. She delivered many babies in her day.

Most of the entertainment was held in the





This is the business (Northern Motors) the two sons of Nikolaus Mikolayczuk owned. L. to r.: the late Mike Mikolayczuk, the late Paul Swetz (son-in-law), their mechanic John Kaban and the late Edward Mikolayczuk.

wintertime. Almost every farm house had a musician of some sort. Instruments including the drums, violin, accordion and harps could be heard at the weekend parties which were held at various homes. There was alot of singing and joking going on. There were all kinds of homemade foods such as holupchi, sausage, headcheese, cabbage perogies, bread, buns and chokecherry wine. All of the neighbors shared their food and entertainment to make these occasions a good time for all.

Our school was not built until 1918 and it was about 2½ miles from our home. The four oldest children all started school at the same time that year with the exception of John, the eldest son. He was 14 years old so it was his job to help Dad on the farm. Later however, he did attend night school in New York where he was a very good scholar and he was able to learn English and Polish.

Our school consisted of one large room which held approximately 40 students. Our first teacher was Mrs. Henley who stayed in the teacherage. Before we left for the 2½ miles to school each morning we had our chores to do. Then after a day at school, we would walk back home where we had more chores for us to do. We worked to clear the land, picking up stones till dark. We did manage to have time to play some fun games at school. In the summertime we played baseball, football and other games, or if you had skates in winter you could go skating on the ice covered ditches.

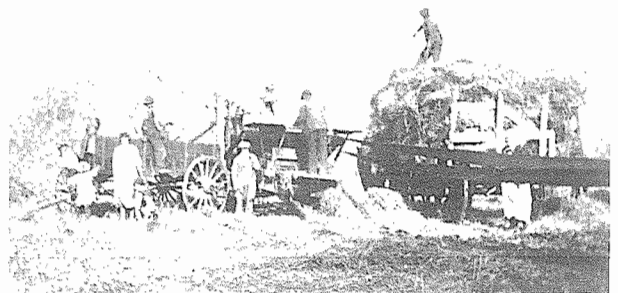
Unfortunately our school was wrecked by a tornado in 1922. The children were in school at the time but only minor injuries were encountered by the flying debris and bricks. The teacher's house was flattened and one child was badly burned by the scalding water when the stove was overturned. The school was rebuilt later that year.

The first Secretary-Treasurer for our school was Omer Lavoie who held this position for the first few years. Then Paul Riviera became the Secretary-Treasurer for the Landerville S.D. for the next 34 years.

Sometimes we were fortunate enough to get a ride part of the way home in the wintertime. Some of the farmers who had been returning home from dropping off a load of cord wood in town would try to be at our school at dismissal time. We sure appreciated this because it was often 40° below 0. We can remember how cold our hands and feet would get because we were not fortunate to have the proper clothing.

When we were older, Mom and Dad would let us go to the dances held on Saturday nights but first we had to do all of our work. We would walk from 6-8 miles to get to the hall depending on which one we went to. On the way we would meet up with friends and we'd all walk together. It would take us a few hours to get there. Then we'd do alot of square dancing and have a good time. Before you knew it, it was already time to go home. We'd take our time and we wouldn't arrive till morning. Mother would be waiting for us and she'd inform us that we'd have to go get the cows and milk them before we could go to sleep. Like people say, "Those were the Good Old Days."

On Sunday, we were not allowed to do any hard work. It was a day of rest. Our whole family would attend church when possible. Our first church was built in Brightstone by volunteers, in the year 1913. It was opened only during the summer months and the priest would come from the city every second Sunday. Families would walk or come in their horse and buggy to attend church. Our mother



played an important role in the church as she was the Secretary-Treasurer. Other women including Mrs. Picknicki and Mrs. Dubrucki and Mrs. Sikora were also in charge of looking after the church. On Sundays when there was no priest available and when time permitted our Mother would teach catechism. She'd gather all of the children and she'd teach us at home or at a neighbor's home.

One day our Mother and Aunt Kay went out visiting. Our Aunt decided to leave her 3 year old daughter at our house. About an hour later, the little girl was missing. We searched and searched the area for the rest of the day but we could not find her. We started to panic and by evening Dad and the neighbors formed a search party. All night long they looked for her but she was no where to be found. The next day, our Dad pumped all the water out of the well thinking that maybe she had fallen in there. The following day and night the search party continued. Finally on the third day she was found by Mr. Horbatiuk. He found her about a mile away from home on a farmer's grain field. She was alive and well. She was hungry and badly bitten by flies during these three days. We were all thankful that Mrs. Horbatiuk had heard her crying. This little girl had managed to survive three days all alone. We were so relieved for we had thought the worst.

Later on in years to come, our livestock increased. Now we had chickens, cattle, pigs, sheep and several good horses. We used to have so much trouble with the bears killing young livestock and many chickens were carried off by the wolves and hawks. We remember one time when a Mother bear attacked one of our young calves. Dad had to kill it in order to save the calf's life. A baby cub was left and so we raised it for the next two years. Eventually it became too vicious for us to handle so Dad gave it to the storekeeper, Mr. McArthur who was to send it off to the zoo.

In the late 1920's a friend of our Dad's kept sending letters asking him to come and farm in New York State. Since a few of the children had been living there already, Dad didn't hesitate in his decision to move. He sold everything and he moved his family there. When he got there he found that the land required considerable fertilizing and it was not as suitable for farming as the land in Manitoba. So he packed up his family with the exception of Annie, Josie and John, and he returned to Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba.

Here he bought another farm 1 1/2 miles south of town. First he built log cabins for temporary accommodations in 1929.

The following year, a tragedy occurred. Our brother John died in New York City. His body was brought back home for burial.



Mikolaychuk family - 6 daughters, Mom, Dad, missing - 3 sons.

Eventually Father built us a six-room home with three bedrooms. He continued farming for several years until his retirement in 1947. They sold their farm and they bought a house in town. Father passed away in 1951 and our Mother passed away in 1960.

John, the eldest son, died in 1930. His occupation was that of a carpenter and he was an exceptionally good violin player.

Julia married Andrew Bukay and took up residence in Brightstone where they raised a family of 11 children. They have 28 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Mike married Anne Lahoda from the Ukraine and he farmed in Landerville until 1939 when they moved to Lac du Bonnet. He was a former councillor for the village. He had two children and four grandchildren. He died in 1968 and he was predeceased by his wife in 1946. He was a businessman within the village and at one time operated a general store and a Mercury Lincoln Dealership and garage.

Annie married Paul Swetz and they took up residence in the village of Lac du Bonnet. Paul worked delivering water and wood in the early years. Later they started a construction company, Brincheski and Swetz. They had two children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Paul died in 1951.

Josie married John Morski and they farmed in Landerville. They moved to Lac du Bonnet in 1947. She resides in Lac du Bonnet. They had four children, 14 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Eddie married Sally Navrot and he was a trucker. In later years he had a transport company that travelled the Lac du Bonnet to Winnipeg area. They had five children and 11 grandchildren. Eddie died in 1978.



Wanda married Steve Hysio and they farmed in Brightstone. They had seven children and five grandchildren. Steve died in 1976. Wanda died in 1977.

Bertha married Louis Sytnick and they started farming in Landerville. They later moved to the Lac du Bonnet district where they are still farming. They have two children and four grandchildren.

Mary married Mike Zakara. She had two children and five grandchildren. She resides in Lac du Bonnet.

Submitted by  
Annie Swetz

### LOUIS & BERTHA SYTNICK

Louis Sytnick was born March 16, 1916 and was the second youngest son of Nick and Hedwig Sytnick. Nick and Hedwig had five children and lived in the Brightstone district. Their five children, Frank and Pete now deceased; Betty, wife of Paul Sikora, Louis and Paul all reside in the Lac du Bonnet district at this time. While at home he helped his dad on the farm plowing and cutting hay - all done by horses. In the dirty 30's young boys from the district would jump freight cars and go harvesting on the bigger farms out west for \$2.50 a day. Grub on these farms was not always adequate and the boys would have to go up town and get more food to keep up their strength. While out harvesting the boys would sleep in the old house or in the hay loft.

On June 27, 1937 Louis married Bertha



Louis Sytnick plowing, 1936.

Nikolaychuk in Lac du Bonnet. Bertha was the daughter of Nick and Julia Nikolaychuk and was from a family of nine children.

After marrying, Louis and Bertha resided in Landerville. Here they farmed and worked their fields with horses till 1941 when they bought their first tractor. We owned cattle and poultry and also grain farmed.

In the winter Louis cut pulp at Great Falls and came home weekends by horse team. They got \$1.00 a cord for pulp and 35¢ a cord for jack pine. This wood was later hauled to the Pine Falls paper mill. Cutting pulp brought in cash money to buy necessities for the home and machinery. While the husband was out working, the wife carried on the farm chores during the week. We made our own butter and cheese. Bread was made in the wood stove. We canned our meat in sealers. Other perishables were kept in the well during the summer.

In winter there were many times when the well went dry and we had to dig a well in the swamp by hand and then chase the cattle to the water hole. There were times when we had to dig four wells a winter because the first ones had gone dry.

In July 1938 our first child Jane Ann was born. Most children were born at home and were delivered by midwife, as doctors were not often available.

In September, 1940 Jim was born under Dr. Reid's care. At this time Dr. Reid travelled by car.

Entertainment in these days were mainly house parties where the whole family attended. Travel was still by horseteam. Christmas and Easter were usually spent at the grandparents home. Christmas was always a happy occasion with a meatless supper Christmas Eve consisting of 12 dishes and the Christmas Day's meal included meat.

We lived in Landerville for seven years and in 1944 we bought Nick Mikolaychuk's farm near Lac du Bonnet.

We again had cattle and sold milk and cream to town. We hauled produce to town by tractor.

In 1946 our daughter Jane died after a lengthy illness. We lived at this farm till 1949 and then purchased 26 acres of land adjacent to the Winnipeg River and this is still our place of residence. We built our present home and it is here our daughter Janice was born in January 1951. It was also in 1951 when we first got electric power.

Louis farmed and also worked for August Osis, contractor, pouring cement and building homes. We owned as many as 100 beef cattle plus poultry and grain farming. We now own 143 acres of land and are semi-retired.

Jim and Janice both completed their grade 12 in Lac du Bonnet.

Jim was involved in the 4-H cattle club and par-

ticipated in many school activities. He worked at Lavoie's garage and also worked weekends at Dancyt's store. After completion of school Jim worked in Thompson till his acceptance to the RCMP force where he trained in Ottawa.

In 1964 he married Hope Hrynkeu and they lived in North West Territories for 10 years where their two children were born. Karen - April 1967, Ken - April 1968.

Jim and Hope now live in Regina, Saskatchewan where Jim is a Sergeant after 19 years of service. Hope is an R.N. and works part time.

Janice was involved in the 4-H Home Economics club for nine years and was also active in the drama club as well as other school activities. Janice, after completion of school, worked in the Dominion Catering Office at Pinawa and then worked for Atomic Energy of Canada in the Purchasing Department at Pinawa.

In 1973 Janice married Jack Halliday who was also employed at Atomic Energy in the stores department. Janice continued to work and taught 4-H as a volunteer leader till 1978.

Jack and Janice live 2½ miles south of Lac du Bonnet and have two children.

Holly was born in October, 1974 and Gary was born in March, 1976.

Jack and Janice are both involved in the Power Toboggan Club and Janice is involved in curling.



Louis Sytnick cutting pulp wood.

# Lee River

## OSCAR MARCUS

Oscar Marcus arrived in the Lac du Bonnet area in 1919 after moving to Canada from the United States. He was born in Riga, Latvia in 1889 and lived there until he went to sea in the early 1900s. After a few years at sea he arrived in New York and later moved to Chicago where he became a machinist for the Great Northern Railway.

He married Lucy Kerr in Chicago and they had three sons, Edward, Robert John, and Harold. Mr. and Mrs. Marcus lived in the Lee River area before settling in Point du Bois where he was employed as a floorman at the City Hydro power plant. Following his wife's death in 1946, Oscar Marcus moved to Winnipeg where he was employed in the City Hydro retail store until his retirement in 1955.

In 1950 Mr. Marcus married Anna Swartz of Lee River and they resided in Winnipeg until her death in 1962. Mr. Marcus died at his summer home in Lac du Bonnet on July 24, 1964.

He is survived by his widow Mary Marcus of Lac du Bonnet; his three sons, eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. His eldest son Edward married Margaret Byman of Lac du Bonnet and they have two sons, Dale and Don, grandchildren Jason and Dion. Robert married Clare Gabriel of Winnipeg and they have three sons, Clyde, Glenn and Robert (a daughter Susan deceased) and two grandchildren, David and Cindy Louise. Harold married Marian Holliday of Pointe du Bois and they have two daughters, Valerie and Lisa Marie.

Oscar Marcus had a farm at Lee River for many years. He played on curling teams for the City Hydro bonspiels and in his later years, was a member of the Latvian Society of Winnipeg. He is buried in the Lee River Cemetery.

Robert J. Marcus

## SVEN AND ANNA NILSSON

Sven was born in 1890 in Skone, Sweden. I was born in 1906 in Stromsund, Sweden. I met Sven in Backe, Sweden, we were married in Stensele, and settled in Gunnarn. We lived in Gunnarn for two years before immigrating to Canada in 1928 with our two oldest children, Nils and Margaret. We travelled by boat and after eight days at sea, landed in Halifax, Nova Scotia on August 5, 1928. From Halifax we travelled by train to Winnipeg, where we spent one night at an immigrant's hotel. We then went on to Menisino, Manitoba, also by train, where we stayed with one of my uncles for a short time. We then rented a house. While we were living in Menisino, Sven worked in Saskatchewan doing elevator work and was away for two or three months at a time. We lived in Menisino until May 13, 1932. Then we moved to Lee River and settled on 160 acres of land Sven purchased from the government. By this time we had four children, Nils, Margaret, Eric and Oscar.

Sven was the only one who could speak English when we came to Lee River. Molly Usackis started teaching me English, and I later completed my education from my children's school texts.

I can remember when we first moved to Lee River, when we arrived it was dark and I was quite happy because I thought I had lots of close neighbours. However, I soon found out that the



lights I saw which I thought were neighbours were just brush fires and our nearest neighbour was at least one mile away, across country. With the roads as they are now it would have been approximately three miles away.

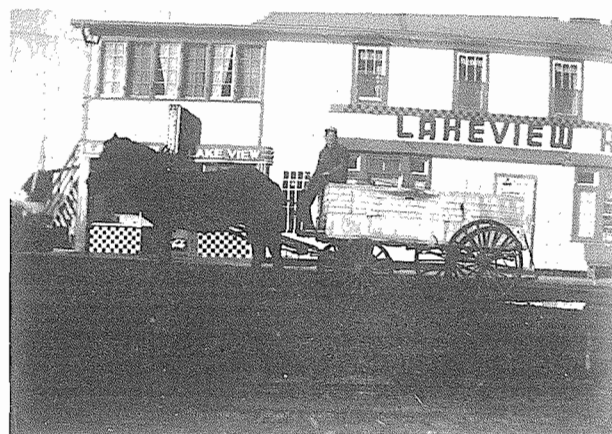
We lived in a one room log house which Sven had built before we moved. After approximately eight years and three more children, Herman, Albert and Harry, Sven had completed another house; a two storey, with two rooms downstairs and two rooms upstairs. The older house was then used as a summer kitchen. When we settled in Lee River, Sven started working in Slave Falls and then the Gunnar Gold Mines. He was again away from home for long periods of time (at one time nine months), so it was my job to look after the children, the cattle and the farm in general. When the children were quite small, I sent my order for groceries with John Weidman, who then lived on the Zalys farm, and he travelled into Lac du Bonnet with horses to get supplies. However, when the children were older and could be left alone to look after each other, I used to walk along the railroad track into Lac du Bonnet for groceries, leaving early in the morning and arriving back home at night, carrying the groceries on my back in a packsack. Sometimes I was lucky enough to catch a ride with the train that would occasionally travel into Lac du Bonnet from Pointe du Bois.

The children walked to Lee River School by means of shortcuts through the bush and fields, a distance of approximately a mile and three quarters. We really had no form of entertainment in those days — the children made their own with activities such as sliding, baseball, and especially a popular game called "tippy". Sundays were special days for them as they were allowed to have coffee. When the older children were in school, I used to take Harry and go by bicycle with Lilly Zeemel and her son to visit people in the Poplar Bay area. In the early years I seldom went anywhere except to walk to Lac du Bonnet for food when necessary.

The nearest doctor was in Lac du Bonnet and with no means to get there. Both Herman and Albert were born at home — no one knew Albert was born for two weeks after the fact as there was a bad snowstorm at the time. When Harry was born, Sven arranged for someone to take me in early to avoid the chance of it happening at home. By the time Diane and Dagmar were born the older boys and surrounding neighbours had cars so I was driven in to the Pine Falls Hospital.

In 1941 Sven quit working away from home and started farming for our income. In 1954 we were provided with Hydro, which was a big treat for the whole family.

When Diane and Dagmar were still small the older children started one by one leaving home to



Eric Nilsson on his milkwagon.

work and get married. Most of them started working away from home when they were about 14 or 15.

On July 8, 1963, Sven passed away. At this time we still had about 15 head of cattle. In 1964 I started working at Wendigo Resort, and finally sold the remaining cattle in 1967.

Nils started his first job working in the Bird River area for a mining outfit and later as milkman for the Lac du Bonnet area, working for Alex McIntosh.

Margaret's first job was babysitting for Albert Zeemel. She married Robert Karklin in 1948 — they eventually settled down in the Lettonia area where they are still living and have seven children, Richard, Gordon, Susan, Lydia, Randy, Glen and Dawn.

Eric's first job was milkman, also working for Alex McIntosh. Eric married Merle Griffiths (a former Lee River School Teacher) in 1950 and have four children, Robert, Sherry, Marlene and Kevin.

Oscar's first job was woodcutting for Russell Waters, where Sven also worked for a time.

Herman's first job was working for Frank Brown in his General Store in Lac du Bonnet. Herman married Elaine Moen (also a former Lee River School Teacher) and have two children, Herman Junior and Caroline. Herman has a dental practice in Calgary where he and his family are presently residing.

Albert's first job was woodcutting in the bush with George Valentonis. He married Carol Anderson (Betty Veilleux's daughter) and they have four children, Carl, Danny, Brenda and Grant. After living in The Pas and Gillam, they are now residing in the Lac du Bonnet area.

Harry's first job was on the tramway in Pointe du Bois. He married Lucille Orvis and they have six children, Allan, Dannel, Wanda, Garry, Loretta and Darryl. They also reside in the Lac du Bonnet area.

Diane married Bill Neal and they have two children, Ricky and Allan. After living in Winnipeg and Abbotsford, B.C., they are now residing in the Lac du Bonnet area.

Dagmar married Fernand Hamonic and they have two children, Jennifer and Nicole. They also reside in the Lac du Bonnet area.

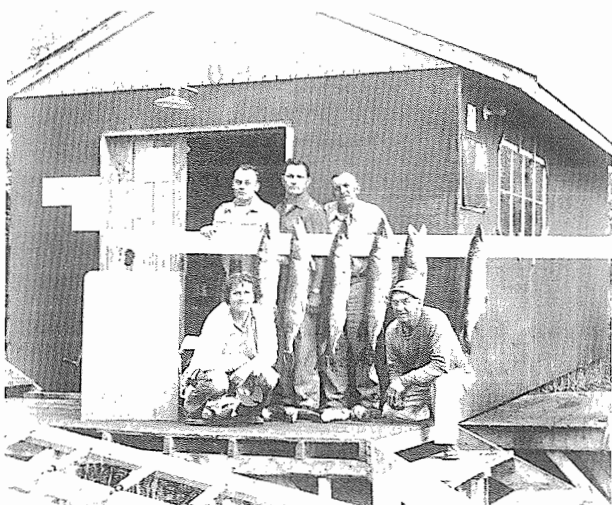
Submitted by  
Anna Nilsson  
November 1978

### **J. S. PENNER AND WIFE ADA OF CAME HIDE-AWAY ON LEE RIVER**

J. S. Penner was born in Winkler on March 17th, 1900. Ada Penner, nee Yarn, was born in Winnipeg December 17th, 1912. On February 27th, 1943 they were married in Winnipeg. They have two children, a boy and a girl. The son lives in Washington and the daughter in British Columbia, Canada. They have seventeen grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren.

Stan's trade was a butcher until 1943 when he decided he was tired of being a butcher. He wanted to try a different trade and as he always liked working with wood, he decided to become a carpenter. First he worked for other contractors, then he decided to go on his own and he worked for twelve years. In 1955 he decided he wanted a change, also he wasn't feeling too well. We decided to look for a place that we liked to spend a summer in our trailer. We wanted a place where it was quiet, and we could keep up our fishing, which we both enjoyed very much. As we had been fishing at Lee River for the last twelve years, we decided to settle there although the roads were nothing to brag about, we could get in or out if it didn't rain. We did manage to get a lot near the river.

The first summer we were at Lee River we



Good fishing - The Penners and friends.

cleaned up the brush and broken down trees which were left after Hydro cleaned up on the river bank due to them raising the water. It was real hard work but we enjoyed it. As the summer passed we had lots of company and people would come out to see if they could find a good fishing spot and for camping, so the summer went fast. We spent the first winter in our twelve foot trailer and lived off the land. The following spring we decided to build a little cottage so we would be more comfortable in winter. After the first year at Lee River we had no intention of going back to Winnipeg. As more people started coming out in the spring, we decided to start a fishing camp which we named "Camp Hide-Away". We still had to eat and make a living and figured we'd be where we enjoyed it.

It was very hard work, but people were enjoying themselves coming out camping and fishing. We thought it was all worth while. As the years went by the roads improved, hydro and telephone were brought in and gradually the land around us was all bought or leased for summer cottages. In 1972 we decided to retire as Stan was past retirement age, we decided that was it. We sold Camp Hide-Away to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Buller who are still running it. We still live at Lee River and hope to stay there as long as our health holds out. We wouldn't trade it for any other place to live. Lac du Bonnet has been very good to us. We still enjoy fishing, which is as good as when we first came fishing in 1945.

Submitted by  
J. S. Penner

### **STACIA GAYNIK (PUDJUNAS)**

My parents came from Lithuania in 1926 with three children (one being myself). We had a temporary stay in Pointe du Bois with some people (I forget the name) until my father built a frame shack on a section of land in Lee River district - which started his struggle for survival. It was impossible to live in the shack (too cold) so a short while later he built a log cabin, held together by moss and manure serving as cement, with a lean-to on one side for the animals. Together we kept each other warm through the bitter winters. My parents cleared land physically as much as possible and harvested grain to sustain ourselves - but how much can a man and woman do without equipment. We sustained on grain, potatoes, sour milk and wild fruit during the summer months. We salted meat, made cheese, butter and our own soap. The neighboring farmers would help each other during harvest time, childbearing and illness, as much as possible. My father tried very hard to get a job on the railroad but to no avail.



We walked to Lee River school (approximately 2 miles) which consisted of one room and one teacher. The children kept the yard in order and cut the wood for the winter. It was a lot of fun for us. The teacher was housed at a nearby farmer's house by the name of Schwartz. They had a daughter Martha who also attended the school. Lord only knows how we survived those blizzards to and from school. On some severe days my father or a neighbor would gather us up along the way (other children too) almost frozen, with a horse and sleigh - then deliver each one to their homes. In the summer our pastime was roaming the woods, picking wild berries and playing "tip-py" - a self made game consisting of two sticks, a real challenge, wish I could show you how to play it. A thousand and one humorous incidents that I can talk about but too numerous to tell.

As time went on, more babies were born, some at home and some at Winnipeg. Seven children we were. My mother thin and weak, contracting pneumonia and measles shortly after the birth of her last child. She passed away in spring of 1936. My mother Apalonia Pudjunas is buried at Lee River cemetery. The events before and after her death is a true life story of much interest.

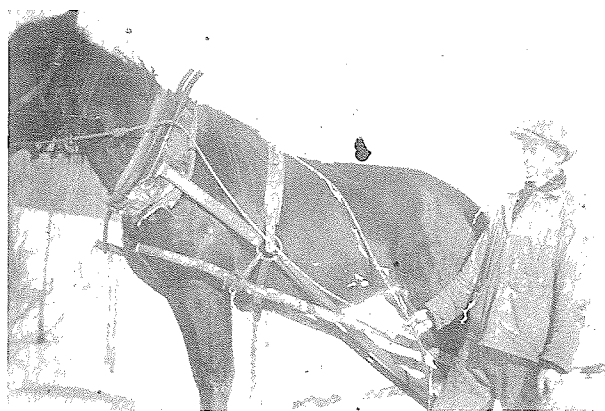
My father Klement (now deceased), my brothers and sister, all settled in Ontario (Hamilton area) in the early 1940's and are still in the area. One brother and his family are living in the Winnipeg area.

My husband and I are now retired, have a son and daughter and four grandchildren with the fifth soon to arrive.

Submitted by  
Stacia Gaynik (Pudjunas)



Stacia Gaynik, Stanley Pudjunas.



Klement Pudjunas Senior, early 1930's.

### KLEMENTS PUDJUNAS FAMILY

It was in the year of 1927 (to the best of our knowledge since mom and dad are no longer with us) that Dad sailed from Lithuania, Europe for Canada taking a homestead in the Lee River district. Having constructed a log cabin within several months, he beckoned to mom to come with the three children he left behind. The three children were, Stan, Stacia and Clem. We do not recall what life was like the first two or three years. Our first recollection was about the time we started school at Lee River which was approximately two miles away. At that time it seemed as though it was ten; and how we survived some of those blizzards of the 1930's we'll never know.

Between the years 1928 to 1935, four more children were added to the family, namely Alphonse, Sophia, Henry and Jimmy.

Tragedy struck in the winter of 1935-1936 when mom walked sixteen miles, through deep snow and bitter cold to Lac du Bonnet, catching a severe cold and passing away in a Winnipeg hospital.

At that point Dad could no longer go on. Authorities stepped in and off to the orphans home in Arborg, Manitoba went the six eldest children. The youngest, Jimmy, who still was in diapers, didn't comply with the Orphan Home's rules and regulations, was graciously taken to be cared for by Mr. and Mrs. George Fournier in Lac du Bonnet. Mr. and Mrs. George Fournier soon had children of their own and passed Jimmy on to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Fournier (George's parents).

Dad, now being alone on the farm, found it unbearable psychologically and to our knowledge was quite ill.

What happened to Dad during our three and-a-half years' stay at the orphan's home we know little about, but we do recall his visiting us periodically.

Then in the summer of 1939 Dad having regained his health, recovered the six from the orphan's



Sophia, Alphonse, Henry and Jimmy.

home and settled down on the farm in Lee River again. But realizing the unpaid taxes plus the debt outstanding at the orphan's home, he soon sold the farm to meet his obligations and ended up in Lac du Bonnet.

Ten years hard work clearing land, combined with tragedy and sickness, only to end up losing all is more than any honest working man deserves.

But, by this time the children were growing up and becoming less burdensome. In 1941 Stan, the eldest, joined the armed forces, Stacia sought out employment in Winnipeg and Clem leaving to seek employment in southern Ontario.

Now dad was left with Alphonse, Sophia and Henry, while Jimmy, the youngest, still remaining secure with Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Fournier just a few doors away.

The Fournier's were a lovely family, a family with a heart of gold. They reared Jimmy with a good sense of responsibility, justice and understanding, better than dad could have done.

Jimmy grew into adulthood with the Fourniers retaining their name, and rightly so.

In 1943 Dad left Lac du Bonnet taking with him Alphonse, Sophia and Henry and settled in Hamilton, Ontario. There they were met by Stacia who earlier left Winnipeg also for Hamilton, and a new life had begun.

Dad soon acquired employment in the steel industry. Remarried in 1947 and remained in the steel industry until retirement in 1959 and passing away in 1974.

Stan, after serving four years overseas, returned to Hamilton to take up employment also in the steel industry, changing four years later to driving

truck for a major oil company. Stan was a good brother and a likeable fellow among his friends, always concerned about the welfare of others more so than his own, but not much more can be said about Stan for he met an untimely death in 1954 in his 31st year. He is sadly missed and never to be forgotten.

In 1947 Stacia became Mrs. Steve Gaynik. They have a son and a daughter, both married, and are proud grandparents of four and soon to be five grandchildren (daughter is expecting). Steve, having retired in 1978 after serving 37 years in the supervisory capacity at the steel industry in Hamilton, makes Florida his home in the winter and 1077 Beach Boulevard, Hamilton in the summer.

In 1953 Clem married a Hamilton girl. They have two sons and a daughter. The elder son being married and at the time of this writing, Clem and Grace are about to become the proud grandparents of three grandchildren. Clem spent 28 years at the steel industry in Hamilton as a mechanical maintenance man. Clem is now with a real estate firm in Hamilton and makes his home on a farm in nearby Dunnville. Anyone visiting the area who remembers Clem may call 774-5221 and at least say hello.

In 1954 Alphonse married a Hamilton girl. Al and Cheryl have one adopted daughter who today is 15 years old and doing well at school. Al spent most of his life working for various employers, the last being a security agency. Due to an unfortunate car accident in which he sustained leg and back injuries, is not in the best of health and presently is on disability pension. Al and Cheryl make 225 Charlton Ave. East in Hamilton their home. Anyone visiting the area who recalls Al, he may be reached by telephoning 529-3781.

Also in 1954 Sophie became Mrs. Frank Wojnar. They have three children. Their oldest two children were adopted as small babies and now young adults. Sophia's husband Frank is a chief technical engineer at Hamilton's only technical college. Frank and Sophia have just celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary.

Henry makes his home at 119 Vansittart Ave., Apt. 5 in nearby Woodstock, Ontario. Henry works for a firm that manufactures various products and on weekends idles around on a five acre farm in nearby Ancaster, Ontario.

Jimmy, as we mentioned earlier, grew into adulthood with the Fournier family in Lac du Bonnet, is married to a Nipawin, Saskatchewan girl. Jim and Betty have two sons and two daughters, none married yet, and make their home today at Stonewall, Manitoba. Jim chose aviation as a career and is very successful in that field flying the north country presently with Lamb Airways.

Always known as Jim Fournier, we're sure he keeps in close contact with the Fournier family and can be seen periodically around Lac du Bonnet.

The entire Pudjunas family wish to take this opportunity to extend greetings, good health, prosperity and much happiness to all in the years to come.

Clement Pudjunas

### OLGA CAROLINE URBAN

My name is Olga Caroline Urban. I was born in Bird River District in a little log cabin. My parents names were Lotte and Andrew Balod. They emigrated from Latvia to Brazil as did many others. They had one baby girl Alice Andreanna when they went to South America. They found life in Brazil very hard due to sickness.

In 1910 they arrived in Canada. They came to Winnipeg as they had heard a lot of Lettish people lived there, and as they couldn't speak any English only Lettish, German and Russian and Dad could also speak the Brazilian language (I think it was Spanish). However they got along fairly well as far as understanding the people. Dad left mother and baby Alice in Manitoba and went west as far as Alberta, but did not like the open prairie. He came back and along with Michal Osis and his wife and family moved to isolated Bird River as they knew there was lots of timber there for building and wood for fuel, also fishing and hunting. My Dad was a great hunter and fisherman. They had spent most of their money traveling to Brazil and again from there to Canada, so had to live mostly off the land.

Their first house was a living room, kitchen and bedroom all in one and at one end of the building was a thick wall and a cow and a calf in that part. The reason for that I think was so it would be warmer for people as well as animals. The house or building was all built of spruce logs chinked with moss. The living quarters had one window and a mud floor. I think a year later they built a bigger and nicer house, also of spruce logs chinked with moss, but it had a kitchen and I think a separate living and bedroom combined. There my other sister Lydia was born. There was no doctor to attend those women only the neighbours wife (Mrs. Drawson) who was a midwife or acted as one. When she had her children, then the other neighbours would act as midwives. They were all real pioneers and had to be tough.

It took them a couple of days by row boat to go to Lac du Bonnet for supplies, such as flour, sugar, salt, nails, a new axe or saw blade, yeast, tea, etc., just the bare necessities. Perhaps a bit of material and some needles and thread. They traveled about

25 or 30 miles with a row boat, so if you forgot to buy matches or sugar or salt you either borrowed from your neighbour or did without it. Trips to Lac du Bonnet were few, perhaps 3 or 4 a year. By boat in the summer, by oxen in winter.

The Osis family lived in the same house with my parents until they built their own. It was government property where they built. Later they may have had to pay some taxes.

I was born December 10, 1912 (my parents must of been very disappointed with so many girls). Irma was born two years later and lo and behold my brother Waldermar was born two years later again. So there we were, four girls and one boy. Our parents were happy.

As they had to travel so far to Lac du Bonnet to have us all registered, the judge or clergyman, whoever it was, had not registered some of us properly or the papers had been lost. So Irma and I got our birth certificates only about 30 years ago. We had to get the school register where we first attended school as well as our parent's signatures.

For entertainment I remember the people got together and went by row boat out to the lake about a mile or so, there was a lovely beach and we all went swimming. I must have been only about 3 years old but I remember that all the women and children were on one side of the point in the bay and the men and boys on the other side, as no one had bathing suits, only underwear and that clung to your body.

We also went to visit the cemetery, by the time I was three there were about three graves in the Bird River cemetery. One was a little girl's and I still see the little cross with a pink ribbon tied to it, blowing in the wind.

At Christmas they gathered in somebody's house (whoever had the largest one) and had a Christmas tree in the centre of the room with real candles, and they sang songs. By this time there were a number of families living there. There were the Osis, the Sarapus, the Gulbis, the Preedes, the Drawsons, the Strasdines, the Arros. They had the post office by then. The Ledins lived next to us. Mrs. Ledin and my mother used to take the kids in one house and then go looking for their cows in the bush to bring them home to milk. There were no fences so the animals wandered away.

The men folk were cutting logs, hunting or fishing. By now most of them had a team of oxen. O, yes, the Petersons also lived there and a couple named Greiksts. These are while we lived there, later more moved in and some like us moved out and came to Lee River.

I remember one time my sister Alice and I went for mail to Arros, it was a windy day but as the river was narrow then, it wasn't bad. But we docked and tied our boat and went up to the house,

Mrs. Arros had a nice patch of strawberries, I snuck in and ate a few, but got scolded by my sister, that it wasn't nice to do that.

Our people cut hay by hand with a scythe, piled it up by hand. Clearing land was hard as the trees were huge. And working and traveling with oxen is slow.

The year of 1916 my dad and one of his friends went to St. George and bought a young horse, brown with a black mane and tail and a white mark on his forehead, a beautiful colt. We called him Prince. He was a good horse. In the spring of 1917 we moved to Lee River, Dad had got a patent on a piece of land and planned to do some farming. So he built a canvas cover over the sleigh, put all our belongings in and us kids and Mom, hooked up Prince and we moved to Lee River. We stayed in a little house that one of the neighbours had built, who moved earlier. Dad and Mother built another two room house out of logs, with shingles they split from pine blocks that looked like today's shakes. We were all happy and pretty comfortable. The floor was just plain boards and had to be scrubbed with a brush and mother kept it as clean as a bread-board. Before the floor was put in we had only a mud floor and mother often picked fresh leaves and scattered them over the floor. Once in a while she picked a few wild flower blossoms and scattered them over the leaves, it smelled so nice and fresh. But it wasn't too long before the boards arrived and the floor went in.

A barn for the cattle and horse, a few chickens and a couple of pigs, was built out of logs, feeder troughs were made out of hewn logs to start with and they never leaked. Later they were made from boards. They cut lots of wild hay by hand as there were not big enough fields cleared yet, so you could cut with a horse and mower. In 1920, five of their hay stacks burned from a bush fire, and they had to cut it all over again. Some of the neighbours helped but they were all in the same boat, so to speak.

We kids had to do our share of work. We had to feed the chickens and pigs, carry in wood, make supper, pick peas, beans, etc., and shell them, gather eggs, wash dishes and help with washing clothes too (by hand). Mother taught us girls all how to sew, knit and crochet, also to cook, bake bread, make jams and jellies, sauerkraut and dill pickles, how to cure hams and bacon and smoke them.

She made her own soap and one incident I will never forget. My brother and two of the girls were playing outside and running around the house. Mother had told us not to run on one side of the house as she had put a big flat pan of hot soap to cool there, so she could cut it in bars. But us kids forgot and as we ran past the pan, my brother fell

into the hot soap. Luckily Mother was not too far away, she ran over and ripped all the clothes off my brother while Dad grated some raw potatoes and they put these raw potatoes all over on the scalded parts of my brother and bandaged him up best they could. I guess there was a doctor in Lac du Bonnet, but how does one get there with no roads and about 25 or 30 miles by river and lake at that time of year (May). The lake would be still frozen. But my brother didn't even have a scar from the burns. Somehow, in those days, people had their own cures and managed.

But it wasn't all hard work and ills. Mom and Dad used to go swimming with us kids. They also played a ball game with us. We often went raspberry or blueberry picking. Those days the berries were plentiful. So was game and fish. My parents caught sturgeon whenever they wanted one, salted it and smoked it to perfection. I can still taste it. Also goldeye and pickerel were plenty. But those days you couldn't keep much with no fridges, only ice houses. So the people all shared. If one shot a deer they all divided it and everyone had fresh meat, the same with fish. It was never wasted. Later when they had more money to buy sealers, they canned some. In winter the main food was potatoes, sauerkraut, beans, dry peas and meat, noodles and some turnips and carrots, milk and butter, cream, few eggs as they only had a few chickens and they rested during winter as they didn't have enough light in the barns to make them lay.

We still got together with the other neighbours at Christmas and it was a very big and exciting thing to us kids. With mother sewing something new for each one of us and getting ready, curling our hair with rolls of paper and rags so it hung in ringlets when dry.

One summer we were all going to a picnic (which all the neighbours donated their time and food to it, even the music which was a band as a lot of them played cornets, violins, etc.). Mother had made all of us girls pretty dresses and embroidered them herself. Irma had a pink one trimmed with white, and she made a white hat trimmed with pink to match. As we were going down the river with a row boat, a gust of wind came up and blew Irma's hat into the river and it sank before we could get to it. Irma cried and we all felt so bad. Dad said, "Don't cry my little girl, we will catch a big fish and it will have your hat and we'll get it back." So the tears were dried and we went on our way.

When we landed at the picnic grounds, which was Lee River Falls picnic spot, (no resort in those days) we all got out of the boat and I looked at Mother and thought to myself, "Our Mother will be the most beautiful woman there", and she

did look lovely with her dark hair slightly waved at the sides, done up in a bun at the back. She wore a white muslin blouse trimmed with white lace, a wine colored skirt. Dad had bought it for her, the first store-made garment she owned. And she wore a white apron with hand crocheted lace around it tied at the back with its own sash in a bow. That picture is as clear in my mind today as the day we went on that picnic.

We were each given a nickel to buy what we wanted, an orange, an apple, ice cream or a fruit cider, like a soft drink. We hung on to our nickel for a long time, as once you spent it that was it. Of course we were given sandwiches and cake when we were hungry, or homemade sausage on a slice of homemade bread or bun. We had two or three of these picnics during summer.

Later on in winter the people got together and put on skits or short plays which was good entertainment. At home we did not play cards much as my Dad did not believe cards were a good pastime. He wanted us to read and write, sew, darn, knit or crochet. I learned to read and write in my parents tongue when I was about 6 to 8, started school when I was ten. That's when all the people around Lee River got together and built a school house.

My first teacher was a Miss Olive Crelock (hope I spelled it right). She was a real dear, as most of us didn't know a word of English, except to say "I no speak English". She taught us how to sing, recite, read and write. She was good. Our second teacher was very wonderful too. All the kids loved her, she took great pains in teaching us to be young ladies and gentlemen. Her name is Olive Susan Orth. She still lives in Winnipeg and has been out to visit us a couple of times and I just loved her.

We had 2½ miles to go to school, in the summer by boat, in the winter we walked. In the fall when the river was frozen on the shoreline half way, we would drag the boat up to the open water, then push it in and all get in the boat, row across and one would jump out of the boat and hold it till the others got out.

Most of the time Dad took us across and met us again when we came home from school. Sometimes they took us with the horse, two miles to the Lee River bridge, then from there we walked the rest of the way. It was hard to cross the bridge as there were no planks across it, only railway ties and horses feet could get caught between them. The bridge was made for a trolley bus from Pointe du Bois to Lac du Bonnet. The bridge is still there but is not used.

In the winter all the people went to Lac du Bonnet with a horse and cutter. In the summer by boat to the Lee River bridge, then they walked to Lac du Bonnet and came back on the Pointe du



Andrew and Lottie Balod and children: Alice, Olga, and Lydia.

Bois trolley bus. We also shipped cream on the bus, which took it to the Lac du Bonnet station and put it on the C.P.R. train to Winnipeg; from there it went to Eatons, or any of the other Dairies.

Cattle were sold to a buyer who came around usually in the fall, gave you a price, take it or leave it. If you sold it, then you had to chase them to Lac du Bonnet (by this time there was a bush road built, no gravel), or they led one and the rest followed. At Lac du Bonnet there were cattle cars and they were loaded there and shipped to the stock yards. That was a tough day when the cattle had to be taken to Lac du Bonnet, no trucks those days. My folks living on the other side of the river once swam their cattle across the river, but I think found it easier to lead and chase them around the Lee River bridge as by this time the bridge had planks on it. You always had to watch for the trolley bus so you didn't meet it.

I went to grade 7, from then on I went to work. My first job was at Davis Lodge as a babysitter for a wealthy woman from the States. She was a beautiful woman, I think she was a singer. She had two very cute but full of life rascal-like children. But I got along well and she told me I did a good job. I was 13 or 14 then. I had already met Charlie



at some of the country dances and liked him, but he had other girls too.

My next job was working for Mr. and Mrs. Alex Dancyt. They had a store, a bakery and were building the Aleda Hall, which later was the Red and White Store, till the tragic fire demolished it.

While working for Dancys I helped to cook for the men who were building the hall, helped to make donuts in the bakery and also helped in the store.

By this time Charlie was pretty interested in me and by Christmas we became engaged. I was 16 then. But while I was still at Dancys I developed boils on my neck and had to go home. Irma took my job over and has worked in Lac du Bonnet ever since.

When I was fine I went to Winnipeg to work. I was again a babysitter and also did the cooking, general housework, for a very nice family with a boy of 7 and a girl of 5. I worked for them almost a year. Came home and got married to Charlie Urban at the age of 18½. Charlie was 24.

Charlie and an old friend of the family's, built our little log house covered with shingles. We fixed it up very cute and were happy farming with two cows to start. When we had four we shipped cream and sold it at \$1.50 a five gallon can, table cream with about 40 pounds of butter fat. This was in 1932-1933. We were married in 1931. We sold a big cow for \$12.00, butter for 9¢ a pound the first year we were married. Things were rough, but we were happy in spite of it all. We still all got together, went on picnics, played cards in the winters and read the Free Press Prairie Farmer from one end to the other.

But things didn't seem to look any better for the future so we sold our cattle and went north. Charlie and his brother had been there trapping already, so we left our little boy Harold with his grandparents and went. We took the S.S. Keenora to Berens River and from there by canoes inland taking all our grub stake with us as well as eider-downs, pots and pans, etc. We spent three winters

there, the first winter Charlie lost his brother up there (heart attack) and we had to fly the body out and come out ourselves. Spent the rest of the winter with his parents and our little son.

In the spring, went back by plane. Came out the end of May. We didn't make enough to pay off our grub stake, so back we went for two more winters. The last winter was the best so we sold our outfit and came home to stay.

Our son was ready to attend school too. We bought some cattle again and started farming once more. Prices were better as the war broke out and we made a fair living. But Charlie was offered a job with the Winnipeg Electric at the control dam, where New Pinawa now stands. He went one winter by himself, but the next year I sold the horses and cattle and went with him. We spent three years there. Then at Old Pinawa several years. I cooked for the staff. Charlie worked in the Power House, so did our son by this time. When the Power House closed down, we were caretakers there till the old plant was demolished. Then we came back to the farm. We stayed home one year.

I then went to work at the Lakeview Hotel as a cook, but the roads were rough, those days they did not plow them as often. I got home only every second weekend. Charlie was lonesome alone, so I quit. One year later we were offered a summer job at Wendigo. I was again cook, we were there over seven seasons and came home. The same fall I was asked if I would like my old job back at Lakeview Hotel and I said I sure would. I've been there over 10 years now and like it.

When I quit and come home, it will be to stay and just look after my yard, garden and flowers.

We both still have our good health although through the years we have had quite a bit of sickness, but somehow we have weathered many a storm.

My mother passed away in February 1, 1957, my Dad passed away February 8, 1969.

# Lettonia

## THE HISTORY OF PETER APSIT AND HIS FAMILY

by Ruth Sarapu

Due to having to undergo compulsory military service in the Russian army, many young men decided to emigrate to North America. And so it was that at the age of 20 years Peter Apsit decided to leave his homeland Latvia, his parents, a younger brother John and two younger sisters Anna and Emma, to come to America. In 1905 he signed on a ship as a deck hand that was sailing to London, England. Once there, he went into hiding until the ship had left the port on its return trip.

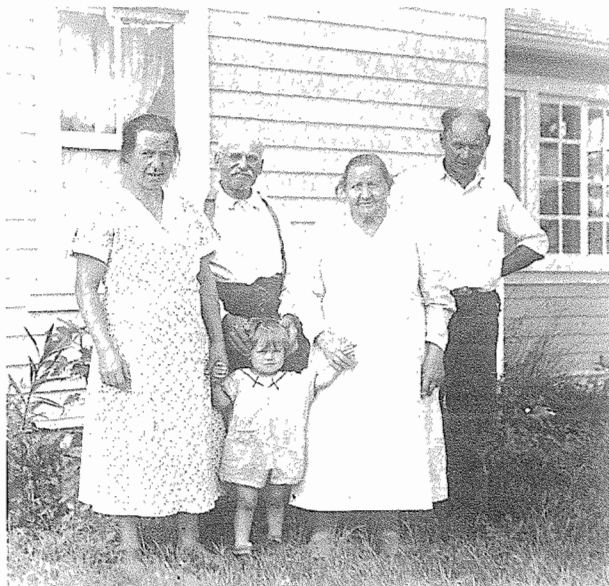
In August he signed on a cargo ship, a three mast-full rip sailing ship employing 12 to 15 men. In September they landed in Pensacola, Florida, after nearly two months at sea. Luckily with the help of local "hobos" who took him into their camp or hideouts along the railroad tracks he escaped. They would jump on to flat cars or into empty unlocked box cars and travel from city to city, jumping off before the scheduled stops in order not to be detected by the railroad officials. And this is how he finally arrived at his destination, Chicago, where his cousin lived.

His first job was as a milkman, and then later with a friend as a partner, went into private business as painters and wallpaper hangers.

His brother John decided to join him in Chicago a few years later and then his sister Anna also arrived in America which only left his parents and youngest sister Emma in Latvia.

In 1914 Peter and a few others left Chicago to investigate and perhaps buy land, offered for homesteads, in Saskatchewan. They found things a lot different to what they expected. The best land was long gone, so this plan was abandoned. For now, being at a bit of a loss what to do, he kept himself busy with different odd jobs.

Eventually he met up with and befriended some trappers which got him interested in the bush and he became a trapper too. This led him to Northern Manitoba, the barrenlands around Churchill, The Pas, South Indian Lake, Seal River, and where the city of Thompson is presently located. And it was



Apsit family — Lucy, John and Mary Apsit, Peter, and daughter Ruth.

while he was in The Pas area that he made the acquaintance of the late Harold Wells of Lac du Bonnet who at the time was Provincial Constable there.

During these years he had several different partners, amongst them, for a few years, was brother John, who too was lured from Chicago to this free, adventurous and new kind of life.

After selling their furs in the spring to the Hudson Bay Company fur traders, and buying their next year's supplies, they went to the nearest settlements or city for a short while. But they were not able to stay long, as there was always lots to do to make things ready for the next winter, plus taking several weeks travelling time by canoe, to get back to the trapline.

Once back in the main camp, they were busy, as there was that, and several other overnight camps along the trapline to make repairs on, and cut firewood for each one to last the winter; dog harness, snowshoes, the dog sleds or toboggans, and traps had to be in good working order. Fish was caught with nets, dried and stored for winter dog food, or if caught late enough in the fall, froze

them, to have a supply at each camp. In the fall they would also shoot moose or caribou, freeze and store the meat, both for their own food and the dogs.

Certainly there were a lot of hardships and problems to live with, as well as occasional situations that arose now and again where life may have been at stake. There were illnesses that came along and had to be dealt with without the help of doctors, or any real medicine. Such as the time when John accidentally shot off the tips of his fingers. As they were partially off, with too much bone damaged to be saved, they had to amputate them right there, with no anesthetic or anything except what they had at hand and only soap and boiling water for sterilizing the knife. Needless to say, John was laid up for quite awhile, unable to do much until the fingers healed.

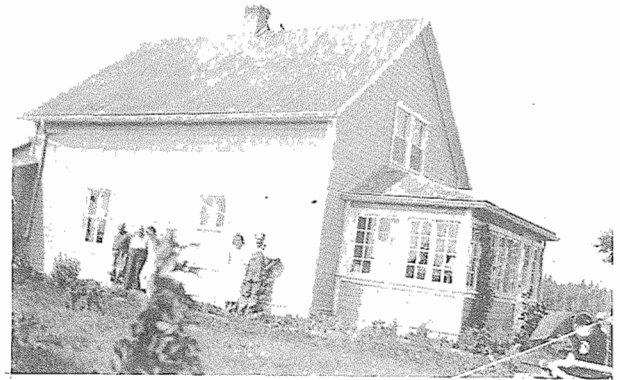
Isolation didn't seem to be too much of a problem (except in emergencies), as in winter they were too busy on the trapline. And the rest of the year there were occasional meetings with other trappers, both white and Indian; who travelled around from camp to camp, fishing and hunting, accompanied by the whole family who pitched their tents for the night wherever they went.

Then one summer, around 1930, while in Winnipeg, Peter heard that there was a small community of Latvians buying farm land and settling near a place called Lac du Bonnet. As farming was his original plan when coming to Canada, the thought interested him, and he decided to go and investigate. After arriving in Lac du Bonnet by train, he had to go with someone by boat the rest of the way, to what the new settlers had already named Lettonia (Latvia in French).

It was beautiful country; along a lake, now called Lac du Bonnet, full of all kinds of fish for food, with a lot of nice rocky shoreline. And a lot of bush too, which would all have to be cleared before any real farming could be done. Peter found a piece of property for sale close to the lake, with a building, suitable for living, already built, which at the time served as a meeting or a community hall to the people already there, but was privately owned. His brother John was very interested too, so together they decided to buy it.

Now, they decided to send money to their parents and youngest sister Emma so they could buy passage and also come to Canada where life would be easier, which very shortly they did.

But for the next two or three winters, Peter still went north to trap, as there was no income from the farm yet. Then, as the price of fur was still high, he got the idea of fur farming. So after getting the necessary permits and license, he caught three foxes, a male and two females and started his farming career. Slowly he built up his stock, and



Apsit home

soon he had a small fur farm, to which he added mink ranching as well.

Meanwhile there was a lot of other work, such as clearing the bush further and further away from the house. Finishing the house itself, as it was only made of logs with just one big room, they had to put siding on the outside, finish the inside with wall board and divide it into rooms, both downstairs and upstairs. Eventually they built on an addition for kitchen at one end, and a verandah at the other end. And so now they had a cozy and fairly large home.

Their parents continued to live there, but sister Emma had soon met and married a local resident, John Ulman, who owned the farm adjoining theirs. So she lived just a quarter of a mile away. And John Apsit lived and worked on the farm in summer, but went back to trapping in winter — which he continued to do all his life until retirement.

Then in 1933, Peter met his wife Lucy, at the home of mutual friends in Winnipeg, and it must have been "love at first sight" for they were married in a matter of a few weeks time from when they first met.

Lucy also came to Canada from Latvia; but after the first world war was over; and after learning of a Latvian family in the Dauphin area of Manitoba who needed a housekeeper, as the wife was totally crippled and bedridden with arthritis. The family was to pay for her passage over, in exchange that she stay with them for a certain length of time, plus a small amount of pay, and room and board. Being among people of her own language helped her adjust to a new country and even learn a bit of the English language. And, so when she was finally finished working for the family, she came to Winnipeg, and shortly after met Peter.

As there was no road from Lac du Bonnet to Lettonia, Peter had to take his new bride home by boat, a ride roughly 15 miles long. This was probably the first of many new and as yet, strange experiences for her.

By now the community was fairly well settled all

around the lake, and people were all busy clearing land and developing their farms. There were plenty of neighbours, and all helped each other when help was needed. They were all quite socially minded, and had organized a local community club, and together soon built their own community hall — Lettonia Hall. Here they held their different get togethers, including organizing their own little live theatre for their own entertainment, as well as for the neighbouring Latvian community of Lee River.

They also got their own Post Office, which was located at the Ulman home (Peter's sister Emma), with John Ulman as Post Master. This they ran until about 1953, when they had to close the Post Office because the community was being expropriated by the Manitoba Hydro when the McArthur Falls power plant was to be built, and everyone in Lettonia was forced to leave.

But a school was never built in Lettonia, as there was one in the neighbouring community of Newcombe. It was in this small one room school where all the children of Lettonia received their primary education, some of them having to walk well over five miles; through bush trails, through snowstorms, bitterly cold weather, pelting rain and hordes of mosquitoes and black flies.

Meanwhile, Peter's fur ranch was thriving, along with a small herd of cattle, some chickens, and of course horses, which were a necessity as tractors were a long way off yet.

Life was very hard in those days with endless days of hard, backbreaking work; but at the same time, good to the family, as things went ahead quite smoothly, and soon included two new members, a daughter and a son, Ruth and Alfred.

Peter's parents continued to live with them until their deaths in the early 1940's, at ages 86 and 89. John still trapped in winter and came home to work on the farm in the summer. The oldest sister Anna, continued to live in the States, with occasional visits to Lettonia.

As the years went by, the price of fox pelts fell, and it became unprofitable to keep them. But mink pelts were still high, so they were kept for a number of years yet. Until one year when prices were the highest ever, disease wiped them out completely. With that loss, they quit mink ranching altogether, and started to concentrate on a dairy herd for cream production.

By this time there was quite a bit of land cleared and under cultivation, or in pasture and hay land. It was around this time that Peter decided to buy out John's share of the farm and go on his own, to which John agreed.

A mud road had been built around the early 1930's and one man even owned a car; the only car around for many years, so therefore he ended up being "taxi" for many people, especially at

times of an emergency.

By now too, farming was slowly beginning to modernize and the odd tractor was around. Those who owned tractors, field equipment, and threshing machines were often called on to do custom work, ploughing or threshing, etc. and this certainly was a great help and time saver.

It was shortly after buying out John's share of the farm, that Peter purchased his own tractor and plough. Now, too, he didn't have to go to town with horses and wagon, but could go with the tractor, which cut the time to go to Lac du Bonnet and back from a full day to half a day if need be.

More land was also cleared, but now, with a hired bulldozer and operator. A milking machine was also bought to help milk the 20 to 30 head of milk cows.

Eventually an older, second hand car was purchased which really changed life, especially for the two teenaged children.

It was about this time that John bought a small farm of his own across the lake from the original place. He never farmed to any great extent, but did spend all his summers there, keeping himself busy with a large garden, and the general upkeep and maintenance of the place. Of course, come winter, he was back in the bush trapping; but now, and for some years already, quite a bit closer to home — in the Cat Lake area. The only way to get in and out was by plane, which would land on the lake by the farm and pick him up and again drop him off in the spring.

Soon after buying his own place, he met and married the former Emily Berzins after enjoying a lengthy bachelorhood, and still he went back to the bush in the winter, as that was his only real source of livelihood.

Then around 1950 or so, news spread that Manitoba Hydro was going to build a new power station at McArthur Falls. And that would mean that a very large area would be flooded out including nearly all of Lettonia. Of course, this was very disturbing to the area's residents, as most of them were getting older now, and had planned to be able to live their still able years on the places they had worked to build. But this was not to be for them.

And pretty soon there were Hydro officials in the area starting to negotiate with the residents about buying out their properties because most of their land would eventually be under water. Practically no one was willing to give in very easily, as none wanted to leave. But they really had no choice, and eventually had to give in and sell, with a lot of resentment and anger directed towards Manitoba Hydro. And so the people were all forced to find new places to live. The closely knit community was now scattered all over a wide area,

and many old neighbours and friends never saw each other again.

Peter and Lucy found a small farm close to Old Pinawa. Then they had the heartbreaking job of tearing down the buildings on the old place. At the same time all around them they had to watch all the familiar trees, landmarks and bush being cut down and cleared away as well as their neighbours moving away, one after the other.

Both of their children had grown and left home by now. So it was just the two of them left to build a new life. But if compared to Lettonia, it was like semi-retirement, although they still had a few cows, some chickens and quite a large garden. So they were still fairly busy. But here they did have the luxury of electricity, and later a phone.

John and Emily bought a piece of property close to town and settled there. Emma (sister) and John Ulman, whose three daughters had also grown and left home, moved to work as caretakers for summer residents along the Winnipeg River not very far from town. A few years later, they bought a small home in Winnipeg and moved there.

After nearly ten years on the new farm, Peter and Lucy decided to sell it and move to town, as Peter was nearing 80 years and it was time to really retire now. So they bought a lot from John (as he had a large enough piece of property to subdivide). They were able to find a house to buy that they could move onto the lot, and after extensive renovations, they were able to move in for their retirement. For the first time in their lives, they now had running water and indoor plumbing.

But happy retirement was not to be for them, or it came too late. Soon after, Lucy fell ill and died in 1965 at the age of 66 years.

Peter is now 94 years old, has six grandchildren, and still lives in the same house, on what is now called Apsit Rd., with his daughter Ruth Sarapu and grandchildren Peggy, Larry and Jerry. He still enjoys good health, as is observed by many people who see him walking down the road nearly every day, for his daily walk. Although his good health is greatly marred by near total deafness and poor eyesight, his spirit for life is still with him.

Peter's son Alfred married the former Gale Osis, and they and their three children, Nola, Peter and Lisa, also live in Lac du Bonnet. By now even half of the grandchildren are grown.

John died in 1971, at age 83, and Emily still lives on the original piece of land that they came to from Lettonia.

The youngest sister, Emma, is in her early 80's now, and her husband 95. They still live in the house they bought in Winnipeg after leaving Lac du Bonnet. They had three daughters, Elma and twins Judy and Mary. Elma and Judy and their families live in Winnipeg, and Mary and family live

on a farm near Beausejour. The Ulmans have twelve grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

The other sister, Anna, married and continued to live in the United States. They had no children. She is now in her mid 80's and widowed, but still living in her own little home in the state of Michigan.

## KARKLIN

Karlis (Charlie) Karklin, was born of Latvian parents in Riga, Latvia. Upon the death of his father, at the age of twelve, he went to live with his uncle in Witebsk, Russia, where he later married Kristina Silin, also Latvian. Together they emigrated to New York, lived there for four years, then returned. Their first daughter Lenore was born in Russia. After a couple of years Mr. Karklin again came to America, to New York and then to Galveston, Texas, where he worked for two years. From there he came to Lac du Bonnet in April, 1913 and his wife and daughter joined him in June.

They bought a 160 acre farm in Lettonia and proceeded to clear the land by pick and axe. Mr. Karklin did not believe in clearing land by fire as it burned the top soil. He was a conservationist. They built a log house on the farm, which still stands and is now occupied by his son. They bought a cow and calf and a bull calf. In September, a thunderbolt killed the cow and calf leaving the family without milk. Mrs. Karklin continued nursing her baby for thirteen months because there was no other milk until they were able to buy another cow. Their first horse chewed its tongue with its long back teeth so it was held only by a small strip and the horse was slowly starving. When it could no longer stand up Mr. Karklin shot it and on investigating, found the reason. He could not afford another horse so he raised a couple of steers and trained them for work. He used this pair of oxen, Jim and Bill, for many years, hauling cordwood to town in the winter, plowing and haying in the summer. As mixed farmers the Karklins raised a small amount of grain, some cattle, sheep, chickens, pigs, potatoes and a large garden. Their income was from the sale of beef, cream, lamb, potatoes, cordwood and some fur pelts trapped in the winter. Beef was two cents per pound dressed and eggs ten cents a dozen. In the winter Mr. Karklin cut cordwood and trapped. Three winters he went to northern Manitoba, the Churchill River region, to trap while his wife stayed home and carried on, taking care of some twenty head of cattle and sending their three children to school.

In 1914, a year after they settled on the farm, their second daughter Nora was born and six years



later a son Albert. The children attended Newcombe school and had to walk three miles to school and home each day.

Their water supply came from a well and later a pond was dug for watering cattle. Some winters both the well and pond were dry and snow had to be melted for cattle and household use. The river was a couple of miles away, too far to haul water with oxen. Water had to be rationed to livestock, two pails per cow per day and one for smaller animals. Some years there was a thaw in February, which replenished the water supply. Water was a constant worry in the winter time.

In 1930, Lenore married Charlie Yore of Winnipeg, formerly of Lithuania, and at first resided in Winnipeg. Later they moved to Lac du Bonnet where Mr. Yore had a tailor shop on Third Street and Mrs. Yore ran the egg grading station at the back of the shop. They had two daughters, Ann and Rolanda. In 1950 they moved to Red Lake, Ontario, where Mr. Yore continued tailoring and later operated the Poplar Point Camp at Bug River near Red Lake.

Ann married William Farmer of North Bay and now lives in Port Elgin where Bill works at the Nuclear Energy Research Plant at Point Douglas, Ontario. They have five children. The oldest girl, Kelly, is a hairdresser, the others still attend school.

Rolanda married Jack Skavinski of Oakburn, Manitoba, and resides in Red Lake, Ontario. Jack is employed as a foreman at Campbell Mine. They have two children, Perry and Tamara, both attending Red Lake Collegiate.

Lenore and Charlie Yore were both killed in a head-on collision near Thunder Bay.

Nora married Nick Rudy in 1939 and had one daughter, Nicola Blythe (Chickie), who is now married to Glen Hirst. They have three children, Calvin, Grant and Shannon, all attending school in Lac du Bonnet. Glen is Supervisor of Maintenance and Transportation for the Agassiz School Division. Nora lived in Winnipeg when she first married but when her husband's health failed they moved back to Lac du Bonnet, where she was agent for Perths Cleaners. After fighting multiple sclerosis for many years at home and then in a nursing home in Winnipeg where he still resides, at the request of his wife, he divorced her. In 1954, Nora married Edward Malyk. They have one son, Bruce. Ed is storeskeeper at the Manitoba Government Air Division.

Albert stayed on the farm and assisted his parents with running it. Later, when they retired, he inherited it and carried on. He married Annie Zolondek and has two sons, Graham and Barry. Graham is a geologist employed in Kimberly, British Columbia. He married Beverley Lovenuk

of Hadashville. Barry is employed by the Manitoba Government Air Division at Thompson as an air mechanic.

At age seventy, Mr. and Mrs. Karklin retired and moved into Lac du Bonnet on Third Street where they resided for twenty years. Mr. Karklin passed away at ninety and Mrs. Karklin at the age of ninety-one.

Respectfully submitted  
Nora Malyk

## PETER KARKLIN

In 1912, Peter Karklin sailed from Russia to New York, where he stayed for a few months. In 1913, he came by train to the Lac du Bonnet area where he was to settle. He was joined by Olga Kalnin in 1913 and on the 25th day of October, 1913 they were married in the St. John's Church in Lac du Bonnet. They settled in Lettonia district where they homesteaded a quarter section of land. They lived in a one-room log house while they cleared their land by hand. The logs which made the house were hewed by hand. Their first house still stands to this day. In 1914 they built a second house, which was also made with hewed logs. Soon after, their first son Robert was born. A neighbor walked to Old Pinawa to fetch Dr. Malcolm. Dr. Malcolm was again called when the second son, Edmund, was arriving. This time, though, it was in Lac du Bonnet. In 1941, another house was built where Robert and I are now living.

Like many families Olga and Peter made their living by farming. They started with one cow and gradually built up their herd. The hay to feed the cows was cut, raked and stacked by hand and then hauled by a sled pulled by an ox.

The nearest town was Lac du Bonnet, which was twelve miles away. In the summer they made their monthly trips by boat and in the winter by horse and sleigh. At first their mail was picked up



This picture shows the old homestead. The house on the extreme left is the first house, which still stands today. The one in the middle is the second house and beside it is the barn which is also standing today.



This picture shows Olga picking "Mangles", a type of beet which was used to feed the cattle as a supplement. In the background is the old homestead.

weekly by the community. In 1914, a post office was opened in Lettonia at John Alskne's house. He was both postmaster and mail carrier.

When Robert and Edmund were old enough, they walked three miles to attend school at the Newcombe School which was closed in 1954 because of high water (Hydro Project). The Hydro gave them another building which was moved to a new location where it still stands today.

In 1946, Edmund married Dorothy Alskne and they had three children, Dorothy, Georgina and Danny. In 1948, Robert and I were married (nee Margit Nilsson) and had seven children, Richard, Gordon, Susan, Lydia, Randy, Glen and Dawn. These children also attended the Newcombe school before it was finally closed in 1967.

In 1959, Edmund was drowned leaving behind his wife and three children who still reside in Lettonia.

Peter passed away in 1966 at the age of 80 and ten years later Olga passed away at the age of 91.

Submitted by  
Margit Karklin

## CHARLES LAGSDIN

Charles Lagsdin was born in Riga, Latvia, in the year 1880 to John and Liza Lagsdin. He left Latvia in 1905 and came by ship to New York City. He worked as a stevedore in New York, and in two years had saved ship's passage for his wife, Tekla, his mother and father, his brother John and two sisters, Emma and Alvina, and also for Tekla's sister, Dora.

While living in New York City, he met recruiters for the paper mills in Kalamazoo and area in Michigan. The whole family moved from New York City to Kalamazoo and Vicksburg, Michigan. Both Charles and Tekla worked in the

paper mill. Later Charles started a used metals and iron business and began buying raw furs in Kalamazoo. He merged with others to form the City Iron and Metal Company in Kalamazoo.

Their son, Oscar, was born in Vicksburg, Michigan, and Donald and Waldie in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Charles' brother-in-law Ed Wilde, Alvina's husband, had travelled to Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba and interested Charles in a new frontier with land available for farming, and also excellent opportunity for trapping, hunting and fur buying. The following year, Charles travelled to see the Lac du Bonnet area himself and made a down payment on the Beckman farm.

A year later, in 1922, Charles, Tekla, sons Oscar, Donald and Waldie and Tekla's sister, Dora, moved to Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba. Dora later married John Jurgenson and farmed about two to three miles beyond Wendigo resort. Charles and Tekla cleared additional farmland and took an adjoining quarter section under the Homestead Act. Most of this farmland was flooded when McArthur Falls dam was built, and the original farm home was moved to Lac du Bonnet, across from the grain elevators.

During those early years there were no roads from Lettonia to Lac du Bonnet. Fastest travel was by boat and motor. Other means of travel was a horse drawn sleigh in winter, and horse drawn wagon in summer. Tamarac was hauled to town, one cord at a time, and sold for \$2.50.

Charles soon began buying furs, and was the first to buy metal from Pointe du Bois Hydro. He was a pioneer in wild rice, and designed one of the first parching machines for wild rice. The machine was powered by a small Briggs Stratton motor. Joe Sparman and Paul Romanyszyn did the needed welding on this machine. Charles continued buying furs, used metals and wild rice until he was in his nineties.

Charles was an early contractor for pulpwood for the Pine Falls Paper Mill. He continued this until the 1960's. He owned the first grain thresher in the Lac du Bonnet area and did the harvesting for the neighboring farmers. He had the first binder in the area in partnership with Mr. Puhze on the adjoining farm, which is now owned by Dolly Karklin. Charles had various hired men from the unemployment camps in Winnipeg working for him. These men were paid, in addition to room and board, five dollars by the government and five dollars a month by the farmer.

Charles also bought and sold cattle, and sturgeon. In those days, sturgeon were very plentiful. They could be seen jumping at the twin islands near Wendigo and spawned in large numbers near the shoreline of McArthur Falls.

Charles and Tekla's daughter Helen, was born

in Winnipeg in 1929. Cars began to appear in Lettonia in the 1930's. The first battery operated radios also appeared, then Ulman was the first for many years to have windmill operated electric lights in his home.

Just prior to World War II, Donald and Waldie Lagsdin returned to Kalamazoo, Michigan. Both served in the American Armed Forces. Donald was stationed in California and Hawaii, Waldie spent 38 months in England, France, Belgium and Germany. After World War II, Waldie and Donald remained in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Oscar, who lived in Lettonia all his life, died in 1954. Helen spent time in Michigan, but returned to Lac du Bonnet about 18 years ago. She has two sons, Sidney and Edward. Both have Bachelor of Science degrees from the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, North Dakota. Sid's is in business administration, and Edward has a major in anthropology, and in Ceramics (Fine Arts).

Tekla died in 1974 at the age of 89. Charles died in 1975 at the age of 95. Both are buried in Lettonia cemetery by the Winnipeg River, not far from the farm they lived on for so many years.

Submitted by Helen Stine  
(Charles Lagsdin's daughter)

### MY HISTORY

by Mrs. A. O. Shauman

My parents, Matt and Libi Sihl lived in Riga, Latvia, Russia. My mother got married when she was 32 years old and my Dad was one year younger. I, Augusta, was born September 10, 1900, a year later and my sister Annie, February 8, 1905. Times were hard for them so they made up their minds to go to America. My Dad and my two uncles went first. They went to Boston, Massachusetts where my father found work and a place to live. Meanwhile Mother sold our place near Riga, and used most of the money for fare. Mother just hated to leave as it was a beautiful time of the year. Two of my aunts came along with us and each had a girl my age (I was five then). I remember my Granny (my mother's mother) and my Dad's father came with us also.

After awhile we moved to a smaller city called Jamaica Plain, about 20 miles from Boston. When September came my cousin Vera and I started school as we were six years old then. We couldn't talk English so the kids used to tease us so much that we could hardly get home so after that my Grandpa used to come for us, but we learned English pretty fast.

I remember the stores at the main shopping centre. At one the school kids used to buy dill pickles from a big barrel instead of candy. There were all

kinds of cheeses too, but I remember the Latvian bakers best. Their sweet sour rye bread was delicious. They used to bake beans and pork too. People waited in rows to get them at 17¢ a quart, or 8¢ a pint, fresh from the oven. Poor people had to live how they could. My Dad worked in a shoe factory.

My Aunt Mary and her family moved to Beverly about 20 miles away. I missed my cousin Vera but we went to see them sometimes. It was so hot in the summer in the States that children and even horses suffered from sunstroke. There was also children's sicknesses. Vera was very sick with sunstroke and I with diphtheria. My sister was taken to my aunt's as it was such a contagious disease.

There were lots of Latvian people in the States so we soon found lots of friends. We went to parties, dances and meetings at a big Latvian hall.

While living those 5 years in the States my mother never learned to speak English. When she was young in the old country she went to Riga to learn dressmaking. She lived among German people then learned their language which she was able to use in Jewish stores. At a Sunday School I went to, a teacher taught us to read and write in Latvian, as my father did, too. So I shall never forget my own language.

It wasn't long until there was no work for my father. We had friends in Winnipeg who wrote to us that there was lots of work going on there. Aunt Emmy and her husband wrote us to come also. A good friend loaned us the money for our fare. We only got \$8.00 for our furniture from a second hand store. My mother had just bought a new sewing machine which she didn't want to give away so cheap, so we took it with us.

My Uncle Hans met us at the CPR station, that was 1911, the end of June and took us to his place. My father found work right away and saved enough to repay the loan. At first we lived in rooms, but then we rented a nice big house so Auntie and her family shared it with us. As jobs were getting slack again we only lived two years in Winnipeg. My Dad and my uncles heard you can get a cheap homestead at that time for \$10.00 so they went to Lac du Bonnet to claim them. Everyone worked hard and helped each other. Still at times my Dad had to go to Winnipeg to find work to make a little money.

There were quite a few families in this Latvian settlement so as my mother wasn't so busy at first, she started to sew for them. They had lived there longer so had cows and chickens and my mother exchanged with them those products they had for the sewing. Sometimes they gave her game — moose or deer meat. There were lots of bush chickens, too, and plenty of fish. Sometimes they

gave her smoked sturgeon which was delicious.

We used to pick mushrooms in shady places. Mother put them in a crock for the winter with salt. There were all kinds of wild berries, plentiful most years, but some years they didn't turn out so good so mother used to put blueberries and black currants up in the attic where it was very hot in summer to dry for tea. We grew chicory for coffee and browned up some wheat and she only bought some coffee beans to mix in. It was very good coffee.

When we did have cows and chickens we exchanged butter and eggs for groceries. The best flour was \$2.75 per 98 pounds, second grade \$2.25 and third grade with 3XXX on the sack was \$1.95. We used mostly third grade, it was pretty good flour, only darker, 20 pounds of sugar was \$1.00 and salt was 50¢ for 50 pounds.

So my Uncle Hans and Aunt Emmy made up their minds to go back to the States to live in Boston again. My cousin Millie wanted to find work, she didn't like the bush country. As my uncle couldn't sell his place he gave it to my Dad. This made things easier for us. There was a nice cabin, quite a bit of land and the garden was worked also. Uncle sold his cattle for the fare. They went away in the spring of 1919. Millie's son Harry Began was seven years old then, and they all lived in Jamaica Plain again.

When Harry grew up he learned to be a pilot. He went to Texas, but whenever he got time off he always came to see his mother. After her divorce from his father, Millie got married again at a later age to Fred Carlson. He died suddenly, one year later. What a shock it was for my cousin. She had lost her Dad in 1933 and now her mother got sick and had to be in a wheelchair. She was 96 when she died and Millie looked after her until the last minute. Then she sold the house and got a smaller place. Her son often wrote to her to come and live in Texas, but at first she just couldn't leave all her friends in Jamaica Plain. Later she did move to Texas, but I never heard from her anymore.

But I must get on with my own life — when I was still with my parents, you had to walk wherever you went or go by boat. Once we rowed to town, that's ten miles away, but coming home a big wind came up and big waves so it was impossible to go any further. We saw a house almost by the shore where a man was living alone. He was a Swede. He gave us shelter and some lunch. Towards evening the wind calmed down so we thanked him for everything. We had to get home, or else my mother would be worrying about us. The district where we lived was called Lettonia but where there were more Swedes it was called Newcombe.

When I was fourteen I went to Winnipeg to do



Andrew and Otily Shauman, three of their children, son-in-law and four grandchildren.

housework. I had several different jobs. On my days off I mixed with Latvian people. They always had parties and dances. There I met up with my husband-to-be. We were married in July 1918. I was 17 and Andy was 23. That fall that terrible flu came along. It was harder on people who had pneumonia before. That was the fate of my cousin Vera. I felt so badly. I became sick and so did my husband, but we got over it. I remember my grandma kept well and looked after us all.

The Schumans — Father John, Mother Anna and family. The eldest was John, then Martin, George, Andrew, Carl and August worked hard to make their own living. Andy and I stayed with the old Schumans until we got our own place built and in 1919 my first son, Fred, was born, then my second son, Eddie. When Eddie was seven years old he got a ruptured appendix. My husband took him to Lac du Bonnet by boat. When he got to town there was no doctor available so as he needed to be operated on right away, they stayed overnight and caught the train to Winnipeg next morning. They got as far as Molson and our sonny passed away in Andy's hands. What a shock that was for us. Andy's nerves were bad but he had to work as we had at that time \$12.00 per year to pay for taxes and could hardly scrape it together.

My first girl, Alice, was born in 1923, Clara in 1926. I was very sick in 1935 and Dr. Wood took me to St. Boniface Hospital where I was operated on for gallstones. In 1936, I was blessed with another daughter, Gloria. The older ones were glad to have a little sister. So now we felt we must do

something about getting a school. With the help of the Department of Education our school was built in 1928 and opened in 1929. It was called Poplar Bay School.

At first the teachers only stayed one term but one teacher, Pauline Mattern stayed for three years, and was a great help to me when I was sick. I shall never forget her for this. Her married name is Krushak and she lives in Anola and still comes to see us sometimes.

I used to keep most of the teachers at our place as we were nearest the school. Andy was chairman of the School Board and I was elected secretary. In 1940 the school closed up for five years as there weren't enough kids in our district, but opened up again from 1945 to 1964 when school buses took the children to Lac du Bonnet.

Gloria, who was ten years younger than Clara, went to school at Lee River in 1943 and stayed with Annie and Ed Buckler for one term. The next year, I obtained a correspondence course from Winnipeg for her, and taught her myself. She went to school in town after that.

Gloria married Mike Zaretsky, has three children, Judy married and living in British Columbia, Brenda, 20, will get married soon, Richard still at home, goes to school.

Alice is married and lives in California, has two sons, Gary and Larry. Gary lives in Tacoma, Washington, has two sons, Mathew and Derek and a daughter Amy. Larry lives in British Columbia, and has a daughter, Janet.

Clara worked in a bakery in Winnipeg before she got married. She went away to Sudbury, Ontario to live. Her husband has been working in the mines for many years. They have two sons, Donald, 24 and Kevin, 12 years old and a daughter Christine, 19 years old.

My son Fred got married in 1958. He and his wife Evelyn have two daughters, Ellen, 17 and Janice, 15 and son Martin who will be 12 soon. They live out on the farm, 18 miles from town where we used to live.

Gloria lives on a farm about 11 miles out of town.

Andy, my husband, is in a nursing home in Beausejour, Manitoba. He has been sick for many years. I have been living in the Lac du Bonnet Senior Citizens Home for six years. Since the time we came here in 1913 there has been so many changes — tourist camps all around Lee River and in our little district of Poplar Bay way up to Bird River, Lac du Bonnet has been built up in every way.



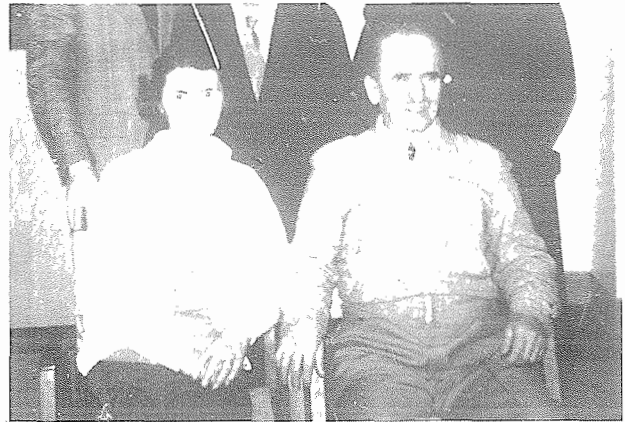
# Maple Creek

## MR. AND MRS. E. HENRI BELAIR

My wife (nee Juliette Désormeaux) and I hail from Quebec. I was born on December 23rd, 1908 and came from a family of eight. Mrs. Belair also came from a family of 12. We were married in 1938 and came to St. Boniface. I was a mechanic by trade with a few years experience and was employed at Hub Service by Mr. H. Aseline.

Plagued by poor health we moved to Lac du Bonnet in 1939 and in the fall built the first house on Minniwawa Street (where Mr. Albert Aarsenault used to live) and later became caretaker for Mr. P. Lessor in Landerville. Farming taught me how to milk a cow and harness a horse. We bought a farm of our own in Maple Creek where we stayed for eight years. Things were going smoothly and farming was quite successful when my health failed me. To go on the farm, we were not rich (look what we have) — a pair of horses, one heifer that cost \$35.00 and a cow we paid \$30.00, one set of sleighs, one wagon, one haymower, one hayrake, one log house with a siding cover, one log barn and we moved there before Christmas, and in winter I started cutting pulpwood. I cut 50 cords, not bad for a greenhorn who never had cut wood in my life. In summer to make more money we went picking blueberries on the Sand Hill but to get there we had to go across the low land and also water. Mr. Riviera was a trapper and made corduroy paths or narrow roads and if you fell off this path you were in water up to your waist. The mosquitoes and sandflies were also a nuisance. We used to pick one pail (three gallons) in two hours for 18¢ a pound. In the evening we had to return home to milk two cows and feed the chickens.

I went into the woods for the winter as a helper for Ed. Lavoie and George Chevrefils but that job was too much for me. Had to be taken back to camp and then Great Falls to catch the bus to Lac du Bonnet. It was difficult to get someone to take you to your home and also they didn't realize how sick I was. This was in January and I managed to get to Omer Lavoie in Landerville and the next day Mr. Lavoie drove me home, about three miles in a



Mr. and Mrs. Henri Belair

sleigh. I was weak and had the gripe which later turned worse with severe pain close to the ribs. My wife went for help on a pair of skis made of old boards and we kissed goodbye as I felt as though I was dying. In the meantime, Mr. Noel Henri, a neighbor, had gone to Lac du Bonnet, so got medicine for me from the doctor and the priest came to give me the last sacrament, I was so weak. For a year it was impossible for me to do very much and was told to take it easy. Finally, I was able to take the night shift as a mechanic at Pine Falls Power plant and later worked for Oscar Bjornson in his garage. That is when we moved back to Lac du Bonnet. I also sold Watkins products for a few years and later decided to go into business and built and opened Henry's Corner Store (now Campbell's Store).

Six years later the Corner store proved too much for us and we sold in 1962 and took a long holiday in British Columbia (testing the climate) and back to Lac du Bonnet where we bought a berry farm. In 1972, I had two heart attacks in six months, so sold the berry farm and moved into Lac du Bonnet again after 40 years. How the village has grown during those years. Remember the subdivision was only a pasture and also the old church we attended, I believe, was made of logs. Do you remember Mr. C. Bruneau who sold water by the drum? And there were so many fish flies, they covered the horse, the wagon, the drums and



even Mr. Bruneau on the wagon. In those days there were so many fish flies that it was difficult to see the sun clearly. Now we have the Bonny Vista Lodge for the Senior Citizens, also a nice clinic, a good arena, the curling rink and the new Catholic church.

In my retirement I have taken up some fascinating hobbies such as tin work and wood work. The tin work is really lovely in miniature lamps, tables, pictures, frames, chairs, etc. Also I paint with oils and sketch. In oils I have painted the former Prime Minister Diefenbaker, Dr. Slogan in Selkirk and Joan Crawford the actress and presented the models with their portrait and I also presented the Pope with a portrait I painted. I received an honor roll diploma from the Washington Arts which is proudly displayed in our living room.

After many years of poor health I am pleased to say that I am enjoying my retirement years, taking part in some of the activities available for Senior Citizens. I remember the suffering I experienced with my frequent illnesses and thank God and my wife for going through those years and still being here to write this history.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Henri Belair

#### **THE ARTHUR LUSSIER AND JOSEPH FONTAINE FAMILY HISTORIES**

After thirteen years of drought and heavy ranch work — bronco busting, etc. — at the town of Regina (now extinct), Montana, U. S. A. the Arthur Lussier and Joseph Fontaine families decided to join a brother by the name of Antonase Lussier. He was living in Maple Creek district. Water and grass was plentiful for cattle.

Arthur Lussier and wife Amanda had eight children, the youngest being twins two years old. The children's names were Wilfred, Daurila, Matt,

Emile, Omer, Adrien, Lucien and Lucy.

Joseph Fontaine and wife Hermeline had seven children, the youngest aged four. The children's names were Wilfred, Daurila, Omer, Regina, Hector, Irene and Germaine.

The two families planned the journey together to start June 6th, 1922 by covered wagon. In all they had seven covered wagons. Boxes were made and attached under the wagons for chickens, therefore providing poultry and fresh eggs on the journey. A herd of forty-two horses were driven and the older boys riding horseback throughout the trip. A guide was sent ahead daily to find feed and camp for the night. The group found many cooperative people and were welcomed wherever they stopped, help was readily available. The trip went smoothly except for three days of heavy rain. They then took refuge in a school. That school is still standing and has been kept in perfect condition, a few miles from Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. We crossed the United States and Canadian border at North Portale, Saskatchewan, June 30th, 1922. We arrived in Lac du Bonnet July 4th, 1922. Took two days from Lac du Bonnet to Maple Creek with a stopover at Omer Lavoie's homestead. Shortly after reaching their destination the two families were stricken with a form of cholera due to the change of water. Unfortunately, 18-year-old Daurila Fontaine did not survive and was buried in Lac du Bonnet. We first lived in log houses. After arriving, only a few of the cattle survived. Farming was near impossible due to muskeg and swamp. Therefore, the men turned to bush work. There was no school for the children and no doctor for miles, entertainment was a get-together and square dancing.

The two families stayed together, moving to Saskatchewan, back to Maine, U. S. A., back to Saskatchewan where Arthur Lussier died at the age of 46. After the death of Arthur, the two families finally returned to the Lac du Bonnet area to farm. Today, the trip by taking the highway would be 850 miles. Bill Hammerstedt was there with the welcoming committee to receive us which was heart warming as we had reached our destination.

The surviving members of this family are: Emile Lussier, Adrien Lussier in Lac du Bonnet, Lucien Lussier in Long Lac, Ontario, Irene Lussier in St. Boniface and Germaine Lussier in Lac du Bonnet, also Lucy (Lussier) Chevrifil in St. George, Manitoba. Wilfred Fontaine lives in Winnipeg and Hector Fontaine at Stead, Manitoba. As you can see many descendants are still living in the Lac du Bonnet area.

Information provided by one of the 2-year-old twins, Lucy (Lussier) Chevrifil.

Lucy (Lussier) Chevrifil



Armand Tetrault Family at Richer, Man. June 28, 1964. Papa, Mama, Martin, Rene, Leon, Roger, Yvette and Louis in order of age.

### PAUL AND TETRAULT

Ernest Paul married Clara Cardinal in Montreal on November 26th, 1889. They were both born in Montreal. They moved to Gravelbourg and in 1918 moved to Lac du Bonnet with their six children: Germaine, who married Jacob Mailhot and remained in Gravelbourg, Saskatchewan. George, Edgar, Leonie, Aline, who is an Oblate Sister in St. Boniface and Charles Auguste, accidentally killed in 1922. They were caretakers of the Villa Provencher until it burned in 1920. They bought three homesteads in Maple Creek, one for himself and for his two sons. Edgar married Jeanne Lussier in 1933. Leonie married Armand Tetrault

April 7th, 1926 and lived a short time in St. Boniface. They moved to Maple Creek in 1930 and homesteaded. Life wasn't easy and everything had to be done manually as there was no electricity, roads, schools or telephone. Oxen were essential animals to break and work the land, also used for obtaining lumber, groceries and their mode of travel. There wasn't a school so Mr. Tetrault and Mr. Henry contacted the Department of Education and got a teacher and the first school was in a log house that the Lussier family had outgrown. Then Mr. Tetrault and Edgar Paul cut wood necessary to build the Maple Creek school.

Times were hard and sugar and flour bags were dyed and made into necessary clothing. They provided their own entertainment and in the more



Tetrault father and sons, Armand, Martin and Rene.



At the Villa Provencher in 1919. Back row, Mr. Deschaine, Mr. Poisson, Mr. Dumonchell, teacher; George Paul, Edgar Paul. Front — son of Deschaine's, Mrs. E. Paul, caretaker; Mrs. G. Mailhot with baby, Mrs. Deschaine, Mrs. L. Tetrault, Aline Paul and little girl, Mrs. Deschaine's daughter.



Roger Tetrault, goat with twin kids.

leisure time in fall and winter, dances were held and card parties at different homes in the area.

Leonie and Armand Tetrault moved from Maple Creek to the Lac du Bonnet farming area in 1946 and their latest home burned so they moved to Richer in 1961 where Armand passed away in 1974. Leonie Tetrault returned to live in Lac du Bonnet. Leonie died June 24th, 1979.

The Tetraults had six children: Five boys and one girl. Martin married Carmen Lapierre in 1954 and they have one son Marcel and live in the Lac du Bonnet area.

Rene married Helen Baggerman in 1954 and they have two boys and one girl, Jerry, Lois and Pēter all living in Lac du Bonnet area.

Leon who lives with his mother.

Roger married Loretta Bruchanski and have four boys: Curtis, who died accidentally in 1977, Perry, Kevin, Trevor and Margie, whom they raised from a baby and is Loretta's sister.

Yvette married Ferdinand Owens in 1963 and lives in La Broquerie, Manitoba. They have two children, Yvonne and Paul.

Louis married Gertrude Boulin in 1960 and lives in Fort St. John, British Columbia. They have three children, Gerald, Janet and Carole Ann.



First school at Maple Creek, teacher Melba Cool, 1937.



New school at Maple Creek. Built by Armand Tetrault and Noel Henri, 1937.

# Newcombe

## NEWCOMBE CHRISTMAS CONCERT DECEMBER, 1943

### PROGRAM

1. O Canada
2. Chairman's Remarks (Mr. Martin Wold)
3. Choir: There's a Star Spangled Banner (All the Children)
4. Recitation: Pleasing Santa Claus by Alfred Apsit.
5. Recitation: Christmas by Alvin Kuva.
6. Recitation: Washing Dollies Clothes by Irene Wold.
7. Dialogue: **A Lucky Escape** (Velma Boychuk, Joyce Woods, Vivian Burnside, Joyce Alksne, Rosie Boychuk, Norma Wold).
8. Dance: Clara Boychuk.
9. Recitation: Kitty's Stocking by Biruth Apsit.
10. Recitation: Buying Xmas Presents by Lois Byman.



Newcombe School, 1916.



Newcombe School, 1943.

11. Dialogue: **A Society for the Suppression of Slang** (Velma Boychuk, Joyce Woods, Vivian Burnside, Joyce Alksne, Rosie Boychuk, Norma Wold).
12. Song by four girls: Judith Ulman, Mary Ulman, Clara Boychuk, Biruth Apsit.
13. Recitation: Mother Long Ago by Irma McMahon.
14. Recitation: A Very Good Boy by Norman Wold.
15. Medley of Songs: by Helen Erickson, Elma Ulman, Velma Boychuk, Vivian Burnside, Rosie Boychuk, Joyce Alksne, Norma Wold.
16. Recitation: The Whooping Cough by Rosie Boychuk.
17. Recitation: I Know by Curtis Wold.
18. Dialogue: **Goodbye Louisa** (Vivian Burnside, Joyce Woods, Joyce Alksne, Mary Ulman, Judith Ulman, Biruth Apsit, Jack McMahon, Norman Wold, Irma McMahon, Alfred Apsit, Clara Boychuk, Irene Wold, Myrna Woods.)
19. Recitation: Grandma by Norma Wold.
20. Dance: Velma Boychuk and Rosie Boychuk.
21. Recitation: Like Wynken, Blyken, and Nod by Clara Boychuk.
22. Recitation: The First Christmas Song by June Woods.
23. Duet: Jack McMahon and Norman Wold.
24. Dialogue: **Mrs. Brown's Visitors** (Vivian Burnside, Joyce Alksne, Norma Wold, Judith Ulman.)
25. Recitation: A Christmas Stocking by Larry Wold.
26. Duet: Helen Erickson and Velma Boychuk.
27. Recitation: What I'll Do. by Mary Ulman.
28. Recitation: December by Myrna Woods.
29. Duet: Irma McMahon and Irene Wold (Grandmama).
30. Recitation: Cooking Things by Jack McMahon.
31. Recitation: The Ferryboat by Judith Ulman.
32. Chorus: Old Santa Claus is Coming.
33. God Save the King.







Left to right: Elma Ulman, Joyce Alksne, Sam Johnson, Herbert Lofstrom, Helen Erickson, Alice Matthews, Don Byman, Harold McMahon, Vivian Burnside, Helen Lagsdin, Ken Larson, Fred Kompelein.

**Excerpts from a book made up by the Newcombe school children, 1943-44 and written by Vivian Burnside, aged 12 years**

After the school was built it had to have a name. It proved difficult to find one as every name sent to the Department of Education had already been chosen by other districts. Finally Mr. Newcombe was sent out by the Department and he named the district after himself.

The early pioneers were Martin Wold, John Alksne, John Rosenberg, John Fels, Ole Kompelien Sr., Ole Kompelien Jr., Olaf Kompelien, Emil Carlson and Andrew Bergstrom. Most of them were trustees of the school at one time or another.

The teachers of the school up to now were Mrs. Naima Erickson, Mr. Jaroslav Weywasa, Mr. Harry Blair and Mr. Sidney Stewart, Mr. John Burnside, Miss Nellie Yurchison and Miss Kathleen Sosney.

The school was built in 1915 of logs. All the materials for it were donated except some siding for the south side.

In the early days they had a small heater but

later they secured a Camp Comfort box stove with a galvanized jacket. Heating of the school as well as other duties of a caretaker has been undertaken by the teacher ever since the school was formed. Around twelve cords of ash and birch have been bought this year at a total cost of \$84.00.

The greatest distance that any pupil in our school must travel is three miles but the average is 1.8 miles.

Our school has many trophies to its credit. One of them is a cup for the best parade, presented to us by A. M. Doyle of Lac du Bonnet. This parade was held annually among the schools of the Lac du Bonnet municipality. Newcombe won the cup for two years in succession but after that there were none so the cup became the property of the school. In 1932 we won a shield for P.T. at the Annual Inter School Competition. In June of 1943 our school attended a field day in Lac du Bonnet, and won many prizes. We were second in the total number of points.

An Award of Merit was given our school for the best, the most improvement in beautification of the school grounds during the year. We won for three consecutive years - 1925, 1926 and 1927. Many flowers were planted. In 1927 (Diamond Jubilee year) a row of spruce trees were planted along the lake shore on the west side of the school. Each tree was named by a pupil of the school. The initials of these names when put together spelled Diamond Jubilee Year. In the same year a lawn was planted between the school and the spruce trees and called Confederation Lawn.

One of Newcombe's ex-students, Ralph Carlson, won a cup which was presented by the Riverland Young People's Club for the best map of North America.

The name of our present teacher is Mrs. Mable McMahon and the names of the pupils in the Register are: Grade I — Irene Wold, Myrna Woods; Grade II — Irma McMahon, Lois Byman,



Newcombe School Picnic, Pine Falls, Man., June 29, 1932.



John Burnside and cup presented to him engraved — Canadian Horticultural Council. For the most noteworthy accomplishment in Beautification of Rural School Grounds donated by Sir James Aikens Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba. Presented at the staircase in the Parliament Buildings.

Alfred Apsit; Grade IV — Clara Boychuk, Norma Wold, Jack McMahon; Grade V — Judith Ulman, Mary Ulman, Biruth Apsit; Grade VI — Norma Wold, June Woods; Grade VII — Rosie Boychuk; Grade VIII — Joyce Alksne, Vivian Burnside, Joyce Woods; Grade IX — Herbert Lofstrom, Velma Boychuk; Grade X — Elma Ulman.

The pupils in grades IX and X are taking correspondence courses.

Thirty-five war saving certificates have been bought by the pupils of our school and we will continue to buy more until Hitlerism is defeated. Our Junior Red Cross Society, the Gleaming Lights branch first formed in 1923 has sent \$22.91 to the Red Cross during the year 1943 raised in various ways . . . **Honour Roll:** Edmund Karklin - RCAF; Herbert Alksne - RCAF; Roy Wold - RCAF; Sidney Wold - RCAF; Waldie Lagsdin - U.S. Army; Donald Lagsdin - U.S. Army; Fred Wagner - Canadian Army; Robert Wagner - Canadian Army; Fred Carlson - Canadian Army; Herbert Sandberg - Canadian Army; Arnold Urban - Canadian Army; Selmer Komplien - Canadian Ar-

my; Elmer Komplien - Canadian Army.

We also have a newspaper which we call "The Gleaming Lights Bugle" sometimes printed by hectograph, typewriter or printed by the children. It is sold for 5¢ to residents of the district and sometimes in Lac du Bonnet. Each month a new assistant editor is elected and each pupil brings some news for it . . .

News Item: February 25, 1944.

A large freighter, lettered CF-BXV from the Canadian Pacific Airlines made a forced landing  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile from Newcombe school on the lake of Lac du Bonnet. Two other airplanes CF-BXG and CF-AQW came to the rescue. Passengers were taken to their destinations in the plane lettered CF-BXG. Then the freight was loaded into the remaining plane but the freight proved so heavy that the plane could not take off so some of the freight had to be unloaded. Later an airplane landed and presumably picked up the rest of the freight. The freighter made the forced landing February 22 due to engine trouble. Because it could not be fixed where it was, it was taken to Lac du Bonnet. There are rumors that a caterpillar was used for this purpose but it is not a known fact.

Every year our school holds a Christmas concert. This concert used to be held in Newcombe school but is now held in Lettonia Hall which is about four miles from the school. Lettonia is included in our school district, but has a post office of its own and therefore must have a name.

On Valentine's Day, Easter and Arbor Day we hold parties and invite some of the younger children of the district to them. On Arbor Day each child brings a lunch and when we have finished cleaning up the school grounds we take the lunch down on the rocks. Then we play games there and in the school yard and then tired but happy we leave for home.

#### NEWCOMBE'S LADIES AID SOCIETY

Taken from records by Mrs. Naima Erickson

On December 1st, 1915 a determined group of women gathered at Mrs. Fels' to organize a Society to work for the benefit of our new school. A committee of three women were chosen to manage the society's affairs - Mrs. Hans Erickson - Secretary, Mrs. Edward Urban - President, Mrs. Oscar Petterson - Vice-President. A petition to the school trustees for ten dollars to start with was favourably received. An order was sent to Eaton's for material to make articles that would be sold at an auction or at a bazaar. The money was to be used for furnishings for the school.

The organ was purchased in the year 1919 from McLean's. A ten dollar down payment was made



Newcombe Ladies Aid Society at Urban's, (Mrs. Madsen crocheting).

and a balance of \$46.29 to be paid by October 7, 1920.

After a few months they felt they could buy a clock and a cupboard for the children's lunch pails. Next a water fountain would be a big improvement on the water pail and so forth.

They even sent \$20.00 for the starving children in Europe. All the members were pleased to see this noted in the Swedish paper.

Inspector West was present at an Auction sale November 29, 1919 and after his speech they all felt encouraged to go on.

We musn't forget that these busy meetings were social gatherings for the women even if transportation was sometimes a problem. They met in their various homes. Coffee was always served.

A list of expenses tells us that in 1916 thread was 4¢ a spool, gingham 10¢ a yard, buttons 5¢ a dozen, lace 5¢ a yard, etc., money order 7¢, stamp 3¢.

An order was sent to Eaton's for Christmas treats and decorations in December 1917. Fruit, candies and biscuits were bought in Lac du Bonnet.

In later years the bazaar was held in the Lettonia Hall whose use was given to them free of charge. After the rising of the Winnipeg River the old school had to be abandoned. Now all the children are bussed to the Lac du Bonnet School.

#### LIST OF MEMBERS 1915

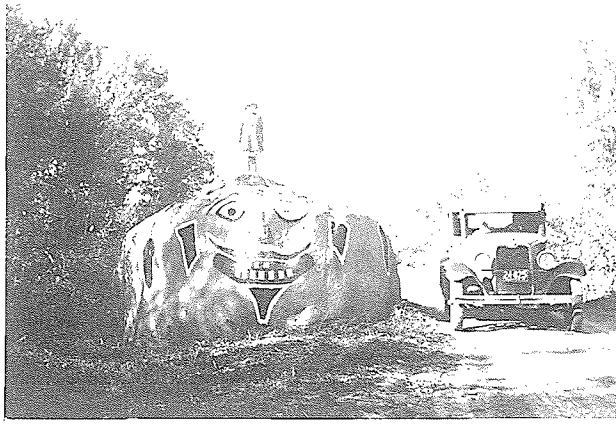
Mrs. Oscar Petterson, Mrs. Olaf Madsen, Mrs. Edward Urban, Mrs. Hans Erickson, John Olsen,

Miss Ester Carlson, Mrs. Thevdor Wolf, Mrs. Ole Komplien, Mrs. Martin Wold, Miss Ashlaug Olsen, Mrs. John Fels, Mrs. Oluf Kompelien, Mrs. Olli, Mrs. Kuva, Mrs. Sampson, Mrs. Larson, Mrs. Boman, Mrs. Emil Carlson, Mrs. C. F. Carlson, Mrs. Palmgren, Mrs. Rosenberg.

#### BOMAN—BURNSIDE by Vivian Nespor

Lars and Agnes Boman migrated from the north of Sweden and eventually ended up in Newcombe in the 1920's via Norman, Ontario and Mulvihill, Manitoba. The old square timbered log house stored many memories. I was told a road followed part of the river in front of the house to be replaced by a road on the other side of the house later on. Much clearing took place to the time I remembered it. My Dad, John Burnside was a teacher at Newcombe School in the 1920's and married Annie Boman. Dad planted fruit trees and reclaimed from nature a lawn around the old farmstead and they survived the 30's.

I remember... a cold winter's night and a knock on the door. Mom, Annie Burnside, opened it to find three bearded young men at the door. There was only Grandma, Mom and I at home and one man told us not to be afraid, "We won't hurt you, we have beards because we've been out in the bush cutting wood, and we are trying to get to Lac du Bonnet (10 miles away) but have been walking in circles on the river until we saw your light." They were hungry; supper was ready and waiting



This rock on the road to Newcombe was painted by John Burnside and ex-student Arnold Urban to represent Devil's Gap at Kenora.

for Grandpa to come home, so we sat them down and they ate — all the fresh pork, gravy and potatoes. Then Grandpa walked in and the men laughed. No wonder we weren't afraid of bearded men; Grandpa had a long white beard!

I remember . . . Grandma, who spent much time in hospital in Winnipeg and much time in bed at home crocheting and doing other fancy work. She finally found me copying her crocheting and she taught me to read directions. And I can remember the "sewing circle" meetings. The ladies made all kinds of fancy things for the bazaar, held in Newcombe School and later in Lettonia Hall. Proceeds bought gifts and candy for the school children which Santa Claus brought after the Christmas Concert.

I remember . . . the bazaar, the tables of fancy work and preserves with the neat labels and everyone dressed in their best. And the dance - no canned music then - a real orchestra. Everyone went, Grandmas, Grandpas, Moms and Dads, even babies.

I remember . . . a Christmas Concert in Newcombe School. The stage was set up at the end of the one room school - the curtained wings (maybe all of 6 feet wide!) on each side were the dressing rooms. Girls on one side and boys on the other and somebody had to watch at the back because one of the boys would usually try to sneak through the 18 inch space along the wall - shocking! We always had a drill. I remember a butterfly drill, crepe paper dresses, tinsel and all. How we glittered and how excited we were. Arnold Urban and Gordon Carlson played the music for our drill. Such boring march music they played for our dress rehearsal but come concert night and what did they play - our favourite, Silver Bells. An earlier Christmas concert I remember too, I think I was five, an item was a pantomime of a barbershop. Heads were popped through the ladder rungs laid across two

chairs. What fun when they slathered soap suds over the faces!

I remember . . . Grandpa sawing lumber - he had a steam engine working his sawmill. Logs were fed in one end from the skidway and out the other end came rough lumber and slabs. Sawdust flew and covered everyone. After Grandpa died the steam engine was sold and its new owner got up the head of steam to chug the old engine to Lac du Bonnet to be transported to Ontario by railway. I was in school when it lumbered by the whistle blasting - the whole classroom ran out to the road to wave goodbye to an old style.

I remember . . . Grandma and Grandpa's 40th wedding anniversary. Their surprise and mine, when the neighbours for miles around came to the door and shouted "surprise!" Then we all went to the school for the dance, lunch and the gift - a winged, rocking chair. My Grandma had been a semi-invalid through all my memories but that night she and Grandpa danced one waltz. And I danced with my Grandpa too. I was nine. Mom and Grandpa danced a "hambo" and everyone else just watched. It was a Swedish folk dance type, faster than polka and could they swirl and dip to the beat!

I remember . . . Irene Erickson and Albert Larson being married. It rained that day and their ceremony had to be inside instead of on the lawn. We had made a bower of wild fern and flowers for them and it was so pretty.

I remember . . . our fencewire telephone. It only went two miles but was a real help when you were snowbound. Our telephone parties were great when the winds were howling.

I remember . . . Chris and Alva Forstrom bringing her mother Mrs Carlson with them to stay in "The Hut", a cabin several yards from our house. They spent two months of the summer with us and were lifelong friends.

I remember . . . Edith Bundt, niece of Roy Freund, coming to visit in the summer. We picked shells along the beach, strung them and made necklaces. Then we picked daisies to make lei and finally reeds for grass skirts. Did we fancy ourselves hula dancers!

I remember . . . Elin and Anders Lofstrom, neighbours a mile north going up town on their "sparken". It was a wooden lounge like chair on runners which extended so that you put one foot on a runner and kicked with the other, holding onto the back of the chair. On the packed snow or ice, it skimmed along with the groceries securely tied to the chair.

I remember . . . Dad and Grandpa sawing ice and hauling it into the ice house on the side of the river bank, packing sawdust around and on top. We had ice for the icebox Dad made, all summer.





Boman's Steam Engine - Vivian Nespor.

I remember...my birthday every year. My Mom made a special vinarterta cake, filled with orange filling and slathered in whipped cream. Besides that there was birthday cake with fortune telling favours inside. All the Newcombe school children had the afternoon off to come to my house for the party.

I remember...a night in June when my Mom and Dad arrived from Winnipeg with a new baby brother, Ray. To a little girl of seven he was just a beautiful and a special gift for her.

I remember...a dark starlit winter night with the steel runners of the cutter singing on the hard glittering snow and the horses hooves clopping along and squeaking in the cold air. Grandpa, Lars Boman, urged the big black horse along while Grandma Agnes Boman, and I sat deep in the cutter bundled up in quilts and furs. We were driving home from Johanson's after coffee and the inevitable dish of blueberries.

I remember...being six and my Dad, John Burnside, coming home from Winnipeg where he was teaching, and giving me my first watch - imagine a new watch and the Christmas Concert on the same night. What more could a little girl want?

I remember...going to the field with lunch for Grandpa and the men who were haying. And I can still see Grandpa sitting on the rake driving round the field lifting the old rake rythmically making furrows of the dried hay.

I remember...my wedding to Joe Nespor, a forest ranger in Lac du Bonnet, in 1949. Our marriage in Winnipeg and reception will of course never be forgotten but our "second reception" in Lettonia Hall is one of our fondest memories. The whole community of Newcombe and Lettonia was there and the thoughts and well wishes were something that is unique and only known to those who have been brought up in the rural, I'm sure.

I remember...an end of a dream. With the ad-

vent of the power plant at McArthur falls the old home in Newcombe would be flooded. No more would I be able to walk along the shore and feel the waves take away and make nothing of my problems. I would not be able to have my children know the joys of the peace in winter, the smell of the new mowed hay or the scent of the wild roses. I could not teach my daughter how to make lei from the field of daisies by Carlsons, nor show them the dainty linea blooming under the fir trees, nor the lady slippers hiding on the ground. Our old home was moved and is now the home of Harry and Joan Arseniuk. "The Hut" has now been "preserved" and "added to" as our home away from home for years to come, for our children and their children too.

## BERGSTROM-ERICKSON

Mr. and Mrs. Bergstrom and daughter Naima arrived in Lac du Bonnet in 1904. Mr. Bergstrom worked at the brickyard till he filed the homestead in 1907, then in 1908 they moved to the homestead. The present dwelling was built in 1908. Their daughter Naima taught school in the Riverland school district during the years and later married Hans Erickson. They had four daughters Dagny, Dagmar, Irene and Helen. In 1923 our sister Dagny passed away from a ruptured appendix after a short illness, which of course saddened the family deeply.

All immigrants, Latvians, Finlanders, Swedes, and Norwegians came to the Newcombe School District between 1907-1910 (approximately).

It therefore became a melting pot, and each nationality brought some trend of life peculiar to their own country.

Why they came is hard to know but some came to be in a land where they could be free, or some saw in this land a likeness to their own country.

This was hard work and the land was heavily timbered and the only equipment was an axe, the Swede Saw and the grub hoe, and we can add a pair of willing hands. So many calloused hands and many sweaty brows was the result of wrestling a home from the forest.

First item was to get a home and many small cabins were erected at first till something better could be built. The house on Homestead Farm was built at once therefore it is the oldest house in the district. Roads were next, and many is the trails that was cleared first so we could walk and pull a hand sleigh, later wide enough for a one horse sleigh. The first winter road went right by the window on the Homestead Farm, then down to the island (which is now W.S. Neal's summer home) then across the river and followed a road on the

other side. Later the road was cleared so it went over the whole of Homestead Farm and Kuva's farm then across the river. Later it was built on the road allowance but many are the times we were stuck in the mud, but we were happy to see this much progress.

During this time children were being born and the children that came there first were growing up so Mothers and Fathers were getting worried as their children received no education, so a school had to be built.

One evening when I came in from the barn, the tinkle of sleigh bells vibrated through the air and then sleigh after sleigh appeared, everyone being steered to the fence around our haystack and throwing a blanket or what have you on the horses and an arm full of hay from the haystack. The men all came in and the School district was born after some discussion.

A point was given by Mr. Kompelien Senior and it is yet known as the School Point. Logs were cut down, skidded out to place and there it was sawed. A sawhorse was built and so high that a man could go underneath it, two planks were put on top and the log in the middle, and one man on top and one underneath and with a cross cut saw the boards were cut, hard work, yes! but cheaper than buying lumber. This was a method used by our Latvian neighbours.

In 1915 the school was finished. Rooms were also made ready for a teacher. It was decided to try for a man teacher but at that time the First World War was in full swing and all the young men, teachers included were at the front or going there.

So I was asked to take over the school for the time being. And on the March morning when I drove to school, I knew that behind every lit window we went by, there was a mother packing a lunch in a 3 lb. lard pail and her plans were just as great for her children, as the mothers of to-day that pack their children's lunches in expensive lunch kits. Every father as he drove his children to school that first morning, looked into the future and saw his children being something great. No politicians etc. came from this school, but as a school, the children won many trophies in parades, or so, and also a beautiful cup for the best school yard, on which the pupils and the teacher had landscaped.

It was a steady battle against mosquitoes and flies and in them days, no sprays of any kind were available. For the mosquitoes it was the smudge which was always outside every door. For the flies there came out a paper smeared with some sticky matter and these we laid on top of the table and one day a little kitten of ours stepped on it and finally rolled herself in it. We had some time to clean her up.

Dagmar, now Larson resides in Chilliwack, B.C. She has had three children, two of which are living today. Irene, now Larson resides in Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba. She has two children. Helen, now Johnston resides in Winnipeg, Manitoba. She has six children.

Grandpa Bergstrom passed away May 1934. Granny Bergstrom passed away March 1942.

Hans Erickson passed away December 1963.

Naima Erickson passed away December 1976.

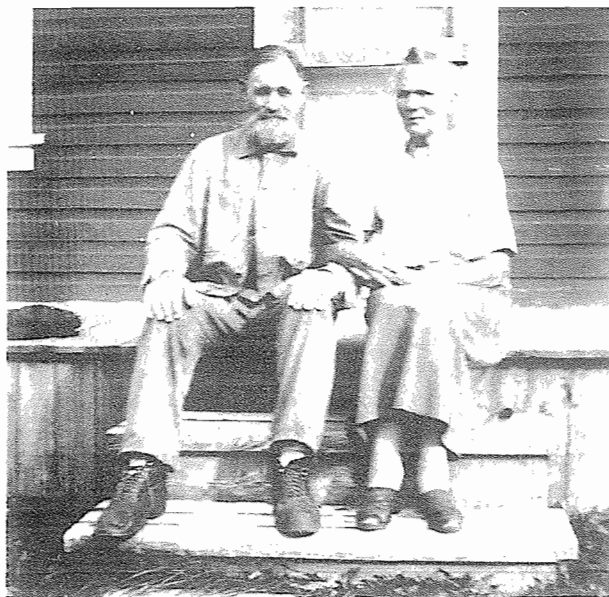
Hans and Naima Erickson sold the homestead in 1953, which so many of the Newcombe and Lettonia residents had to do because of the raising water after McArthur Falls powerhouse was built. Hans and Naima sold their homestead to Mr. W. S. Neal, now known as Homestead Farm. They saved an acreage for themselves and lived in a dwelling by the Windigo Road till the passing of Mrs. Naima Erickson in 1976. Mrs. N. Erickson was a resident of Bonnie Vista Lodge for three years before she passed away.

Mr. W. S. Neal has had a dyke built to lead to their summer cottage, also much work has been done to save the shore line thus saving Homestead Farm from flooding also.

#### MR. AND MRS. JOHN JOHANSON

Mr. John Frederick Johanson was born in Ostergotland, and emigrated from Sweden in 1892. He left his fiancée, Karin Larsson behind in Almo, Dalarna. In 1898, she too left her homeland to join him in Canada and to marry him in Ignace, Ontario.

In 1908, they became pioneers by buying a



Mr. and Mrs. John Johanson, 1935.

homestead in Mulvihill, Manitoba with the nearest railway thirty miles away at Oak Point. Mr. Johanson would walk those thirty miles of trails through the bush with a bag of flour and other necessities on his back. They managed to eke out a living for a number of years, but finally sold the farm and came to Lac du Bonnet in 1920.

Here again, they bought a quarter section of land in the Newcombe district and as their wants were few, made their living off the farm. Before they had a horse, Mr. Johanson would carry an egg crate and butter to sell in Lac du Bonnet (about ten miles away). They lived a simple life with honesty and integrity, and truly loved their neighbours as themselves, and so were loved in return. John Burnside liked to tell about the time he brought them their groceries from town and left five cents too much in change. When Mr. Johanson discovered this, he walked the two miles to Burnside's to return it.

For awhile they had sheep, and Mrs. Johanson could often be seen carding and spinning the wool, from which she knit many pairs of socks. If her nephews happened to be there, they would be persuaded to card the wool also.

They are fondly remembered by their nephews Victor, Charles, Albert and niece, Mrs. Lily Carlson, all of Winnipeg, who found "Moster's" place a haven for holidays and weekends, and even during times of unemployment. Friends from Winnipeg would visit them, especially during blueberry time, as they were plentiful on their place. Everyone was welcome and had to stay for coffee and "Moster's" home-baked buns.

When they became too old to be by themselves, they moved to Winnipeg and made their home with their nephew, Victor Hammerback until their demise. Mrs. Johanson's cheerfulness and Mr. Johanson's kindness will not soon be forgotten.

Submitted by Ebba Hammerback  
(Mrs. Charles Hammerback)

### OLE AND EMMA KOMPELIEN AND FAMILY

I've been reading about the history of the pioneer days of many old-timers of the Lac du Bonnet district. I got to thinking about my parents Ole and Emma Kompelien and the hardships they went through to pioneer a strange and untouched land. My grandfather and grandmother came from Norway in 1878 to settle in Mayville, North Dakota. My father, then three years old, travelled with them. While Mother and Dad lived in Thief River Falls, many stories were heard about Canada, about the richness of the land, the timber,



Ole and Emma Kompelien.

fish and wild life. In 1908 Grandfather and Dad made the trip north, took out a homestead and built a small log cabin. Three families followed, consisting of six grown-ups and seven children. All lived together in the log cabin with grandfather and Aunt Helga who at the time was thirteen years old. In the beginning there was little furniture. Grownups sat at the only table. The stairs to the attic served as table and chairs for the children and there were no complaints as long as the plates were full. One of the family commented, "Legs hung down like bananas on a stem."

Grandfather was known to everyone as Bestafar, the Norwegian name for Grandfather. My father had one brother, Oluf and four sisters. My Aunt Helma Wold lived in Lac du Bonnet until June 24, 1979, when she died at the age of 93. Aunt Helga Madsen still lives in Lac du Bonnet.

They lived a rough rugged life. To build their cabins they had to clear the land, fell the trees and cut the logs. There were no roads. As a start for the new land my Mother's mother donated a cow and a heifer which my Dad brought into Lac du Bonnet by box car. At Lac du Bonnet, end of the rail line, they crossed the river on a barge and followed a narrow trail to the area now known as the Newcombe district.

They lived off the land. Wildlife and berries were plentiful and each cast of a net would bring thirty to forty fish which could be sold to the large fish boat that came up the river. So they were among our earliest commercial fishermen.

Children were born without a doctor's help. My Aunt Helma Wold and others acted as midwives. My two oldest sisters were born in the States. They are Ella Sandberg of Lac du Bonnet and Lilian Byman who lives in Winnipeg. The rest of us were

born in the Newcombe district; Clarence, Elmer, Clara, (who passed away in 1973) myself and Alfred, the youngest. All in all we were healthy, rarely needing a doctor's care. Everyone was in the same boat so to speak.

There were no schools in the Newcombe district until 1916. My Dad helped to establish it and served in it as secretary-treasurer for over thirty years. Roads had to be built and my Dad cleared acres of land by hand also clearing land for other people. In those days everyone helped each other whether it was building or harvesting. Although the work was hard and the hours long there was time for fun. Families were closer then, all joining in any form of relaxation available. The school served as a community hall for picnics, dances, or wedding parties, while smaller more intimate parties were held in the homes. The people came bringing something and each one having enjoyment at little cost.

We, who live so close, still, to the northern untouched forests, must surely stop to think of our hard working pioneers whose grit and determination to leave a better world for children and grandchildren gradually led to this pushbutton world. No longer do we carry water, saw wood by hand or walk behind a plow. Machinery, power saws and modern plumbing make our lives easy by comparison. I have lived in British Columbia for twenty-seven years, have many wonderful friends. After losing my husband I came back to Lac du Bonnet where I was born 62 years ago. There are many changes. Many whom I grew up with have moved or died. However I still know many and it is like "coming home". I'm sure there are many more who can write about their parents, about their life as pioneers in our district of Lac du Bonnet and can join me in saying, "Hats off to our old-timers who worked so hard on a rugged land to make a better living for us all!"

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Margaret Harper  
Youngest daughter of  
Ole and Emma Kompelien

## DAVID KUVA HISTORY

David Kuva, Sr., came to Canada from Finland in the late 1890's or 1900. He was a steel sharpener by trade and first worked in Cobalt, Ontario. Then he came to Lac du Bonnet in 1909 and took a homestead on a ½ section of land on the east side of the Winnipeg river, about half a mile inland. He cleared away the bush and built a log cabin to live in and later added other buildings for barns, sheds, etc., all made with logs and roofed with homemade shingles. He also built a sauna

which no self-respecting Finn would do without.

He was a widower with a two-year-old daughter Iva when he married Wihelmina (Mimmi) Laine (nee Fors) from Elma (then called Janow) in 1910. She had come from Finland a few years before and was a widow with a three-year-old daughter, Ellen. They had three more children: Helmi was born in 1911, Walter in 1915 and Arvo in 1917.

There were no roads at that time, only trails through the woods to connect them to their neighbors who were often several miles apart. To get to town, seven miles away, they walked along a trail which followed the river and crossed over it on a Railroad bridge on the City Hydro Railway which ran to Pointe du Bois. They carried the butter, eggs produced on the farm which they sold, some to individual customers, and some they took to the Granovsky Bros. General store to trade for groceries.

However the main route for travel was on the river. In the summer, they used a row boat, sometimes equipped with a homemade sail which could be used if the wind was favorable. In the winter, as soon as the ice was strong enough, they would drive to town with horses and sleighs or cutters.

The first Winnipeg River bridge had no side rails and only the ties to walk on. It was later covered with a planking (sometime in the 1920's) so they were able to drive over it with horses and cars. The Lac du Bonnet station was then situated about where the elevators are now.

There was no doctor in the town in the early days and babies were born at home and usually delivered by midwives.

Besides farming Mr. Kuva worked as a steel sharpener for the City Hydro during the building of the railway from Pointe du Bois to Slave Falls, also in the construction of the Pine Falls Railway, and later the Great Falls road. All the rock drilling done by "hand-steeling" as there were no compressors or jack hammers. He also did some prospecting in the Bird River and Cat Lake area with Mr. Andy Haavisto.

The children attended Newcombe School and walked about 2½ miles along the trail through the woods. In the winter it was dark by the time they got home from school. They still had chores to do around the barn and wood to haul and water to carry in from the well. To get soft water for washing they carried snow into a big barrel in the kitchen to melt. In summer they used rain-water and if that ran out during dry spells they would hitch a horse to the stone-boat and haul water from the lake in barrels. Other times mother might decide to take the wash down to the lake. She'd load a washtub and washboard, and a boiler on a wheelbarrow, along with the laundry and push it

down the trail to the lake a half a mile away. The soap was usually homemade, cut into large bars. This was shaved into the boiler full of water and set on a fire to heat for the wash. The children went along and had a day of fun swimming and eating the picnic lunch they took with them, also helping mother by rinsing the clothes in the lake.

As the family grew up most of them left home to go to work at an early age and later married.

**Ina** was married to Frank Blake of Winnipeg. She had T.B. and was in St. Boniface Sanitorium some time in the early 1940's. She recovered and spent a fairly healthy life until her death in May 1970.

**Ellen** worked at the School for the Deaf and Dumb in Winnipeg during 1926-27 and later at the Elmhurst Golf Club. There she met Alex Reid who had come from Scotland in 1920. They were married in 1930 and moved to Grand Rapids, Minn., U.S.A. where Alex was a golf-pro. at the Pokegama Golf and Country Club. They had one daughter, Betty, born in 1932 and passed away at the age of 24. In 1933 they moved to Bissett, where Alex was employed by the San Antonio Gold Mines as a solution man in the mill until his retirement in 1967. They moved to Lac du Bonnet in 1968 and presently reside at the Bonny Vista Lodge.

**Helmi** married Vaino Waisanen, from Finland in 1932. Vaino was also employed by San Antonio Gold mines and worked underground. They lived in Bissett until the spring of 1936, when they moved back to Lac du Bonnet - then to Pointe du Bois in 1938, where Vaino was employed as a truck driver by the City Hydro until his retirement in September 1967. They had one son, Brian, born in 1933. Brian married Susan Derksen of Winnipeg in 1961. They live in Winnipeg where Brian is employed as a painter and Susan works for the Beltone Hearing Aid Company. They have a summer cottage at Pointe du Bois. Vaino died in 1978 and Helmi is now living in a Senior Citizens Apartment in Winnipeg.

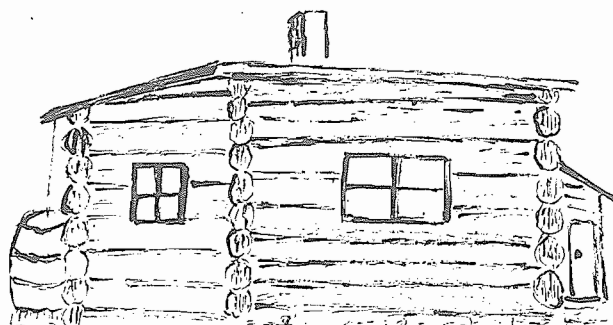
**Walter** started working at the age of 14, and later left home at 17 when he walked to Bissett with Waldi Urban, a hard three day journey along the power line from Great Falls. He worked there for four years. He married Lillian Neva from Elma in October 1936. She was an R.N. graduated from the Winnipeg General Hospital in 1934. They lived on the home farm for 25 years during which time Walter worked out at various mines and other jobs as there was not enough income off the farm to raise a family. He was employed by Water's Construction from 1949 to 1956 - running heavy equipment - doing a lot of rock blasting, also running a bush camp. During 1962-63 he worked as subcontractor for Borger Bros. doing trench

blasting for all the sewer and water lines for the present town of Pinawa. He spent two summers on the Dew Line in the N.W.T. in 1965-66. Then went to work for the R.M. of Lac du Bonnet in 1967 until his retirement in 1979. They had three children - Alvin born in 1939, Frances in 1943 and David 1946. The children all attended Newcombe school until grade 8 and still walked 2½ miles although now there was a road and they were able to use bicycles in the summertime. They went to High School in Lac du Bonnet and travelled by car as there were no school buses at that time. Later Frances took a course on Business Machines at the Man. Technical Institute in Winnipeg and David attended United College (later the University of Winnipeg) and graduated with a B.Sc. in 1966. Then took up Computer Science at the University of Manitoba. Alvin married Bernice Bonkowski from Riverton in October 1961. They moved to Ste. Catharines, Ontario in 1965. Alvin works for Hayes Steel, an auto parts manufacturing plant. They have one daughter, Patricia, born in 1963 and one son Philip born in 1968. Frances married Leo Drabek in 1964. They lived in St. Catharines, Ontario until 1971 when they returned to Lac du Bonnet. Leo is presently Reeve of the Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet and Frances works as a steno-receptionist at the Lac du Bonnet Health Centre. They have two daughters, Dina born 1969 and Holly born 1972. David married Ann Armitage of Miniota in July 1970. They are living in Edmonton where Dave is employed as a senior Systems Analyst for Syncrude and Ann is a teacher. They have a daughter Elizabeth born in 1976.

Walter and Lil sold the farm in 1960 and moved to their present home on the lake, about two miles east of the town.

**Arvo** never married, he left home in the late 1930's and went to B.C. where he has worked at logging and construction for many years.

Submitted by Lillian Kuva  
in collaboration with Ellen Reid



1911 - J. Olli



## JOHN OLLI

My father was born John Olli in Southern Finland in 1878 - he was the eldest of five children - two girls and three boys. He came to the United States at the turn of the century; travelled around the country working at different jobs, among them bricklaying. He went back to Finland in 1907 or so, married Emmi Rasibin in 1909. He was restless and had a wanderlust to get going so he journeyed to Canada in 1910.

In the meantime twins had made their appearance - I was one of them - (my twin sister died of scarlet fever before she was a year old). Father had landed in Winnipeg and met some men who told him of the cheap land which was available in the country to the north. So he arrived in Lac du Bonnet and filed an application to obtain a quarter section (160 acres) - Twp 15, Sec. 36, Range 11 E.N.W. quarter for a \$10.00 fee. This land is on the east side of the Winnipeg River.

The town had a sawmill and brickyard. This gave work to some of the people who were coming in to settle down with their families. A railway ran to Pointe du Bois where a power station was being built. A wooden bridge spanned the Winnipeg River. In the early days there were no side rails on the bridge, so when the men had been in Mr. Wellman's saloon for an evening, some had to crawl over on their hands and knees so as not to fall into the river below.

Mother and I left for Canada on August 16, 1911. We boarded a tramp steamer which took us to Hull, England, went across by train to Liverpool where we got aboard the S.S. Virginian, with our small pitiful wooden trunk, westward bound. Three weeks later on September 11th, we docked at Halifax and got on the train for Molson, Manitoba.

I was not yet two years old at the time, so mother's account of the journey is all I have. She said the food on the ship was atrocious; eggs old enough to be pensioned off. We were not used to fancy fare but it must have been terrible.

Mother could not speak any English but we got to our destination, changed trains for Lac du Bonnet at Molson. Father had been working at the brickyard and he met us at the station. He had started building a cabin on the land he had selected, but it was not ready, so we went to live with the Kuva family for a short time before moving to our own place.

This area where we settled was unorganized territory. We did not have any roads, only trails through the bush. Some of the settlers were lucky enough to have a team of oxen but the only way to get to town in the summer was by boat, a distance of some seven miles. There were quite a few settlers here before we came, most of them had large

families. A school was built about 1915-1916 made out of large logs, hewn by the men with broadaxes - (a wicked looking instrument). The building materials were growing right at everyone's doorstep - large fir, tamarack and balsam, elm and ash, black and white poplar with a good proportion of birch trees in some spots. There were lots of potholes and we had two large beaver dams on our homestead. Also we had quite a few large rocks on the south side and a couple of smaller ones on the north, probably about 15 acres or more. There were lots of blueberries to be had in the summer time, which were the only fruit we had in the winter time. Mother canned everything she could.

At first the buildings had tar paper on the roofs, but the men of the community got together and made shingles out of large blocks of wood. It took about eight men to operate the steel blade that sliced the blocks. I remember being fascinated by the whole procedure.

The school opened in 1916 and our first teacher was Mrs. Erickson. The name of our school district was called Newcombe. There were some 25 or so pupils and most of us could not speak any English so the first few weeks were hard but by Christmas time we were singing carols though we had no idea what they meant. Mr. Urban played Santa Claus that Christmas and we were terrified despite the candy and nuts being distributed. In all the years that I went to school (I finished grade 8 in 1924) the trails through the bush took me over potholes, rocks, etc. Yet I never saw a bear or wolf. Sometimes I came close to a porcupine but he went about his business and I went about mine. The only thing that put me to flight sometimes was a mother partridge with her young.

In 1912 a barn and a steam bath were built and a plot of land cleared for garden and a potato patch. Father went to St. George and bought a big black cow named Nellie, and walked her along the railroad tracks to the river. She was brought by scow across the river and so began our farming days. Nellie presented us with a heifer calf and we considered ourselves so lucky; all that milk and butter and cottage cheese was there. In the years that followed we got a team of oxen, some ploughs and a disc and the fields started to get larger. Eventually we were able to buy enough barbed wire to fence our land so the cattle would not stray.

One of my earlier recollections were the hordes of mosquitoes which pestered us every spring. There was no way they could be gotten rid of so we had to have a frame built over our beds and netting tacked to it to keep the pesky things out. It got so hot under the netting, it was just like slow suffocation.

No one went to the doctor - I doubt if there even was one in Lac du Bonnet - in those days, unless

you were desperately ill and then it would be too late anyway. We must have been a healthy bunch because there were very few deaths. Our neighbors were Letts, Swedes, Norwegians and a couple of Finnish families. All the children who were born about that time were born at home with maybe a neighbor woman helping.

One summer day we heard what sounded like an explosion in a south westerly direction. Later we heard that the train from Pointe du Bois had gone off the bridge and the engine had fallen into the river, killing the engineer.

About this time the First World War was at its height but we did not hear too much about it. At this time we had a German man teacher, and we were trying to collect money for the Red Cross. Money was one of the things we children seldom saw, so I guess we could not contribute very much. A reader and a scribbler and pencil and a slate and slate pencils were the only things necessary to learn the three R's. I'm sure the children of today do not even know what a slate is.

When the war ended in November of 1918, we could hear the fireworks and all the hallyballoo in Winnipeg, the night it was announced that peace had commenced at last. I was just nine years old at that time.

In the interval, my parents had acquired a team of horses; wild half broken bronchos brought in from the prairies; one a black mare and the other a brown one. They could never be trusted to stand still if the reins were loosened; they had to be tied to the wall of the barn and then hitched to a sleigh. The driver had to be very nimble to get into the sleigh before they were off. Several times we came close to a fatality.

One summer day while we were taking up hay they ran away and before they came to a stop, caught between two trees, they had wrecked everything from harness to hayrack and sleighs, etc. They were traded away after that. It was lucky no one was on the sleighs.

By this time the municipality of Lac du Bonnet had been formed and roads were going to be built. Most families by this time had a team of horses, so in order to get these roads started, a farmer could work off his taxes by doing work on the roads. I learned to handle a team of horses quite well, so I had to drive while father handled the scrapper to dig the ditch. I was called on to do this job more than once. It took years and years before we got a road that was at all passable in the summer for cars. The only way we could get to town was to walk along a bush trail to the river, about a mile and go by rowboat from there. This took all day, and the trips to town were few and far between.

In the fall the men, my father among them, usually went west for the harvest to make a few

dollars. One fall when we were home alone, mother and Mrs. Kuva decided that they would put out the net to catch some fish. The food supply was very limited and the river was teeming with all kinds of fish. It takes a bit of skill to know how to set a net if you have never done it before, but they finally got it into the river and next morning got several fish. The morning after that a muskrat had got into the net and tangled it all up into a horrid mess. They took the net and worked all day getting the critter out of the net. In those days you looked after your belongings if you had any. It was the longest day I can remember, waiting for mother to come home.

One winter several of the neighbors went out to cut pulpwood for a company. They worked for quite awhile and when they were finished in the spring the boss refused to pay them. This was heart breaking, as there was no Labor Board to help you. In later years my father cut pulpwood from our own place and hauled it to town with the horses. A load, about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a cord, would bring in \$1.75. Enough from two days hard work to buy a bag of flour.

One spring just at break-up time one of the neighbors disappeared. He was an old widower who lived alone. All the men in the district got together and spent days looking for him. His name was Simon Hoale; some of his grandchildren attended school at the same time I did. The community really put all their efforts on finding him and were sure he had gone through the ice on the river. Finally they found him cowering in an old root cellar. The poor man had had a lapse of memory etc., but we were glad he was safe. They had been ready to set dynamite charges in the river to bring up the body.

The women of the district had got together to form a Ladies' Aid Society. They sewed and embroidered and knit articles, which were then auctioned off at a social held in the school. The money realized from these affairs went to buy an organ for the classroom. It was a great moment for us. There were not too many people who could play the instrument; in fact only one, a colorful person named Mr. Bergstrom, who was a good entertainer, whose songs and stories were really great. Mr. Bergstrom was Mrs. Albert Larson's (Irene) grandfather. His rendition of, "Where did you get that hat?" and several others always got everyone cheering, "I had a hat when I came in, and I'll have a hat when I go out or I'll break somebody's back," was a verse I well remember. He used to add sparkle to our annual Christmas concerts.

The fields were getting larger and the cattle numbers had increased and some of the neighbors had built larger houses. We had three different

teachers in these years after the war and some new people moved into the district.

During the winter of 1918-1919, the Spanish Flu epidemic hit and a lot of families were ill, but I don't think anyone died in the district. When whole families were ill, the neighbors came along to look after the cattle and provide wood and water for the people who couldn't get them for themselves. My family did not get the flu.

During the summer of 1919, we saw the first aeroplane. It came in from the east and flew into Winnipeg. They must have been some of the planes used in World War 1. The first radio we saw was a small crystal set our teacher had made. It had two sets of earphones. If we finished our lessons in good time we got a chance to listen into the programs. They were mostly music and just at certain times of the day. It certainly was intriguing as to how that music could be heard all the way from Winnipeg.

This story would not be complete without mentioning one of our neighbors Mr. Urban. He could really tell some of the most hilarious yarns you ever heard. Mr. Urban owned a horse named Dick and when the occasion demanded it, he hitched up his steer with the horse, to haul wood and hay and whatever needed to be done. He always had a happy wave for us kids when we met him on the road. There were six children in the family - three boys and three girls. One of the boys was Arnold... you all know Arnold... everyone knows him. I heard it said that if Arnold couldn't make the most woebegone car go, with a couple of pieces of hay wire, nobody else could. He could fix anything from old alarm clocks to the oldest model T. Ford around. He actually used the barbed wire fences and got old telephones and a lot of homes were connected so they could talk to each other. This was something special because especially during the winter it was hard to get to see the neighbors.

Arnold got a small band together and played at dances for several years. He played an accordion and there were a couple of fiddlers. Of course as the years went by the young folk and some of the not so young left, some got married and had families of their own. Some moved away and others came back from their wanderings.

One fine day two well dressed men canvassed the community to sell Life Insurance. I don't remember exactly but I'm sure they had hired someone with a team and sleigh to bring them out. It was in winter or fall, and at that time the people had a few dollars in their overalls and these slick-talking guys talked most everyone into taking out a policy. Oh, this was just beautiful, the policies were very authentic looking, big coloured letterheads, very official, and all the benefits that went with it

were very impressive! However, about six months later someone started asking about the company and it turned out that the men had taken all the money they had collected and just disappeared. I don't even know if they had a company, but I'm sure that ours was not the only community they fleeced. They probably collected quite a bundle from everyone they got their hands on. Years later I used to look at this expensive piece of paper (\$23.00) and marvel at the audacity of those salesmen. Father never took out insurance of any kind after that, till his house burnt down in 1942, just before Christmas.

Mr. Charlie Carlson's dad went through the ice on the river one spring and drowned. After a lot of searching the body was finally located. His wife died in a house fire about the year 1929 or 1930. She was bedridden but happened to be alone at the time. Her house was right next door to her son's home on the river, where Mr. Gauer has his home now.

Another time father went to the river, just at breakup time and found one of our neighbors in trouble. He was on his way home from town and his horse had broken through the ice, not far from shore. Between the two of them they got the horse out - did you know that if you have a rope and slip it around the neck of an animal and pull it tight, it will pop to the surface like a balloon so it could be pulled to stronger ice very easily?

In 1925 a German man came to Lac du Bonnet, rented a couple of rooms in the hotel or whatever the building was called. It housed a store, the post office, etc. He hired 5 or 6 girls to work for him. I was one of them. There were great big sheets of graph paper and we were to figure out some answers to all the innumerable numbers which appeared on them. Whatever it was we were supposed to find answers for, I never could find out. In three or four weeks he packed up his papers and disappeared, who he was and what he was after I do not know. There were some rumors that he might have been interested in the power plants - Pointe du Bois and Pinawa. This man was probably in his fifties, talked with an accent but seemed quite harmless. He hardly ever was at the "office" where he worked.

Just before I finished grade eight in 1924, an oral spelling contest was held in the province. I got the honour of representing our school; the pupils from neighbouring schools all met in Lac du Bonnet - there were eight or nine. I walked to town and back also. Elinor Kronberg and I were the last contestants up but I finally went down on the word "dyed", of all things. I guess my knees were shaking too much for me to concentrate properly.

In 1922 my father went to the States for a while. I guess he was looking for the pot of gold at the

end of the rainbow. He wandered around going from Montana and Oregon to California, then to New York and finally coming back at the end of August. He had been gone for seven months. I guess he was sort of disillusioned as times were not very good in the States either, so he settled down again. At least we always had enough to eat, even if the living was quite simple. No pot of gold materialized for us.

By 1924 I had attended school and finished grade 8 and that was all the schooling I was to get. The next year I went to work at housework in Winnipeg. The wages were small and hours long but for the next four years I worked there. Then I went to Toronto for seven years. By this time the Depression was at its worst. I came home for a trip in 1932 and the west was still worse off than the east. There had been very little rain, the grasshoppers ate up everything in the gardens and fields. Wheat sold at 35¢ a bushel and a dozen eggs might bring 10¢ if you were lucky.

In about the years 1927 to 1929 a lot of immigrants from Europe came to Canada. A lot of these people got here just before the depression so there were a lot of people who were in dire straits. I was not in Newcombe at this time but a lot of young men stayed at various farms and did work just for room and board. Several farmers had large barns built. Mr. Boman owned a sawmill so lumber could be got quite easily, just the cutting and skidding logs to the mill would get a large pile of lumber for anyone who wanted it.

The bridge which crossed the Winnipeg River was made so that it could be swung open to let barges through. Mr. Shapland had a houseboat which he towed with two motor boats. One First of July, our school rented it and took all of us to town, in 1923 or 1924. It took several hours to get there but it was different from an ordinary boat. There were a few three or four year olds who had to be watched so they wouldn't fall into the river. I remember the bridge opening to let us through.

I was married to Bill Ripat in 1937 and we spent five years in Timmins, Ontario. Our three children — two girls and one boy, were born there. We came back to Newcombe and have been here ever since.

I was widowed in 1973. I have nine grandchildren - six girls and three boys. Helen, my eldest daughter married Martin Wade, they have three children. JoAnne married Ronald Hirst and they have three children, and they live near me. Bill Jr. married Rosalind McGill from Killarney and at the present time live in Winnipeg. They also have three children.

Of the original pioneers who lived in this district only two sisters are alive; Mrs. Martin Wold, in her nineties and Mrs. Olaf Matsen. They both live in

town.

Now the roads are good, buses take the children to school, everyone has a car or two (or three), we burn oil in our furnaces and have electricity, a far cry from sixty years back, or even forty.

Annie Ripat

## THE WOLD FAMILY

My parents, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Wold migrated to Canada in 1908 from Thief River Falls, U.S.A. Father was born in Alasund, Norway, in 1880, coming to seek a new home in the States at the tender age of sixteen. Mother, named Helma, was born in Mayville, North Dakota, U.S.A., to immigrant parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ole Kompelien, also from Norway.

In 1908 they decided to move to Canada, settling in the Lac du Bonnet area. They homesteaded in the district later known as the Newcombe School District. With three small children, Melford, Alvin and Arthur, they arrived here in October to start their new life in its land of hope and promise. Today, as we are enjoying the privilege of living in this beautiful Lac du Bonnet area, perhaps a lot of us are inclined to take things for granted, forgetting at times that not so many years ago it was an untamed frontier. Times have changed so much since they arrived. I wonder what a lot of our younger generation would say if by some magic they could be returned in time to the days when their forebearers lived on their original homesteads.

I was born in 1911, so I can speak with a certain amount of experience of those days. To my parents this land must have seemed so fresh and new and they were young pioneers. The future must have seemed so open to them in their hopes and dreams to build a good life in a bountiful place.

Being brought up on the prairies, mother was unprepared to find a land of dense forest and lakes, and she often told me it was with a deep sense of apprehension for her children when she realized there were no schools, churches or roads.

My grandfather, Ole, had arrived here the year before and had managed to build a small log cabin on his homestead, where they stayed with him that first winter while father built their little log cabin on their homestead along the shore of this beautiful Winnipeg River.

Sorrow was soon to overtake them for only a month after their arrival here their sixteen-month old baby Alvin died. There was no doctor, the closest one in Beausejour, and as I mentioned, there were no roads or means of transportation. I often think how desperate my dear mother must have felt.

Spring finally arrived, the new home was ready and the family moved into it on the 1st of May. Eleven days later my sister Mary was born. Again the help of a doctor was needed, there was none. Eventually, father had to do the honours. Mother, baby and father survived, but it must have been a traumatic experience. June soon rolled around, and in spite of their apparent hardship, life was good. Mother was up and around again, and by now father had managed to spade up a small garden plot. Melford and Arthur, my two older brothers, six and five were in a paradise of wonder, being introduced to the woodland creation surrounding them. The only misery was the hordes of mosquitoes that plagued them. One sticky hot evening the mosquitoes were especially annoying, so mother decided to build a smudge in an old wash tub filled with dry hay. The smoke from it soon took care of the pests and the family retired for the night. Not too long afterwards mother woke up to find the room filled with smoke and the ominous sound of crackling fire. Through the course of the night a breeze had sprung up and fanned the smudge into a blaze that blew unto the house. Within an hour their home and few belongings were reduced to ashes. Fortunately, they got out unharmed, but they were destitute. Would I have had the courage, stamina or willpower to start again? I wonder. However, they did. Other homesteaders rallied to their plight, something you could always count on from our pioneers whenever one or the other were in need of help.

The following few months soon saw another log cabin built. Some donated labour and others shared material things with them and though it must have been hard, they managed.

Two years later, I was born on June 14th. I was a happy healthy carefree child. The homestead was my universe, for me to explore oblivious of any care or worries my parents had. Fear of illness was almost always present and when I was two diphtheria struck one of our neighbouring households. Dr. Golden came up from Beausejour by rail and dogsled to vaccinate the community and fortunately there was only one death.

Despite all the trials and tribulations of pioneer life the country progressed in leaps and bounds. Many more homesteaders had moved in and the community was enlarging. The need for a school was uppermost on everyone's mind. With donated labour and material we soon had a log cabin school. My grandfather donated the small acreage it was built on. By the time I was five it was open for business. The First World War was on and to get a qualified teacher was next to impossible, so they opened the school with permit teachers. It worked out just fine and although the students had two or three miles to walk, winter and summer,

through all kinds of weather the attendance was always good. None of us came out of there as academic wonders, but we learned our three R's.

By now the country was really booming. For those men who could take time away from the homestead, there was plenty of employment. Powerhouses were being built, sawmills, and roads. Businesses moved into the village and we even got a doctor. The paper mill in Pine Falls was being built and contracts given out to the settlers to supply it with pulpwood. There was always enough income to keep the wolf from the door. The world smiles on our area and life was good. Three more boys were born into our family, Harry, Roy and Sidney.

1929 rolled around. The beginning of the great depression. Industries slowed down, men were laid off their work. The bottom of our world seemed to have dropped out. Soup kitchens sprang up in the cities, riots broke out. There was no work to be obtained. Relief camps were established in many areas. We had one in Lac du Bonnet, situated on the site of the Royal Canadian Air Force Base (now called "Air Park"). I have been told there were over five hundred men housed here. Things were pretty grim. In spite of stark reality facing us, young people still continued to get married. I was one of them. In 1931 I married my first husband, Hugo Anderstedt, and a few years later we had a son, Ted. Ted married Thea Terra the year his father passed away and I now have three grandchildren.

In 1964 I remarried to my present husband Frank Newart. We built a home and retired here where we now live, along the Winnipeg River.

Progress did leave some heartaches. With the advent of McArthur Falls power house being built, the Government had to flood most of the Newcombe district. The old homestead is under ten feet of water, the little school had to go, neighbours and friends had to be relocated. It was the end of an era. When I think of these pioneers of our district it brings to mind a song of yesteryears.

When they came to the end of the day  
And the night turned their worries away  
Did they ever watch the setting sun  
And think of the things they might have done  
Did they turn from their work with a smile  
Did they feel it all was worth the while  
Did they dream their twilight hours away  
When they came to the end of the day

Mother and Dad, along with all of the rest of those brave young pioneers are gone now. Father passed away in 1965 at the age of 85 and we lost mother this year in June, 1979, at the age of 94. They always felt their efforts had been rewarding and I thank them for my heritage.

Alice (Wold) Newart



# Red Deer

## NICK AND ANNIE HUNCHAK

My father was born in the Ukraine in 1888 and came to Canada in 1913, settling in Kitchener, Ontario. He was the eldest of seven children. His parents came to Canada before him as he had to serve in the army for two years. Father worked in a factory for ten to twelve cents per hour. It was still better than in the Ukraine where jobs were scarce. One was lucky to get a job and then only received \$20.00 per year from big land owners.

Father's parents and children lived on a bush homestead in the district known as Red Deer, twelve miles northwest of Lac du Bonnet until 1923, then they moved to Ontario.

My father tried to help his parents as much as possible. In 1917 he paid them a visit intending to return to Kitchener but when he saw his folks were having a hard time making a living, he decided to stay home and help. During the winter he cut and hauled cordwood to Lac du Bonnet, by oxen, for \$2.00 per cord and in the fall he went out to Roland, Manitoba harvesting. The family lived in a two room shack so father cut logs, hauled them by oxen, to a sawmill and built a larger house.

In 1919 he married Annie Kost in one of the Brightstone Churches. The church was completed in 1919 and my parents were the first couple to be married in the church. The church is still standing, although vacant now.

As there were no homesteads left in the area my parents managed to purchase a 160 acre farm for \$900.00, all bush, no buildings. They paid for the farm by cutting cordwood each day. They struggled there for some years, then sold it and bought another farm closer to Lac du Bonnet.

My mother came to Brightstone district with her parents from the Ukraine in 1905 at the age of 5. Her grandparents were already here; they arrived in 1901, living in Brokenhead area, and moved to Lac du Bonnet in 1903. There were no roads to Lac du Bonnet, just a trail through the swamps.

Mother's grandparents made their living by keeping a few cows and chickens. They carried the butter and eggs to Lac du Bonnet and sold them for a few cents.

During the summer they cut hay around and in the bush with a scythe and sickle.

By the time a municipality was formed, my great-grandparents were in their 80's and still great-grandfather worked a few months during the summers cutting bush on the road for \$5.00 per month. He died in 1926 and his wife in 1925.

My mother's parents also homesteaded in the early 1900's and lived the same type of life as did their parents.

Mother had three brothers and two sisters. Her mother died in 1928, her father in 1936.

My parents had four children:

**Katie** married to Walter Kristofferson. They live in Great Falls, Manitoba. History under Kristofferson.

**Stephanie** married to Myron Dielschnider, lives in Winnipeg. Have two daughters, Valarie and Judy. Both married.

**Jean** married to Steve Tobak, lives in Lac du Bonnet. Eldest daughter married and lives in Edmonton. Patti and David in school in Lac du Bonnet.

**Mike** single, lives in Lac du Bonnet.

Submitted by  
Mike Hunchak

## JOSEPH AND SIGNE SYDORKO

We were married on January 2nd, 1946 in Winnipeg by Rev. H. B. Duckworth of "Old St. Andrews United Church" in the Minister's home on Elgin Avenue.

We had a small wedding reception given by Signe's good friend, Helen Mossen, at Helen's mother's home, "Mrs. Wilkinson". Later another reception was given by Signe's sister, Mrs. Dave Pearson, at Riverland. Almost everyone from the area was there.

Another reception was given by my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Sydorko of Red Deer, and it too was a very nice wedding party. All the time, the weather stayed very cold but we were very happy. Signe's father, Mr. Magnuson, gave us a little cottage right next door to Mr. and Mrs. Dave Pear-

son's house. The cottage had two rooms and was very cosy. It was just right for newlyweds. It was stocked with food and dishes; ready to move in and enjoy life!

At this point, I think I better go back a few years to the beginning of my life and Signe's.

**Signe:** Second youngest daughter for Mr. Andrew A. Magnuson and Adolphina (nee Soderholm), born on September 15, 1924 at Riverland District - one baby girl, Signe Evelyn Magnuson. One brother, Oscar; sisters, Mrs. Dave Pearson "Lilly" - Riverland, Manitoba; Mrs. Arne Pearson "Hilma" - deceased 1977, Edmonton, Alberta; Mrs. Harry Balluk "Esther", Dryden, Ontario; Mrs. Steve Diachok "Ada", Edmonton, Alberta.

**Joseph:** Born to Mr. Peter Sydorko and Angela (nee Navrot) - second oldest son, born on April 7th at 4:00 a.m., 1923. Four feet of snow fell overnight. I always thought that to be some kind of omen!? Sisters and brothers were: "Walter", Brightstone, Manitoba; "Alex", Winnipeg, Manitoba; Mrs. Ray Mitchel "Jean", London, Ontario; Mrs. Jim Mason "Elsie", Newbury, Ontario; Mrs. John Maronets "Del", London, Ontario; Mrs. Darwin Kersey "Mae", Tilbury, Ontario; Richard of London, Ontario and John of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

We were all born on the homestead farm at Red Deer School District, Springwell Post Office.

Most of us were delivered by our family "Midwife Doctor", Grandma Catherine Sydorko of Brightstone. No problems ever occurred during birth.

The Lac du Bonnet doctor, Dr. Wood, attended the younger children and all went well.

My father, Peter, son of Roman and Catherine Sydorko, was also the second oldest son. His father, Roman, came to Canada around the turn of the century and was one of the pioneers in Red Deer!

On January 28th, 1919, my father married a pioneer's daughter and the family began to grow. In 1921, Walter was the first born. He had a twin brother, but six months later his twin brother Mike died of pneumonia.

We had a happy home life. As we began school, the Depression was upon us. We still had a good life; food was plentiful as our father was a good provider. In the fall, he brought home venison, a hog and steer were butchered, vegetables from the garden and a fish pedlar came along with a mixed bag of frozen fish every fall at \$1.00 a big bag. In the summer, a fruit pedlar came and we had fresh fruit.

Our house was built by my grandfather and his sons. The house was hand hued logs and hand sawed boards. It was whitewashed outside and in.



Sydorko family. L-R: Daughter Evelyn, husband Rick, Sandy and son Allan, Joe and Signe.

We lived in this pioneer house until 1938 when the new house was built.

I left school in 1937 but it was about two years later when I got a job working for Albert Davis of Riverland. I worked there for two summers and in the wintertime, I worked in a bush camp cutting cordwood, logs, etc.

In January, 1943 my cousin Mike Sydorko of Brightstone and I became soldiers in His Majesty's Army.

Along with 22,000 men, we boarded the Queen Mary at Halifax harbour in August, 1943, and arrived a few days later at Ilford 2CIRU in the south of England.

"D" Day *Plus One* — I landed in France as a First Reinforcement for Canadian Scottish Regiment along with 40 other replacements.

The battles were hard and casualties were heavy but our Regiment and the Brigade pushed onward. Well, you know the rest of the story and that's history! The war was over!! I came back to Canada on October 31, 1945 on the Queen Elizabeth. I was lucky sailing on two of the world's (at that time) largest ships.

I arrived at the CN Station around 7:00 p.m. Thousands of people milled around; relatives and friends looking for their soldier boys and visa versa. After a while, I spotted my sisters, Elsie and Jean, and my girlfriend, Signe Magnuson whom I met before going overseas. I was home on furlough in July, 1943. I met some friends at Lac du Bonnet and was informed of a wedding in Brightstone. As I knew everybody in that District, I asked who was getting married? I was told it was Walter Navrot and Josie Buhay. Well, Walter Navrot being my uncle, gave me the right to crash the wedding. I couldn't get a ride to Brightstone so I hired a taxi, Andrew Frank from Riverland (for \$1.00) and he

drove me to Bert Davies' farm. Bert lent me his truck (½ ton pick-up), filled it full of gas and I went to the wedding.

I was welcomed by the bride and groom and had a drink and food. After the presentation, I met a friend, Viola Tinndal and she introduced me to Signe. Well!!! It was love at first sight!

I had always liked girls from Riverland and made friends quickly at Riverland Hall dances and the Silver Lodge dances.

While I was overseas, Signe and I wrote constantly.

I did not meet her while I worked at Riverland. It seemed she was working for Premier Garson at his summer cottage, along the River, and one summer she worked for the Leslie family, also a summer cottage. She was working at Leslie's and after work was in Lac du Bonnet and met Viola Tinndal. Viola's brother, Fred, said there was a wedding in Brightstone and since Fred had many friends in that district, he was invited to the wedding. Signe and Violet went along and that is how and where we met!

After leaving the CN Station, and pulling ourselves together, wiping our eyes and laughing joyfully, the girls took me to "Chans" Restaurant for a nice, thick, juicy steak. A first promise every soldier made for himself was to have a steak on arriving home.

I was officially discharged on December 17, 1945. On January 2, 1946, we got married!!

Approximately three weeks after our wedding, Signe and I left for Bissett, Manitoba along with Ed Soderholm (Signe's uncle). I worked with the carpenters moving a town site eight miles to Ogama Rocland!

In the spring, I missed my new bride. So I came home.

My brother, Walter, was working on the Pointe du Bois Hydro Railroad Track with the section gang. Pete Specht was the Foreman. Walter got me a job on Pete's gang. The pay for that time was good; job was steady. Winter was slack so I got laid off. I went diamond drilling with Art Wold for Boyles Bros. We drilled at several places for three winters.

Our first child was born in the fall of 1946; a son we call Allan Roy. Allan is also married now with two children, Heather 8 and Andrew 6. Allan married Sandy Baptie, oldest daughter of Charlie and Eileen Baptie. Allan is a Plant Manager at Kelloggs of Canada, London, Ontario. After attending University of Toronto and University of Western Ontario, Allan was hired as a car loader on nights and worked his way up!

The summer of 1949 rolled along. In July, I think it was my cousin, Mike Sydorko, now living in London, Ontario, married a London girl, Mar-

jorie Scott. They, along with their daughter, Donna, came to Lac du Bonnet for a holiday. Mike talked me into going out to London, Ontario where the post-war Industrial Boom was on.

Signe wasn't too impressed with my good news but I was persuasive and convinced her that the future for us was out east.

Allan was three years old now and we were expecting our next child. In the fall, Evelyn Frances was born.

I hopped on a CP train and headed for London. I got a job quickly. Mike was right! Lots of factories were hiring and in August, 1949 I started at Kelvinator, a refrigerator plant.

Signe followed with the two children on the train (CP again) and made it all the way by herself, with the two young ones!

Ten years with Kelvinator and work was disrupted by layoffs, so I got a job with an electronics wholesaler. Worked my way up from Receiver to Salesman on the road. Seventeen years with Electronics!

Five years ago I was lucky to get a job with the Provincial Government (Ministry of Transportation and Communications) and I am with the M.T.C. at this time as a "clerk".

Earlier I mentioned that we also have a daughter, Evelyn Frances. At school, she did well, especially in Dietary Assistant Course she took and after graduation worked at Eaton's of Canada (London). Later, she went to work at the University of Western Ontario. That is where she met her future husband, Richard L. LeSueur of Sarnia. He was taking an Electrical Engineering Course at University of Western Ontario.

They fell in love and on June 5th, 1971, got married in a military base (London) as Richard is with the armed forces (Air Element) and was stationed in Ottawa. After moving to Nova Scotia and Allert, N.W.T., she is now in Mosset, B.C. They have two children, a girl Anita Marie (3 years) and Colin Richard (1 year). Richard and his family are making a military career for themselves and we are very proud of them (also miss them a lot) but that's the way it goes.

Signe just reminded me that our children were both born in Pine Falls Hospital.

This is a short story that only touches on a few highlights of our life. In between there are many times we had tears, joy, and hard times but as the saying goes, "The good times always outweigh the bad" and we always know that the Lord and his angels watch over us all the time. We take one day at a time and enjoy life very much. Amen!!

Joseph B. Sydorko  
and Signe E. Sydorko

# Riverland

## RIVERLAND S.D. NO. 1557

This district was formed in the early 1900's by the Swedish Settlement founded on the east shore of the Winnipeg River, opposite the town of Lac du Bonnet.

These pioneers, from the Scandinavian countries were successful farmers, carpenters, loggers or whatever else they made a living at.

In 1919, the parents decided to build a school on safer grounds for children. Three acres, located at 15-15-11, was donated by Mr. Gust Anderson, who lived in his own hidden log cabin next to these grounds.

These buildings were also built by the same good carpenters. School and teacherage were kept in expert condition for all and by everyone. The school board and the Busy Helpers Ladies' Club all did their share.

In 1948 Mr. Olaf Erickson was the Secretary of the school board, Bert Davis, the chairman.

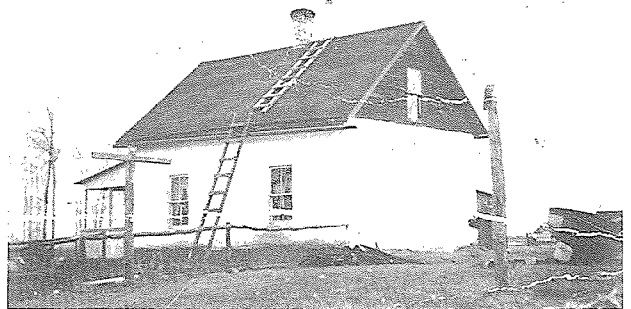
A most common practise among all the neighbours was to have coffee with each other. Everyone was invited to whist drives and bingo games, then the social hour with coffee, sandwiches and cakes. Funds were all used for the good of their children.

The Busy Helpers' Ladies' Club held monthly meetings at the school. Discussions and minutes

were made for all the motions. There was Dental Care for their children, gifts and goodies for Christmas concerts, prizes and food and other groceries for community school picnics or perhaps some 70th birthday party, etc., etc. Everyone took part and shared in costs and donations.

Sometimes the best ball players would go to a neighborhood school district for a friendly baseball game.

In the 1960's rumors began to spread that all country schools were going to close - rumors became reality and by 1970 no small schools were open. At first consolidation over-crowded the classrooms and overwhelmed the teachers. They



This familiar homestead was situated just around the bend of the School Point where the school and teacherage were built.



Taken in 1916 with Miss Thornton, as teacher - one of the first.

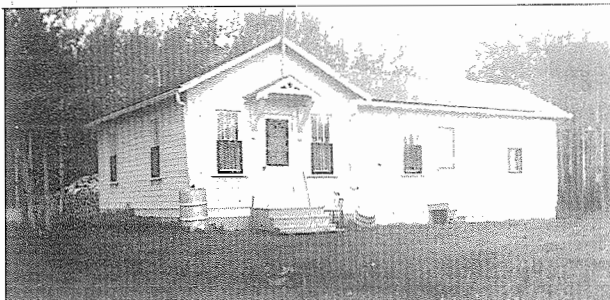
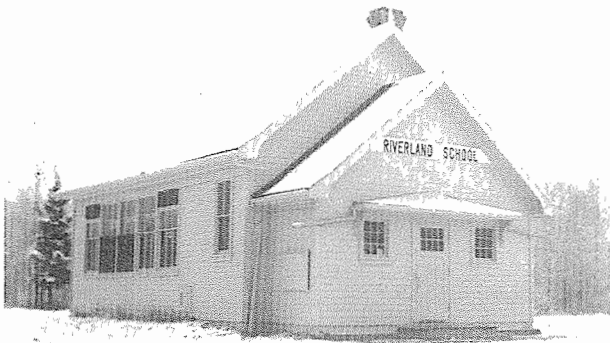
Mrs. Hans Erickson was the first teacher. Voluntary carpenters and all help in community, built this first school of logs - shows their expertise in logging and carpenter work.

found themselves on grounds littered with huts and howls of confused parents.

Now as we are approaching the 1980's with Education for all, A, B, C Special and Resource, there are improvements everywhere but still problems to solve.



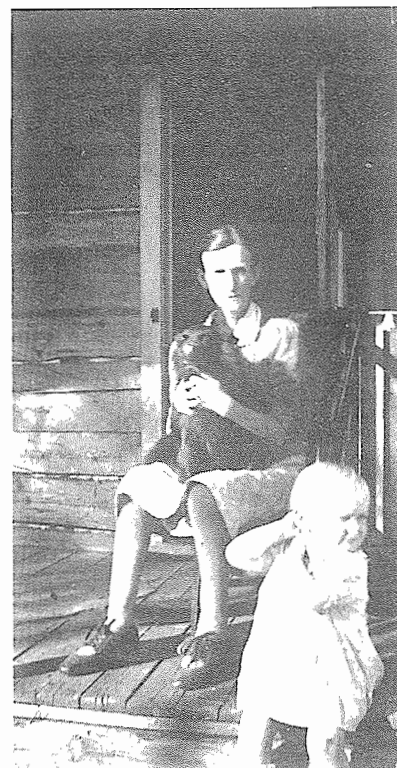
Mr. and Mrs. Axel Hendrickson also grew up in Riverland where their parents lived and went to this school.



Teacherage.



Mrs. Linquist and Mrs. K. J. Erickson, two pioneer ladies.



Finna Magnusson and her grand-child.





The hidden cabin next to Riverland school, the Magnusson home.



Pupils lined up for a walk to practise for the Christmas Concert, 2 miles from school.



All lined up for the last hike of the year in June, to the picnic grounds, School Point, 2 miles from school.



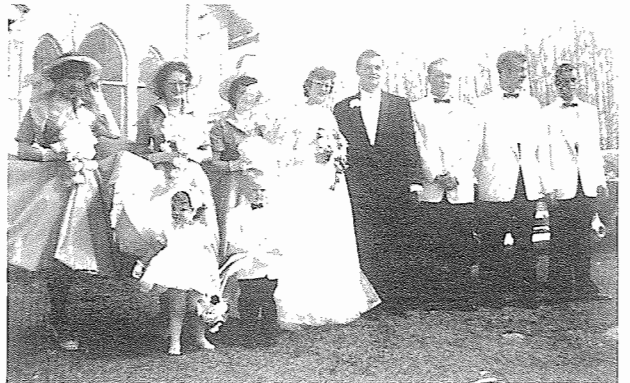
Riverland Community Hall where many of the social events were held.



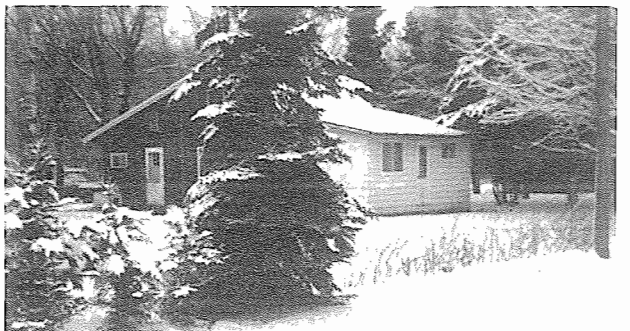
Mr. and Mrs. Olaf Erickson and family.



Children practising games at the School Point Pavilion where coffee and groceries were served and sold. Everyone had special ice cream helpings.



Wedding of Roland Larson and Joan Peterson. Attendants: Lennert Larson, Violet Sellers, Dolores Peterson, Diane Morski. Ringbearer, Randy Sellers, flowergirl, Lorraine Larson. Ushers - Barry Malmgren, Ken Peterson.



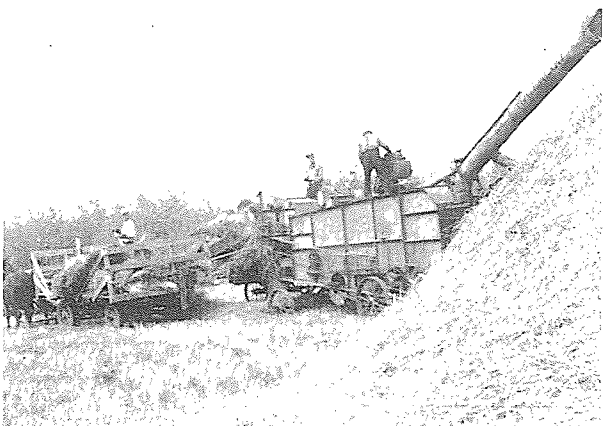
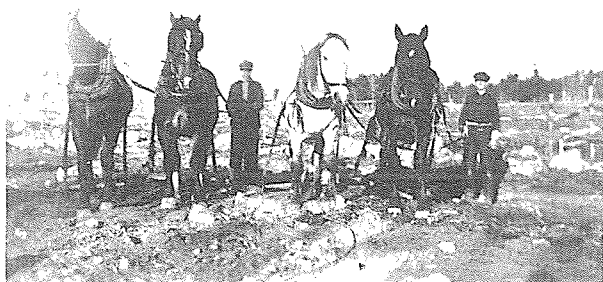
Site of the hidden log cabin today changed into a private, modern looking home.

## MAURITZ AND ANNA ANDERSON

Our parents came from Jämtland, Sweden. Our mother came to Lac du Bonnet in 1904 and our father came to Newfoundland in 1900 and to Lac du Bonnet in 1906.

They settled in Riverland on a homestead. They travelled mostly by boat and on foot. Their first house or camp was made of logs, put together with moss between and then plastered with a mixture made from clay, cow manure and straw. Then they whitewashed it with a mixture of lime and water when they could get it.

Our father worked on the brickyard in Lac du Bonnet in the summer and in the winter he cut wood and hauled into town to exchange for groceries.



Assorted activities on a Riverland Farm.

Mauritz and Anna Anderson were parents of Anna and Walter Anderson and of two sons John and Andrew from a previous marriage of Anna Asp Anderson.

They led a very quiet life. They stayed at home and worked hard to try to make a living. They planted a few seeds in between the huge trees in the swamp, as there were only trees and swamp around everywhere.

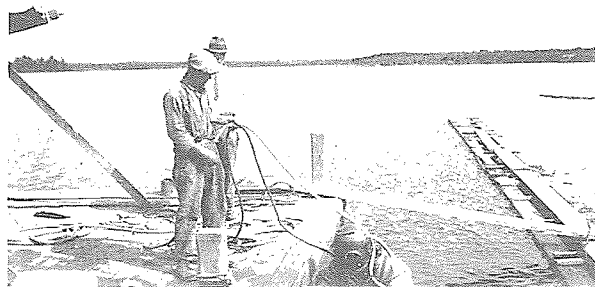
They did a lot of fishing and hunting. They also had a few cattle. They had an ox to haul the wood with. They mostly visited each other in their homes. They made parties at Christmas or for birthdays and other important occasions. Later when they built schools, they had some of their parties there.

They had to travel 3½ miles by rowboat to town. In winter they mostly walked.

When they first came here there was no doctor in Lac du Bonnet, so they had to go to Winnipeg to see a doctor, which was not very often because it took them all day by a very slow train to get there. If a woman was to have a baby, she would get one of her neighbours as a midwife to help her.

They lived in Riverland School district. We walked 1½ miles to school, winter or summer, through deep snow and lots of mud.

The people helped each other by exchanging work. When a family was too sick to go out and take care of their cattle, a neighbour would go and



feed them and also bring food and medicine to the sick neighbours. Anna remembers that when she was five years old, her mother would go to milk the cows. In the late fall evenings it was dark very early. Her mother would not leave a lamp lit for fear the children might have an accident. Anna would cuddle with her little brother near the door awaiting her mother's return. Lamps could be dangerous things in the old homesteads.

Our parents are deceased. Our half brothers John and Andrew Asp are deceased.

Anna is married to Fred Petterson of Lac du Bonnet. They have two daughters, Doreen Wesa of Winnipeg and Christine Hofmann of Germany. They have three grandsons.

Walter Anderson is married to Victoria Rurak of Yorkton, Saskatchewan. They have two daughters, Terry Ledin of Lac du Bonnet and Heather Mueller of Lac du Bonnet and one son Arvid Anderson, deceased. They have three granddaughters and two grandsons.

Submitted by  
Anna Petterson  
Walter Anderson

### FRANK X. BOULANGER

Frank was born in Notre Dame Des Bois, Quebec in 1896. The family moved to a farm at Tomiskaming when he was eight years old. He came to Manitoba in 1923 and went out to St. George. On June 11, 1924 he married Alida Dayon of St. George. Alida was born at St. George in 1905, daughter of Charles and Armina Dayon. They both worked on a farm at Dumas, Saskatchewan for six months, then moved to Landerville in April of 1925. They stayed with the Omer Lavoie family for one week, then moved to Arthur Fournier's farm. Frank worked for Frank Waters in the bush at Mud Falls hauling pulp to Great Falls for two winters.

In 1927, he started developing a farm bought from Louie Fournier across the road from where he was living. Like most rural people in those days, their entertainment was mostly social visits, weddings, school concerts and school dances which they really enjoyed. They bought their first automobile from Omer Bernard in Pinawa in the spring of 1928. They sold the farm to Paul Sikora in the fall of 1946 and bought the Peter Lindgren farm in Riverland.

Frank had an unfortunate accident on October 20, 1928 when he collided with a train crossing the track at the station at Niverville, Manitoba. His son and daughter were killed, Frank was hospitalized for three weeks and his wife for 43 days. Frank had a second accident in 1934 while

traveling a new road to Great Falls. It was a plain surface which was very slippery after a rain, the model T Ford he was driving skidded off the road into a ditch in five feet of water, the car rolled over upside down. The battery fell out of its container leaving a hole in the floor. Son Clement was 9 years old and was able to crawl out the hole. Frank and his wife were able to get out by a door. Two strangers passing by took the three into the village to be checked over by Dr. Wood.

They had seventeen children, 14 still living. Clement born 1925, married, living in Delta, B.C.; Helene born 1930, lives in Minneapolis, has three children; Fernand born 1932, lives in St. Boniface; Rose born 1933, married, living in Winnipeg; Louise born 1934, lives in Ft. McMurray, Alberta, married, has six children; Henry born 1935, an aircraft pilot, lives on the home farm in Riverland and is married; Joseph born 1936, married, four children, lives in Terrace, B.C.; Yvonne born 1938, married with five children, lives in Winnipeg; Maurice born 1939, single; Leo born 1940, married, four children, both these boys live in Lac du Bonnet; Noel born 1941, is a missionary of the Oblate Fathers, was ordained in the priesthood in Lac du Bonnet in the fall of 1969, he is serving in five missions around Touis Aides, Paris; Edmund born 1946, single, lives in Vancouver; Silvio born 1948, married, lives in Thompson, Manitoba, has two children; Rita born 1942, married Stewart Love, they both live in Mission Viago, California and have two daughters. Mama Alida moved from the farm in Riverland to Bonne Vista Lodge on August 1st, 1978 where she enjoyed the company of many Lac du Bonnet old timers, most of whom take a very active part in the Senior Citizens Pioneer Club. Mr. Boulanger died May 31st., 1973.

### KARL JOHAN ERICKSON

Karl Johan Erickson, born 1882, emigrated to Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1907, married Maria Karlson, who had emigrated from Sweden in 1902. They moved to Lac du Bonnet in the spring of 1908, where K. J. worked at the brick yard and lived in a small cabin on a raft near his place of employment. Later that year they moved across the river to Riverland and K. J. went into the wood business and had several wood camps in the North Eastern area. They had two children, Annie and Herbert. Maria passed away at St. Boniface Hospital in 1912 at the age of 35.

Mr. Erickson returned to Sweden in 1913, worked there until 1916, when he and his second wife, Anna returned to Riverland, Lac du Bonnet. There he operated a Geneal Store for many years. He

was an ardent sportsman. Hunting, trapping, fishing and studying nature in general was his greatest joy. Five children were born to Anna and Karl - Klara, Carl, Kathleen, Gladys and Ingrid. Anna with her spinning, weaving and sewing kept her family clothed as clothes were seldom bought ready-made. In the early 1940's the Erickson family moved to South Burnaby, British Columbia and even though they were very happy and busy in B.C., Mr. and Mrs. Erickson loved to return to their home in Riverland each summer. Karl Johan passed away in 1965 and Anna in 1967.

Four children are deceased - Annie in 1962, Herbert in 1975, Carl and Gladys in 1976.

Annie married Hilding Peterson and they had seven children, Violet, Lennard, Kenneth, Deloris, Joan and Earl, one daughter, Deanna died in infancy. Herbert married Anna Olovson of Smithers, B.C. and they had four sons, Robert, Peter, Brian and Michael. Klara married William Ormshaw (a widower with two children - Muriel and Earl) and they had one daughter, Kathryn. Carl married Margaret McCart and there were no children. Kathleen married Gordon R. Brown and they have one daughter, Kathleen. Gladys married Jack Cundall and there were no children. Ingrid is married to Ole Iversen who had one son, Hans Ole, by previous marriage and they have two children, Linda and David Woodbury, by Ingrid's previous marriage and one son, Erik Iversen.

There are 22 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Erickson also had two sisters emigrate to Riverland-Karolina who married Olaf Hanson and Johanna who married Gustav Melquist.

Submitted by  
Klara Ormshaw

### CARL GILLE FAMILY

Carl Gille was born August 4, 1880 in Gestrickland, Sweden. He left in 1906 and came to Chicago, Illinois. In 1907 he married Ida Kristina Johansson who was born January 17, 1888 at Madelpod and who had also immigrated to the Chicago area. They had six children.

Elsie Evelyn was born in Chicago, October 29, 1909. She married Carl H. Pearson and they moved to Saskatchewan. They have two daughters, Helen and Lynne. Carlie, as he was known, died in February 1966. Elsie still resides at Conquest.

Edith, born in 1911 was married to Bill Smith in 1943. They have three daughters, Sonja, Betty and Barbara. Edith passed away in March of 1967.

Pauline was born June 22, 1919. She married Alfred Behrsin in 1943 and six children were born to them. Wally, Harold, Kenneth, Victor, Phyllis

and Beverley. Alfred died in 1968.

Bertil Gille (born December 9, 1922) married Irene Lavoie on September 30, 1948 and were blessed with six children - Marilyn, Lois, Janice, Cheryle, Donna and Scott. Bert served overseas in the army during the second World War.

The oldest boy died at birth and Sven died in 1919 as a small baby.

The grandfather, Ter Gille and brother Alfred Gille both lived with Carl on the homestead at Riverland for a number of years after they left Chicago.

Carl was a bricklayer by trade and worked at that in Sweden and Chicago. Alfred was a carpenter by trade. In those days the farm was at the end of the road, where the private road to Old Pinawa went through. If anyone had occasion to go to Old Pinawa, they had to phone Gilles for the gates to be unlocked to let them through to the road.

The children had eight miles to walk to school by the cow trails and through bush to K.J. Erickson's Point where the old school and hall were situated.

In the summer the family rowed across the river to town for mail and supplies. In winter they walked across the ice to town or used horse and cutter for visiting neighbors. In spring and fall they had to go around by the bridge which was about 10 miles one way, so the trip had to be really necessary before being undertaken.

In the summer wild strawberries, raspberries and blueberries were picked by all and preserved for use during the winter months.

Entertainment was neighborhood get-togethers with music, dancing and card games. The school picnic in the summer and concert for Christmas were two high points of the year. All the children went to Sunday School in the Lutheran Church and were confirmed.

The first house was a small sod shack which later became the barn when the big two storey house was built. In hot weather the cream, milk and butter were lowered in a big pail into the cold well water to keep them fresh. During the winter ice blocks were put up and stored in sawdust in the ice house to be used in the ice box in the house during summer heat. The power line never did go as far as the farm so kerosene lamps, and later gas lamps were used for light. Wood was used for cooking and heat and much of the summer was spent getting the winter's fuel stock piled. The clothes were washed on a scrub board in the creek water or at the lake shore in warm weather. Snow and ice had to be melted for water during the winter. Sad irons and later gas irons used for ironing the clothes.

Ida died in 1963 at the age of 75 and Carl died

at age 92 in 1972. Both are buried in Riverland Cemetery.

The children and grandchildren have many happy memories of the early pioneer days even though there were many hardships to overcome.

Submitted to Elsie (Gille) Pearson and  
Helen (Pearson) Shadbolt

### THE HARKNESS HISTORY

My father, Matthew Henry Harkness, came in 1879 with his parents from Bobcaygeon, Ontario by way of Minneapolis and the Red and Assiniboine Rivers. At High Bluff they got an ox team and drove to Carberry, Manitoba where they took up a homestead. That fall they got up the walls of their log house before the snow came but lived in a tent inside the walls. Grandfather got a job in Portage la Prairie, building a siding for the railway that came in 1882.

I, Ian, was born on a farm in the Pleasant Point District, near Carberry on December 13th, 1908. We walked two miles to school but in winter rode horseback or were driven. Mother being in poor health, we moved to Victoria, B.C. in 1917 and stayed till 1920 when mother died, then came back to Carberry, then moved to Mervin, Saskatchewan. There we drove an old pony and a jumper or walked to school and my younger brother was killed in a team and wagon accident. We moved back to Carberry in 1924 where we were hit by the depression. In 1933 we moved to Lac du Bonnet with two carloads of stock for which we had no feed because of the drought and grasshoppers. My brother Jack was with us but my sister Vera was married and in the Sanitorium in St. Vital. At that time dad had married again and we lived in Billy Brincheski's old house where Roger Tinant lives today. I spent the first winter cutting and hauling pulp in the bush at Mud Falls. The next year we bought some land in Riverland, the old Buckmaster place. I farmed there till 1940 when I married Edith Larsen. I joined the army in 1941, two months after the birth of our twin boys, Liard and Lyle. My wife stayed with her mother till my return. I spent nine months in Germany after peace was declared. On my return I got local construction work on dams, power plants and mills. I moved the family nearer to town where I have lived ever since. A third boy, Darryl, was born in 1952. In 1963 my wife passed away so I had to remain at home and took a job driving a school bus and keeping the home fires burning.

My father, Matthew, had married Mrs. Brown on her 70th birthday and they lived east of town but he passed away in 1964. I was driving the school bus when the Pinawa children attended

school in Lac du Bonnet.

After retirement I occupied myself by looking after several houses I own and rent. I am a member of the Canadian Legion 164 and served a term as warden, also president. I was caretaker of the old outdoor skating rink for several seasons and was a member of the first hospital petitions committee. I am well known to all the old timers in the area and try to be helpful to all organizations in the area. I now spend my summers in Lac du Bonnet and winters at the coast where I have a house and a fishing boat. Forgot to mention I was also on the Board of Bona Vista Senior Citizens Home where I was the unofficial caretaker, janitor and general repairman. I am affiliated with St. John's Anglican church and served on the vestry board for many years. I assisted Ernie Richmond on the construction work in the renovation of the Anglican church and parish hall.

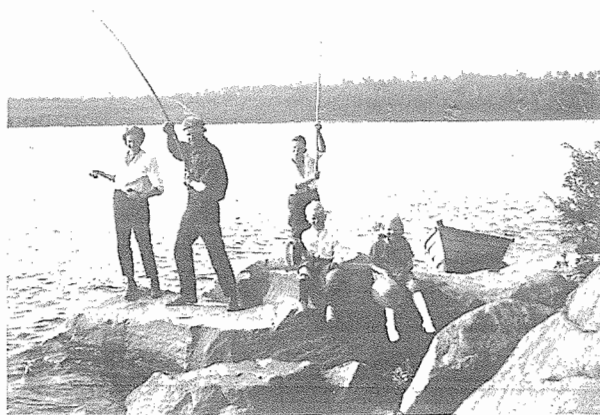
Submitted by Ian Harkness

### THE HAAVISTO FAMILY

Antti Nikolai Haavisto and wife Marija Ruseina with their young family of five children left Finland in the fall of 1907. They arrived in Canada, settling on a 60-acre homestead. It was situated on the east bank of the beautiful Winnipeg River, three miles up stream from the town of Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba, in Riverland district.

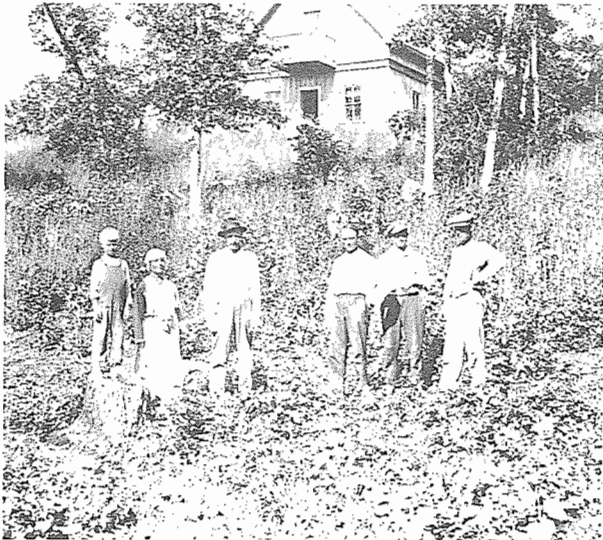
The children ranged in ages from one to eleven years old - Emby, Marie, George, Arthur and Olavi. Four other children were born to the Haavistos in Canada - Lauri, Einar, Eli and Martha.

Our pioneer parents and family were a hardy lot - healthy and strong! Huge trees and stumps were cleared from the land with the help of oxen. Slowly the wilderness began to give way to cultivated fields. Living off the land, feeding and clothing a large growing family was a hardship and a con-



The Haavisto Family.





A. N. Haavisto's second home.

stant struggle. Buildings were built - a house, barn and of course a sauna. To a Finn, a sauna was a must, where they could relax and soothe aching back and limb, besides bathing.

With all the land cleared, livestock and some modern farm equipment acquired, made life somewhat easier. For over forty years, our parents laboured and worked the land before illness and poor health overtook them.

Presently son Arthur and wife Louise reside on their farm near the vicinity of the old home. Another son Olavi has property across the river from the old farm. The other living members of the family are spread throughout Canada. Also there are a total of eight grandchildren, thirteen great-grandchildren and (?) great-great-grandchildren of the Haavisto family.

Antti N. died at age 74, August 27, 1950. Marija R. died at age 77, February 21, 1949. Eldest son George died at age 18, November 1920. Eldest daughter Emby (Hartwell) died at age 66, July 26th, (1962?). Infant son also died. Son Eli died at age 40, October 21, 1954.

## JOHN AND HILDA HENDRICKSON

In the early spring of 1904, my parents John August and Hilda Hendrickson, and I, left our home in Malmbarget, Sweden. After a stormy crossing we landed in Halifax. Then, after a tedious, uncomfortable train ride we arrived in Winnipeg, where we were "guests" at the Immigration Hall for a night. We spent about two months in Winnipeg waiting for transportation to Pinawa, where father was employed as a rock driller.

Our new address was Camp No. 1, Pinawa. Our home was a strange, long log cabin with two

rooms; one room for the family, the other for our cow and a few chickens.

I will never forget the three whistle blasts. They meant take shelter from flying rocks due to the dynamiting.

I remember seeing the huge equipment and supplies being transported from Lac du Bonnet across the river and on a bush road, a distance of approximately twelve miles.

Most of the work at the dam was done by hand. It was a twelve hour work day, six days a week. Mother would send me with fresh buns and a lard pail filled with coffee to the damsite for father's coffee break.

As a little girl of ten, my playground was piles of rocks with the occasional clump of bushes and grassy spots. My young friends and I were enterprising frog-catchers. These were sold to some Italian workers, who paid a penny a frog, so they could enjoy fried frogs' legs. When my brother Axel was born in 1906, his buggy was used to help us enlarge our operations.

In 1907 the work at the dam was completed, so our stay in Pinawa was over. We piled our worldly goods in a cart and walked to the homestead, our new home three miles up the river and across from Lac du Bonnet. We made our home in a one room shanty on the property.

As the family grew, a new house was built. The beautiful site chosen was on top of a hill leading down to the river. This afforded us a panoramic view of the river and opposite shore.

There was work for everyone from "sunup to sundown." My playmate was a little red and white calf "Centraus". I am sorry to say she grew up to be an extremely cranky cow because I spent what spare time I had teasing her.

Visitors were the highlight of work-filled days and weeks. Twice a year, flotillas of Indian canoes travelling to and from their winter homes, passed our home. An Indian mother would stop and ask for milk for their babies. This was gladly given. Then, as if by magic, my little brother or sister would be a proud owner of genuine Indian moccasins.

The river was our highway. The sound of voices, the clanking of oars and the scraping of a boat on our sandy beach would bring those within earshot down to meet the visitors. However, there was one member of the reception committee our visitors were not pleased to see. He was our black ram, affectionately known as "Black Pelle." When our guest reached the top of the hill, he looked to the right and left, then sprinted and dashed into the house. Others were not so fortunate, Black Pelle appeared from nowhere and bunted them from behind. Some even had a surprise "piggy back ride."

If immediate medical attention was required, it would have been convenient if the emergency coincided with train days - three times a week. A broken limb was often set at home. An infection was treated with the forerunner of penicillin. A poultice of sour milk and bread was applied on the affected area. A mysterious swelling, a sore throat, a toothache, an earache, or a pain was often cured by a "tea" made of herbs supplied by our Indian neighbors. No self-respecting baby required a doctor's assistance. Friendly neighbor ladies were ready and willing to assist in the arrival of a new member of the Lac du Bonnet community.

"School days, school days, dear old golden rule days" were few and far between. Spring break-up and fall freeze-up were enforced holidays. In the winter I either skated on the river or trudged through snow drifts. Spring and autumn days I was rowed across the river in the morning and back again in the afternoon. We must have been model, quiet children at school. Many were the days we dismissed ourselves because our teacher was fast asleep with his feet on the desk. As we older children stoked the fire in the big stove before leaving, our greatest concern was that teacher would awaken before he froze.

July 1st, was a day we started to prepare for in the spring. New clothes were being sewn and ordered. Money was being earned and saved. I recall the day my four year old brother Axel had his first taste of ice cream at the picnic. Mother asked him what he thought of the ice cream. His reply was a curt, disappointment. "It tastes like cold, mashed potatoes." I am pleased to report he acquired a taste for ice cream, because we indulged in the luxury of owning an ice cream freezer.

Christmas, whether it be in the city, village or homestead, was the time of preparations. So it was at home. The little ones strung popcorn and red berries. The artistic member of the family fashioned decorations out of coloured paper and silver paper saved from tea and tobacco packages. Gingerbread men and animal-shaped cookies were baked. All these were hung on a tree, that had been chopped down near the house. The final touch was lit candles - so dangerous but oh so lovely! When we received a bag of hard candies and sometimes an orange we felt like millionaires.

Throughout the years there was one thing that did not change - Fish Stories. Did you know that it took three men to get one sturgeon in the boat and then discover there was no room for anyone in the boat? Did you know that a farmer, kneeling on a rock, stunned three sturgeon and dragged them home one at a time? Would you believe that goldeyes were so plentiful that bait was not required on the "bent pin" hook? These fish were caught so quickly the younger children were ex-

pected to watch where they were landed and then pile them up in one central spot. No matter how and where, enough fish was caught to fill the family's and animal's needs throughout the year - all that, without fancy fishing gear and license.

Childhood was over. That meant it was time to look after oneself. So the natural move was to Winnipeg. There, I found work as a domestic. Winnipeg is still my home and I have lived in the same house for fifty-seven years.

As the years came and went, so did the family. Mother passed away in 1925 and father in 1952. Axel passed away in Vancouver, his widow, the former Anne Hanson lives in White Rock, B.C. Arthur and his wife (Jennie Hanson) are retired in Riverland. Daisy, Mrs. Harold Drouge resides in White Rock, B.C. Signe, Mrs. Herman Olsen lives in Flin Flon. Edwin was killed in action, 1945. Sophia, Mrs. Harold Anderstedt resides in Transcona. Elis and his wife Peggy have a home in Riverland.

Submitted by  
Ingeborg Hilding Hendrickson

#### NELS ERIK JOHNSON (JOHNSSON)

Nels Johnson came to Canada from the northern part of Sweden in 1905. After a stint with the railroad he settled in Winnipeg. In 1908 he married Christina Johanson who had earlier emigrated from southern Sweden. While in Winnipeg they operated the Swedish Cafe at the corner of Logan and Fountain, not far from the C.P.R. Station, a cafe which became a gathering place for many Swedish immigrants. Their first two children, Linea and Waldemar (Wally) were born in Winnipeg.

The family moved to Lac du Bonnet where Nels ran a general store (later run by R. N. Campbell). While in Lac du Bonnet Christina gave birth in 1914 to a third child, a daughter named Signe.

Sometime later, the Johnson family moved to Riverland where Nels operated a Silver Fox farm in company with Doyle and McKay from Winnipeg. Many are the stories told of travelling to northern Manitoba buying furs from the Indians near The Pas and Cross Lake, sleeping underneath the stars in minus 60°F temperature. The Indians, accustomed to this life style, needed only a blanket and a small fire to keep them warm at night; fortunately, Nels had a down-filled sleeping bag. There were many and varied tasks to be performed in the fur farming business, and it came to be Signe's job to administer yearly deworming pills, pushing the pills down the fox's throat. At this time the Johnson family lived in an old two storied log



Johnson family at their farm residence - summer 1914.

house on the farm. Although Nels always had lots of good wood on hand, the farmhouse with two fires upstairs and two down was still cold on windy days. As chimney fires were common in those days, the family had to be particularly vigilant in the winter. During their sojourn on the farm, a fourth child, Edith was born. As Lac du Bonnet came to be an attractive tourist area, Nels left the fox farming business and, in the early 1920's, opened a summer resort on a point of land he purchased from the Westberg family who moved to Iowa.

This point became Silver Lodge, a popular summer resort for many years. Board and room was available for about fifteen dollars a week. There were several small cabins, and Christina prepared the meals. In those days of inadequate refrigeration, it was very difficult for her to plan and prepare meals for groups of vacationers, whose numbers would vary greatly depending upon weather and road conditions. Saturday night dances were held at the Lodge with Nels and a neighbor, Pete Lindgren, providing the music. At times, other bands entertained.

While the family was at the Lodge, Victor and Ruth were born. Nels was active in the Swedish Lutheran Church at Riverland and was a member of the Swedish Canadian League.

Nels and Christina moved to New Westminister, B.C. in 1942 where Nels worked for a time as a guard at the C.P.A. Plant. Both he and Christina were active members of the Immanuel Lutheran Church in New Westminister. Mrs. Johnson died in 1961 at the age of 77. Nels died in 1972 at the ripe old age of 97. Linea married Fred Thomson who was with the R.C.C.S. at the old seaplane base in Lac du Bonnet. She was widowed in 1966, and now lives in Edmonton. Her two sons and two daughters also live in the Edmonton area.

Wally married Paulin Sowchynski of Brandon. They now live in Los Angeles, California and have four children and two grandchildren. Signe after nursing for many years married Harry White, whom she met in Port Radium, N.W.T. They now live in Kelowna, B.C. and have two children. Edith married Earl Malley of Winnipeg. Earl died in a plane crash in 1963, and Edie now lives and works in Vancouver.

Victor married Vera Wenham of Portage la Prairie. After service in the Canadian army, they moved to the Coast and live in Port Moody, B.C. They have two children.

Ruth is employed with Canadian Pacific Airlines and makes her home in Vancouver when she is not travelling around the globe.

Submitted by  
Signe Johnson White

## OLAUS LARSON

Mr. and Mrs. Olaus Larson arrived from Sweden in 1911. Their sons, Algot and Helmer were born in Sweden. They took up residence in Riverland in 1915, the homestead that Mr. and Mrs. Purpurs own now.

Larsons had a daughter Margaret and two more sons, Edward and Albert. Sadness hit the family in 1920 when Mrs. Larson passed away. Algot is married and resides in Vancouver, B.C. Helmer married and resides in Winnipeg. Their sister Margaret married and had four children but became a widow in 1974. Edward married and resides in Chilliwack, B.C. He has one son. Albert married and resides in Lac du Bonnet. He has two children and eight grandchildren.

Olaus Larson was employed by City Hydro, working on the railway between Lac du Bonnet and Pointe du Bois, Manitoba. He was well known for sawing wood. He would travel from one farm to the next, with his boys and his "stationary engine," and saw wood. Also he cut a lot of cord wood. Those days it would be traded for groceries when the stores would need wood. Olaus Larson passed away in 1947.

Submitted by Albert Larson

## THE LINDGREN HISTORY

Pete and Emma Lindgren left Sweden with two sons, John 2½ years, Axel 11 months, in May 1904. While well out in the North Sea, Axel got blood poison in his knee and no medication. When they landed in Halifax all the immigrants were marched off the boat into a corral. Now Emma

Lindgren was not able to leave the boat. There was nothing to eat. Pete had to go and hunt for food and he then had to break in to his wife and children. The journey ended in Winnipeg where, not long after they landed, Pete Lindgren contracted typhoid fever. Emma had to go every day to the hospital to see that they did not put her husband in the corridor to die. They finally got Axel, with his bad knee, to a doctor. They were told he would not live through the night. However, they both came through their ordeals. To keep her sick family together, Emma had to take in washing.

The following year, early 1905, they came to Lac du Bonnet and took up a homestead in Riverland. There was nothing but trees. They proceeded to clean out an old barn for a temporary home, and Pete went to work at Pinawa building the power house at \$1.00 an hour. When he had made a few dollars, he stayed home to break up the land with two most stubborn oxen. One day he was cutting hay along the creek edge, the oxen took off right into the creek with mower and all. A few words were said.

One night a terrible storm came up. Pete started for home in the wee hours of the morning. He knew Emma did not like thunder storms. When Pete walked into their poor lodging, Emma was bailing water out of the stove. She had her two young boys under the bed to keep them dry. "That barn so leaked!" In the fall of 1905, a new log cabin was ready and they were able to move from the leaky barn.

Coffee is of course, a most important item in a Swedish home. One day when Emma found her supply depleted, she carefully tied her two youngsters, John and Axel to the old raft on the river and rowed across to the store.

In 1906 Emma was going to have a baby. One day she had finished her baking and the fresh bread lay on the table. The Indians came. Having heard tales about Indians, Emma was afraid. The Indians did not speak, only pointed to the bread. Emma fed them. They helped themselves to some items from the cupboard and left. Two days later they returned laden with wild rice and various game to fill Emma's cupboard. Having noticed that Emma would soon have her baby, one of the Indians brought his wife to stay with her and act as midwife.

Social life was different before 1910. Since there was no hall, they would meet in various homes. After the first school was built in Riverland in 1910, dances, social affairs and picnics were held in the school. Pete was an accomplished musician and played the accordion at all the dances. High heels were the vogue for young ladies. Many tall tales were told about girls being carried over mud puddles.

Naima F. Erickson was the first English teacher at the school. We have been told there was about 84 pupils to one teacher. They must surely have been difficult times for the teacher.

Young Peoples Club was formed about 1925 or 1926 with Carl Simonson, the school teacher, as president. There were many activities. Tobogganing down the bank and out onto the river, entertainment for parents and old folks, bazaars. The people from Lac du Bonnet were invited to join these activities. Later Silver Lodge became the center of social life.

In the early years there was no church building. In 1920 or 1921 a platform was built for dances. There was no roof, it was just an open platform. Christmas parties for the children were held in the school and although the roads were poor and it was difficult to get supplies, Santa Claus arrived with gifts and candy for the children. It was a time for joy. Although there was an organized church from 1912, the building of the first church in the area was started in 1932. There were six children born to Emma and Pete. John who married Edith Peterson had two boys, one girl. Axel married Hilda Schacht, they live in Lac du Bonnet and have two adopted boys. In the family but living in other places are, Edwin who married Gladys Taylor. They have one son. Agnes married Andrew Smith. They have three children. Linnea married John Sorenson, no children. Esther married Peter Albertson and they have five children.

Emma Lindgren passed away in November 1945. Pete made one trip home to Sweden in 1950. He died in March 1963.

#### **OLAF EMIL NASSTROM AND ANNA MARIA PETTERSON**

My father Olaf Emil Nasstrom was born in Tosjo, Sweden May 30, 1889 and came to Canada in November 1910. My mother, Anna Maria Pettersson was born in Naskott Jamtland, Sweden, January 23, 1890 and moved to Canada April 4th, 1906 along with her parents. They both settled in the Lac du Bonnet area. My father cut cordwood in the bush and later worked in Great Falls with my Uncle Frank Waters. My mother was living with her parents on a homestead and worked at a cafe in Winnipeg. My parents were married in 1915. They had two children, myself and my brother Raymond. I was born in a little house in Lac du Bonnet and my brother at my grandparents home. My parents moved to a farm in Riverland in 1921. My parents were hard working people. My father worked for a construction company as a carpenter, then rigger carpenter foreman that built

power plants in Pine Falls, Seven Sisters and Selkirk, also The Pas, Gods Lake and Ilford, Manitoba. He worked until the age of seventy. In the late 1920s or 1930s, can't recall too vividly when work was scarce, he donated his time and labor to help build our little church in Riverland, "The Ebenezer Lutheran Church". My parents moved from the farm in the mid-forties into Lac du Bonnet. My mother was a very active person in her church, also a charter member of the Royal Canadian Legion Auxiliary, No. 164 and a dedicated worker for Home and School Association, long after she became a grandmother. Also a member of Vasa Order of America Association of Swedish Old Folks Home Fund. My parents both passed away in 1965 and were active to the very end.

As I previously mentioned my parents, Mary and Emil Nasstrom, had two children, myself (Alice Evelyn) and my brother Raymond Francis. I attended grade school in Riverland and High School in Lac du Bonnet. In 1937 I entered the School of Nursing at Victoria Hospital in Winnipeg, and graduated as a nurse in June 1940 and became registered in the province of Manitoba. I worked on the staff of the hospital for approximately six months and then did some private nursing in Winnipeg. In the summer of 1941 I worked on the staff of St. Joseph's Hospital in Kenora, Ontario for two months. In November 1941 I travelled to the United States and had a position waiting for me at West Lake Hospital in Melrose Park, Illinois. The first couple of years I worked in the obstetrical department. Then in 1943, I was given a position of Supervisor of a Medical and Surgical Floor in the same hospital which I held until 1954. In the meantime I was married to Walter Schmidt in 1952. My husband was employed at International Harvester Co. in Melrose Park until his retirement in 1976. Previous to his employment there he served in the U.S. Navy during World War Two. In 1954 I left the hospital and took a position at the Joslyn Clinic in Maywood, Illinois and continued to work there until the end of 1971. From then to April 30th, 1977 I was employed as a nurse for a Doctor in private practice in Berkeley, Illinois. My husband and I lived in Maywood, Illinois through 1976 and from there we moved to Bensenville, Illinois. We retired and are presently living at Boynton Beach, Florida and hopefully will spend our remaining years here.

My brother went to the same schools in the Lac du Bonnet area and attended Wesley College and after service in the R.C.A.F. during World War Two he attended the University of British Columbia and graduated as a Mining Engineer in 1951. He served overseas as a Flt. Lt. in the R.C.A.F. where he completed a tour with the Snowy Owl 420 squadron with services also in the African

Campaign. He received the Italy Star, Air Crew Europe Star, Defense and Voluntary Service medals, also George the Sixth Medal - 1939-1945. My brother was well known throughout Canada in the mining field where he worked in a supervisory and managerial capacity at several mines and mine manager at Consolidated Rambler Mines for seven and a half years. He was successful in opening up two Rambler Properties at Baie Verte, Newfoundland. In 1968 he received his Masters in Business Administration from University of Manitoba. Later he was employed with the Mines and Resources Branch of the Manitoba Government. He was employed there at the time of his sudden death in April 1973.

My brother was married to Marilyn (Lynn) Thomson in August 1940. They had one daughter Pamela, born in August 1956. Pamela is now married to Ronald Burton and they now reside in Port Moody, B.C.

I am truly proud of my Swedish heritage that was passed on to me by my parents - their teachings in my Faith, values in life and how to love and be loved. For this I shall be eternally grateful to them.

Alice E. (Nasstrom) Schmidt

## THE JOHN ONGMAN FAMILY

John Ongman and Anna Kristina Ongman and daughter Anna Elvera, born in 1900, also a son John Edwin, born in 1902, came to Canada from Bolnäs, Sweden in 1903, landing in Halifax, from there they came to Winnipeg, Manitoba by train.

On arriving in Winnipeg, they made their home in the Norwood area, where another son Per Elis was born, December 1903.

In July 1906, Lars Ragnar was born. After, the family had moved to St. Vital, where they built a home, John being a carpenter from Sweden.

Vera, Edwin and Elis started their schooling in Norwood and later when a school was built in St. Vital, they were transferred to this new location. In the spring of 1912, the family moved from Winnipeg to Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba to a Swedish settlement called Riverland, this being across the Winnipeg River from Lac du Bonnet. Here they started farming, at that time the mode of power was oxen power, not horse power. It did not take long however before they started to use horses.

There was a log house on the farm with two floors, the ground floor was used as a kitchen, eating area, etc., and the upstairs was used as sleeping quarters. Now the schooling problem became much more difficult as the distance to school was over three miles with nothing but a little bush trail to take you there. Often the snow would





John Ongman, his wife Anna, Elvera and Edwin, when they left Sweden in May, 1903.

be three to four feet deep with temperatures down to 50 or 60°F.

There was a depression about this time but not nearly as bad as the later one in the hungry thirties, which I think most of us are still living now, that is, we can never really feel secure, and of course this inflation bit is not helping matters much but such is life.

In spite of our struggles and tribulations, though I think it would be hard to find ways today to get people together and participate in dances, picnics, etc. as we did then and really did enjoy ourselves.

There were no cars in the area nor were there any roads to drive on and had there been any, so to get anywhere, we either walked or rode horseback. We used both, rowboats and power boats, these latter being the only means of crossing the river in the summer, which we had to do for our shopping and picking up our mail, etc. In the winter of course we walked or drove over the ice on the river as it froze to a thickness of four to five feet.

Elis married Agda Soderholm in 1927, who passed away in 1930 at the age of twenty-three, after having had two operations. Agda's parents, sisters and brothers were all from the Riverland area.

Vera married Eric Frank and they had a daughter Patricia, and a son Robert.

They purchased part of the Ongman's farmstead in Lac du Bonnet, on which they built their home. They moved to Prince George, B.C. in 1955,

where Eric worked as an accountant until he passed away in 1962. Vera, Pat and Bob are still in Prince George, B.C.

Mother Anna died in 1952 at 73 years of age, after quite some time of ill health.

Dad John passed away in 1955 at 77 years.

Edwin married Svea Rosenholm in 1928, they have two sons, Lloyd and Leonard, all moved to Prince George, B.C. in 1942.

Svea passed away in 1974 and Ed died in 1976.

Lloyd and Len are still in Prince George. Elis was married again in 1933 to Adene Rosenholm, and they lived on a little farm in the Old Pinawa Area for awhile. From there they moved to Winnipeg, Manitoba and later to Prince George, B.C. In 1942, having lived there for twenty-one years, most of this time was spent in the lumber manufacturing business. Another move was made in 1963 to Kelowna, B.C. and again in 1970 to their present home in Peachland, B.C. They have three daughters, Shirley, Joyce and Carol.

Ragnar married Ester Anderson of Kenora, Ontario in 1936, they had one son Wayne. Ester passed away in 1949.

In 1952, Ragnar was married again, this time to



John Ongman and wife Anna, Elvera, Edwin, Elis and Ragnar - about 1920.



John Ongman house built in 1914.

Roberta Hyatt of Kenora, Ontario and they had a daughter Linnea, at present living in Vancouver, B.C.

Ragnar passed away in a drowning accident in 1962.

Wayne moved to Kelowna, B.C. in 1971 and is making his home there.

Lac du Bonnet and Riverland still feels like home to us, and we get back there for a visit almost every year. Most of the parents have passed on as well as many of our own age group. Time marches on and of course we have to march with it.

Submitted by Elis Ongman

### THE FRANK PEARSON FAMILY Riverland District

Erik Frank Pearson was born in Ramsjö in Hälsingland, October 25, 1867. His father was a forestguard at Iggesund plant and he grew up in the forests of Hälsingland. He started working when very young and had very little schooling.

In 1890 he started working for the Government owned railroad in Sweden where he stayed for ten years.

He was active within the Social Democrat Party and was elected a representative for the local seat and represented it in Sweden and the other Nordic countries.

Our grandfather married a teacher, Anna Lydia Hedman, who was born in Söderala, Hälsingland.

He arrived in Canada in May 1914 with the three oldest children, Erik, Anna and Agnar. They saved money to buy tickets for the rest of the family namely his wife, Arne, Margareta, Charles, Hilda, and David. They arrived in 1915 in Halifax and had to go by train to Winnipeg for three days.

Our grandmother was deeply religious and foreseeing. She foresaw in her dreams that the ship would sink. In a way she was right because the ship was not heard of any more. They were very lucky therefore that grandmother had delayed their trip because of her dream.

Grandfather worked as a railroad section man until he started farming in 1917 in Riverland where he stayed until four months before his death when he moved to his daughter, Hilda, in Burnaby, British Columbia.

He belonged to the Swedish Organizations in the Lac du Bonnet area. He was a secretary in the Sweden Union in Canada and active as an administrator for the society which was trying to raise money for a home for the aged.

He was a member of the local Wasa Order and active within the Lutheran church. He donated the land for this church.

For 22 years he was a representative for Canada Tidningen in Lac du Bonnet. He continued to do this right up to the time of his death.

The funeral was held at the Riverland Cemetery in Lac du Bonnet. Our grandmother predeceased him on May 5, 1938 at the age of 70 years.

### The family

Erik Frank married Vera Ongman and two children were born, Patricia and Robert.

Anna married Otto Swedlund. They had five daughters, Rose, Ruth, Margaret, Kathleen and Carol Ann.

Agnar married Elsa Frank. They had one son, Wallace.

Hilda married David Fornell. Children: Anne, Betty and Ingrid.

Charles married Elsie Gille, two daughters, Helen and Lynne.

Margaret married Sven Anderson, one daughter Maj.

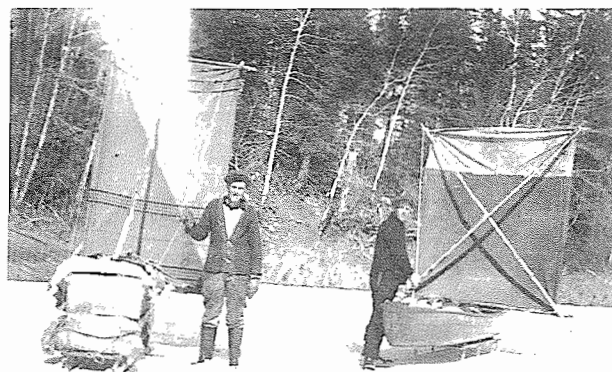
David married Lillian Magnuson, children - James, Janet and Margaret.

Arne married Hilma Magnuson. Children - Nancy, Gerry, Gail, Ronald, Allan and Sandra.

Submitted by  
Margareta Anderson (Pearson)  
Maj Nilsson and Helen Shadbolt

### PETTERSON HISTORY

Andrew and Augusta Pettersson came from Sweden in 1902 and lived in Winnipeg for at least two years. When they came to Lac du Bonnet they rowed a boat down the river to a spot past the present bridge, where a creek entered the river. The first log cabin was built about one mile from the homestead. There was no way settlers knew exactly where their land was. They had received their papers in Winnipeg and each had a quarter sec-

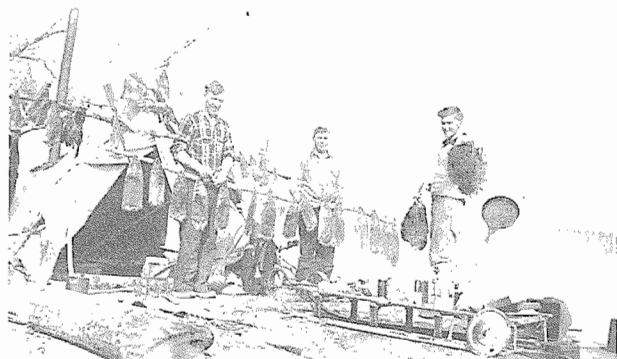


John and Andrew Asp sailing across the river on the ice, 1920's.

tion. Later they rebuilt near the creek.

The log cabin was chinked with moss and clay. Walls were lined with building paper inside. Early furniture was wood boxes and stumps. The homemade wooden beds had straw mattresses made with ticking fashioned from gunny sacks.

Andrew worked cutting cordwood and trapping, trading in town for staples. The only way to town was four miles up river by rowboat. When it became dark a lantern was taken to the river edge to wave Dad's boat down and show him the way to shore.



Trapping camp near Rice Lake. John and Andrew Asp and Fred Petterson, 1920's.



Fred Petterson at his Trappers camp, 1930's.



The Go-devil sleigh with one runner. John and Andrew Asp and Iver Petterson in 1938.



Andrew Petterson's Farm and the Petterson boys in 1920.

Two sons came from Sweden with Andrew and Augusta, Turre (Ted) and Hilding. Edith was born in Winnipeg, Fred and Eric in Lac du Bonnet.

Our neighbors were the Lofstroms and Ericksons. The ladies held sewing meetings at the school two miles away. Dr. Malcolm was the first doctor and went around in a cutter with a team. The bells on the harness could be heard when the doctor was a mile away.

Toys were made of wood. Catch was played with enthusiasm in the clearing with homemade balls. All the children went to the original Riverland School at School Point. Naima Erickson, first teacher, taught Ted and Hilding. The first teacher I remember was Mr. Klyne. The way to school was along a little trail by the river. On the way home it was fun to pretend we were horses and pull others home on the sleigh. Most students were of Swedish background but there were two or three French families. English had to be spoken in the school, that was the rule. However when school was out we all reverted to the language we were familiar with. When it was stormy Papa came to take us home in a sleigh lined with hay and blankets.

It was fun when we took the little horse and hitched him to the toboggan. We would get up a little speed, then take the corner quickly so all the passengers would be thrown off into the snow. The best party took place about 13 days after Christmas. Carols were sung, games played and everyone danced around the candle-lit Christmas tree that stood in the center of the floor. Then the trimming was taken from the tree and the tree taken outside.

I went to work in the bush cutting cordwood at 15 years of age. Later I worked for the Hydro until retirement.

### The Family Now

Ted died in 1956 when he was sixty-three. Edith died in 1963.

Hilding lives in Riverland. His wife Annie Erickson died in 1964. There are six children, three girls and three boys. Only one of the boys lives in Lac du Bonnet.

Ivor did not marry and lives in Riverland.

Fred is married to Anna Anderson. They live in Riverland and have two married daughters, one in Germany and one in Winnipeg. They have four grandchildren.

Eric did not marry and lives in Riverland.

Fred Peterson

### HISTORY OF OSKAR FRANZ REVONIEMI

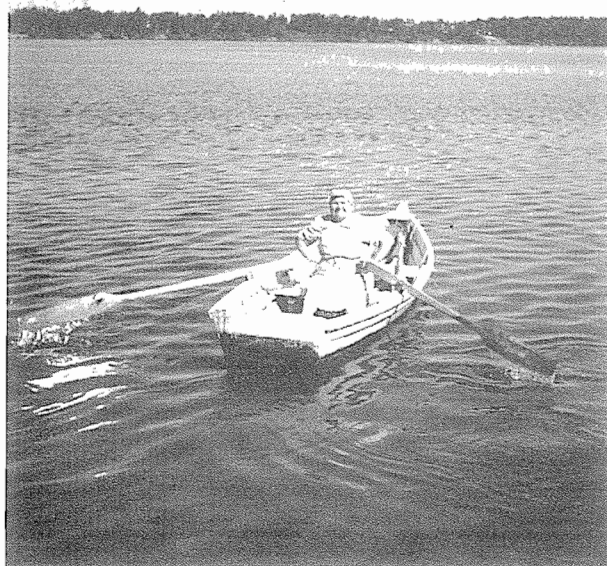
Oskar came from Finland to Canada in 1900. Later in 1928 Matilda (Mummo) Pesonen, a widow, with her daughter Aili came to the area and she married Oskar. They settled in Riverland near Lac du Bonnet. In the early days they had oxen to pull their wagon or sleigh and later horses. They also travelled by walking, skiing and with horses hitched to a wagon or sleigh and by boat.

Their home was built with local lumber. They worked the land, also in winter at logging while clearing more land. As the years went by they saw the transition from oxen to horses to cars when roads were improved. Also aircraft was used commercially that landed on the Winnipeg River.

Much hard work was done clearing the land and hunting, fishing and growing necessary food. It was a real struggle through the depression.

The neighbors gathered in different homes for social events and also in the Riverland Hall. A small Lutheran church also filled the spiritual needs of the community.

It was two miles by boat to Lac du Bonnet and ten miles by road. The doctor lived in Lac du Bonnet, visited his patients by boat in summer and either by horses and sleigh or by skiing in winter.



Matilda Revoniemi going to shop in the village.

A.J.D. Form No. 9 A. 5/10/20-24-25 027  
File No. 553990

Department of the Interior,  
Ottawa, 17/2/1913 10

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that your application for homestead patent for the E.T. quarter of Section 5 Township 15 Range 11 N. 2. 1st. M. received the Commissioner's approval on the 14/2/1913. The patent will be issued in due course.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
L. PERLEY,  
Secretary,  
PERLEY G. KEYES,  
Secretary.

15  
Perley  
C.G.M.

Oscar Revoniemi, Esq.,



Matilda Revoniemi - Oskar Revoniemi with a surgeon.

The children walked to Riverland school and some lived over three miles away.

At times of need such as harvest, haying, house and barn raising, marriages and deaths, the neighbors helped one another.

Aili, the stepdaughter of Oskar married Emil Ylonen. They had one son George who married Louise Fournier and they live in Riverland. They have three daughters: Lisa, Tannis, Dolena.

Oskar Revoniemi passed away in 1967 and Emil Ylonen in 1972. Matilda Revoniemi died in 1975. They are all buried in Riverland Cemetery.

Submitted by  
George Ylonen

### THEODORE ROSENHOLM AND FAMILY

My dad Bros. Theodore Rosenholm was born in 1883 in Sundsvall, Sweden and came to Canada in 1904.

My mother Emma Kristina Bergquist was born in 1887 in Halsingland, Sweden, and came to Canada with her parents, Eric and Maria Bergquist, two sisters Helen and Hilma and one brother Victor. Emma met Theodore in Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba and they were married in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1906.

They lived in the little town of Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba in a shanty. In 1907 Svea Victoria was born. In 1908 Göta Alexandra (Adene) was born. Shortly after that, dad took a homestead across the Winnipeg River in a small community called Riverland. It was on an Island 22 miles long and seven miles wide. Many Swedes settled there.

We lived in a two storey log house. Dad worked cutting cordwood, etc. He worked several years at the brickyard and the sawmill owned by J.D. McArthur. Later on, he worked as a carpenter on construction. During this time, Albert was born in 1910, and Dagmar Eleanora (Nora) in 1913.

Our schoolhouse was a little log building in school district 1557, later on a new frame building was erected. At one time, there were from fifty to sixty pupils in one classroom and grades from one to eight. After that, you would go to Lac du Bonnet High School which was built by this time or alternately to Winnipeg. The pupils were all Swedish except for the children of one family and they were Ukrainian.

Some children had to walk from two to four miles to school. We had many bad snowstorms and the drifts would be as high as the fence posts.

We had one doctor for a large area and for many years, he travelled by horses.

A platform was built for dances held in the summer time and later the men built the Riverland Hall and received shares for work and material. It



L. to R. — Grandpa Rosenholm, Grandma Rosenholm, Emelia (Rosenholm) Strand with Elsie Strand on her knee; Emma (Bergquist), Rosenholm with Svea Rosenholm on her knee; Theodore Rosenholm and their dog Barry.

is still there but no longer in use.

The families helped each other when building and in harvest time. In 1915 Walter was born and in 1917 Esther arrived.

Svea was married to Edwin Ongman in 1928. They had two sons, Lloyd and Leonard. They moved to Prince George, B.C. in 1942 when Ed. was with Carter Halls Construction Co., building accommodation for the soldiers who were stationed there.

Later, Ed. and sons were in the sawmill business.

Svea passed away in 1974 and Ed. passed away in 1976, both in Prince George, B.C.

Göta (Adene) married Elis Ongman in 1933. They have three daughters, Shirley, Joyce, and Carol.

Elis worked for Lindstrom and Nilson in a sash and door and cabinet shop for many years.

In 1942 he went to Prince George, B.C. with Carter Halls Construction Co. He was later in the lumber business and retired in 1955.

In 1963, we moved to Kelowna, B.C. and after seven years we built a home for ourselves in Peachland, B.C. on the Okanagan Lake.

At the time of this writing we still reside here and enjoy it very much.

Albert spent some time in Prince George, B.C. after leaving Lac du Bonnet. From there he went to Barrie, Ontario where he was in training and then served about four years overseas during the Second World War.

He passed away in Vancouver, B.C. in 1975.

Dagmar Eleanora (Nora) married Clifford Johnson in 1938. Cliff has been in the welding business in Bissett, Manitoba, Manitou, Manitoba and in



Prince George, B.C. He is now retired. They have one son Dennis, and a daughter Denene in Prince George, B.C.

Walter married Elvira Frank, daughter of Clara and Pete Frank. They have spent most of their time on a farm in the Old Pinawa area, raising cattle and general farming.

Esther married Stanley Texmo in 1940. Stanley worked on construction in the Manitoba area until he moved to Prince George, B.C. in 1965 and has continued as a carpenter to this time. They had a son Brian, born in Lac du Bonnet in 1948. He met with a fatal car accident in Prince George, B.C. in 1967.

Their daughter Barbara was born in 1952 and came to Prince George, B.C. with her parents. She now resides in the city of Kamloops, B.C.

Theodore (my dad) passed away in Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba in 1946.

Emma (my mother) passed away in Prince George, B.C. in 1968. They had six children, nine grandchildren and now there are eighteen great-grandchildren.

Submitted by Adene Ongman

## HISTORY OF JOHN CHRISTIAN TINNDAL

John Christian Tinndal was born on the 3rd of February, 1874 in Mangskog, Varmland, Sweden. He came to Canada in 1906 and worked in Victoria, B.C. then on the Grand Trunk Railway at Kenora, Ontario. He came to Lac du Bonnet in 1907, worked at the McArthur sawmill and for the Pine Falls paper company.

He married Sofia Marie Anderson, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Anderson of the Riverland district. Sofia was born in Transviken, Jamtland, Sweden and came to Newfoundland in 1900 and to Riverland in 1906 with her parents. John and Sofia lived with Sofia's parents at the Anderson homestead until their second child was born.

John then purchased 40 acres of bush land on the N.E. quarter, Section 10-15-11. He cleared this land into cordwood and firewood which he sold to the local merchants in Lac du Bonnet for food and clothing. He also cut logs and built his first home, a three room log cabin. Their means of travel to town was by boat in summer and by foot or horses in winter. John spent most of his winters working in the bush and during the summers he worked with Harry Nystedt for the Winnipeg Electric Company on the boat carrying supplies from Lac du Bonnet to (old) Pinawa.

John also worked several years for the City Hydro at Pointe du Bois.

Their home was a happy one as the family en-

joyed music and loved each other. John was a jolly, cheerful man and always carried a smile for the young and old alike.

John and Sofia had eight children, five sons and three daughters. Their children attended the Riverland School.

**Fred** — deceased, lived in Kenora, Ontario and worked for the Ontario hydro. Married to Linnea Erickson of Old Pinawa and survived by one daughter and four sons.

**Helmer** — retired and lives in Winnipeg, worked for City Hydro (supervisor) and married Lily Lundquist of Old Pinawa, has one daughter and one son; one son deceased in 1978.

**Hugo** — Deceased, was a carpenter and lived in Saskatchewan. He was married to Kate Mellquist of Riverland.

**John** — retired, lives in Winnipeg and worked for City Hydro at Pointe du Bois. Married Cathie Allen of Pointe du Bois and has two daughters.

**Anna** — Lives in Ladysmith, B.C. Married Joseph Conan of Pine Falls. They have two daughters and two sons.

**Carl** — Deceased, killed in action 1944.

**Viola** — Married Ed. S. Sikora and lives in Lac du Bonnet. They have five daughters and two sons.

**Selma** — Married and lives in Winnipeg. Married Al Demshi and has three daughters and one son.



Papa Tinndal, youngest daughter Selma and granddaughter Beverly Conan.

John and Sofia faced worries and loneliness in the years of 1939-1945. Three of their sons and their son-in-law were called to war. Hugo served with the Lord Strathcona Horse Canadian Army overseas. John served with the Royal Canadian Active Army Service Corps overseas. Carl served with the Algonquin Reg. R.C.I.C. overseas and was killed in action, the 19th of September, 1944 at the age of 21.

Son-in-law Joseph Conan served with the Winnipeg Rifles and was taken prisoner of war. (Later released.)

When the war was over and his sons returned home, John was getting up in years and was unable to work hard so he retired. He visited his children and grandchildren whenever he could. John and Sofia moved to Kenora, Ontario to live with their eldest son, Fred. John passed away at Kenora on April 13th., 1956. Sofia passed away in St. Boniface hospital on March 13th., 1971.

Submitted by Viola Sikora (Tinndal)

#### JOHN ALFRED AND KRISTINA WELIN

John Welin came to Canada in 1904 from Sweden, his first stop was Winnipeg. In 1905 his wife Kristina and their two children, Svea Carolina, and Lars Alfred joined Mr. Welin, who was then employed by the Winnipeg Street Railway. Harold Axel was born in Winnipeg.

In 1916, Mr. Welin bought a farm in Riverland, he worked at Pinawa while he cleared the land,

first, to build a one room house for his family which later was added to and became a very attractive storey and a half home. (I know this, because Mrs. Welin was my sitter when I was 5 years old, and later in my teens there were so many happy times I spent in that home, they were a very hospitable family). The boys attended Riverland school, walking four miles. "It was a very good life" I quote Mrs. Barker, "familywise and socially. There were picnics, concerts, dances and meetings. The families all helped each other in illness, emergencies and farm chores."

All names do not come to mind but Welins, Nasstroms, Lindquists, Ongmans and Gillies formed a Branch of the Vasa Orden, a Sick benefit society. They also formed an old Timers group, who held meetings and a party when a member reached his or her 70th birthday and presented an arm or rocking chair.

Alfred, who was employed by Domion Bridge, married Adele Best, 1927. They have three children, Thomas Alfred, who has two daughters. Construction Engineer, Dom. Bridge, Province of Saskatchewan. Robert Axel, Graduate Engineer. Construction Engineer, City of Calgary, Alberta. Carol Adele Hamel, Nurse, R.N.

Svea Carolina married Harry C. Barker, of New Brunswick. One son Gerald married Francis Kupic, two daughters. Harold Axel married Dorothy Dickson, 1938. He retired in Windsor, Ontario.

Submitted by  
Edythe Ehrlich

# Some Achievers



Mr. and Mrs. Sparman

**JOE SPARMAN**  
Lac du Bonnet's first Mayor

This history book would not be complete without a special mention of Joe Sparman. From the time he moved to Lac du Bonnet he was involved in the many activities in the town. He belonged to the group who were responsible for the building of our town hall called the Memorial Hall. Most of this was accomplished with volunteer time and labor. Also he was involved in the building of a closed-in curling rink with three sheets of curling ice. He contributed his trophy called the "Mugwump" made up of parts of animals and a duck, mounted in a glass case to be presented to the council team with the lowest curling score — he also gave each member of the curling team a gift, sometimes made by him. He entered other bonspiels in the district and was well known in the curling field. In 1965 he was made an Honorary Life Member of the Manitoba Curling Association.

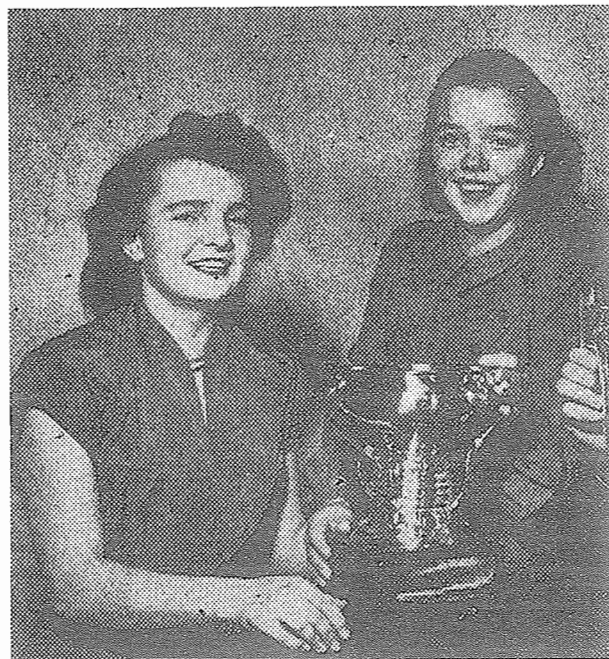
Joe was a very inventive person. He made a snowmobile van out of a truck with which he chauffeured Dr. Wood on his rounds on otherwise impassable roads, or took curlers to the mines. He and Mr. Winberg made the first fire truck complete with tanks and pumps.

In 1947 the Village of Lac du Bonnet was incorporated and Joe Sparman was chosen to be the first Mayor. He served the village for four years without any remuneration for his time and effort. Joe and his wife were invited to the Lieutenant Governor's luncheon for Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh October 9th, 1951 at his residence, as were other Mayors and dignitaries.

It was a sad day April 5th, 1977 when Joe passed away. He will long be remembered for the active part he played in this village.

## JEANNE WOLD — MARJORIE BRUDER

Our two highest achievers who competed with other Foods Clubs in Manitoba and won, becoming eligible to compete at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto for the Dominion of Canada Championship — November 16, 1948. They won the trophy, the first time for Manitoba.



Beaming proudly over the big shiny cup that they won at the Royal Winter Fair are Lac du Bonnet's own Jeanne Wold and Marjorie Bruder, winners in the foods competition.

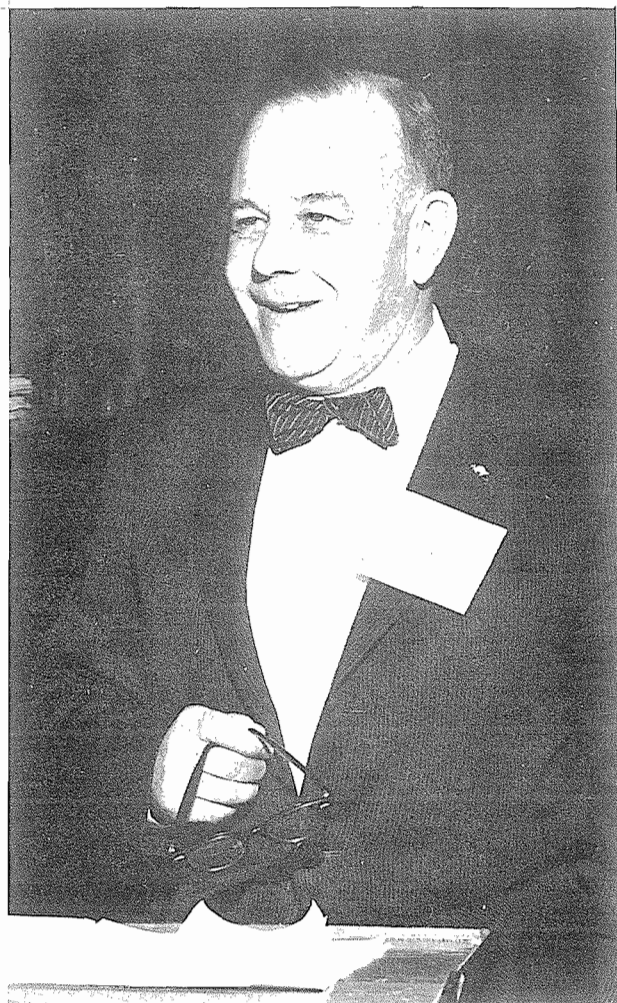


Mrs. Edythe Brown

Premier Citizen — First Manitoba Woman Mayor is Housewife — a headline in a Winnipeg newspaper proclaimed Mrs. Edythe Brown, wife of war hero and merchant Frank Brown, mayor of Lac du Bonnet.

"It all came about because Mrs. Brown, now Mrs. Edythe Ehrlich, told her husband, a former councillor, "I wish I was mayor for a day." Within two days in December 1952 she had been acclaimed chief magistrate to complete the last half of the retiring mayor's two year term. She liked the job so well she decided to run again in the elections the following October. Ninety-five percent of the village residents cast their ballots and Mrs. Brown won a landslide victory. She has seen street vapor lights, dial telephones and cement sidewalks become a reality since she took over. Her shrewd business capabilities accounted for the town receiving a free sewage system. After negotiating with the mayor and councillors the Manitoba Hydro Board agreed to reimburse landowners and also install a sewage system to replace the septic tanks then in use when the Winnipeg River was to be raised due to the McArthur Falls power plant."

Mrs. Brown served as mayor for five years.



Jack Wade

**JOHN W. WADE**  
Chamber of Commerce

"Jack" Wade, jack of many trades as his history records and, contrary to the old saying, master of them all. An achiever, he has always been community minded. In September 1953 he sent a petition endorsed by many local businessmen to Premier Douglas Campbell requesting that a new highway be built — the result No. 11. He became president of the Lac du Bonnet Chamber of Commerce and eventually president of the Provincial.

**JOSEPH J. BRIGHT**

Mr. Bright was born in London, England on March 22nd, 1889 and came to Manitoba in 1903 at the age of fifteen. He lived in Virden from 1922 until 1935 where he ran two hotels, the Alexandra and the Balmoral. He moved to Lac du Bonnet in 1942. He has always been a keen sportsman and was an athlete of note. In 1922, he was bantam



Joseph J. Bright

weight amateur boxing champion of Canada. But he won fame locally as a runner.

In 1954, Roger Bannister ran a mile in less than four minutes. In response to a challenge, Joe undertook to run two miles in under fifteen minutes. He was 66 years old at that time. Spectators lined the route when he started out from Mile 17 and exactly fourteen and a half minutes later, Joe passed the finish line at Mile 19 on No. 11 Highway. The feat received widespread publicity and to quote the Winnipeg Tribune, "Joe had a few aching muscles and was a little short of wind, but he had enough strength to pick up his bets."

### ROBERT KOST

Born in Brightstone in 1936 to Anthony Kost and Tena (Soroka) Kost.

Robert began painting in 1957, first one-man show in Winnipeg in 1966.

Since then Robert has had shows in Vancouver,



Robert Kost and his paintings.

Regina, Saskatoon, Brandon, Calgary, Toronto and Ottawa.

His paintings are in the collections of Shell Oil Ltd., Norcen Energy Resources, Imperial Oil, Canada Council Art Bank, Ottawa, Panarctic Oil, Noranda Mines, Thorne Riddell, and the Manitoba Government.

Robert and his wife Grace (Nejedly) and their three children Karen, Anthony and Jonathan live in Lac du Bonnet.

### PEARL WARREN

Pearl Warren of Great Falls, Manitoba, a dedicated Women's Institute member organized her local Women's Institute in 1958. Since then she has held offices at local, regional and provincial levels, presently serving a second term as Northern Canada W. I. chairman and as W. I. representative on the Canadian 4-H Council.

Mrs. Warren's work in the community includes 30 years in the 4-H program in which she has given freely of her time and talent. For her contributions to community and country she has received a number of awards. In 1968 she received the "4-H Leader of the Year" award presented by the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba. She is also a recipient of the Queen's Jubilee Medal.

Pearl and her husband Bill have an adopted son and three daughters, as well as nine grandchildren.



Pearl Warren



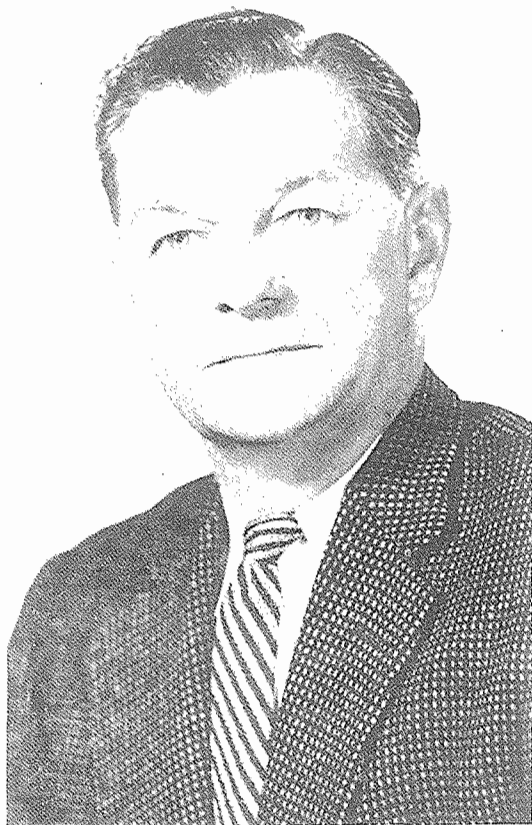
## OSCAR FERDINAND BJORNSON

Oscar Ferdinand Bjornson will long be remembered in this area with affection and respect. After spending the war years in India as an executive of the Ford Motor Company he moved to Lac du Bonnet in 1947 and established Viking Motors in Lac du Bonnet.

Oscar was keenly interested in politics and in 1957 ran for the Progressive Conservative party in the Lac du Bonnet Constituency and won. In all he served three terms in the legislature until the boundaries were changed in 1969. He was very active during his terms in office and brought many improvements to this area. He did his utmost for all constituents who came to him with problems.

Oscar was a charter member of the Lutheran Church of the Cross in Lac du Bonnet and served on the board. After a serious heart attack he and his wife Idella moved to Calgary, Alberta.

The area mourned his death August 13th, 1972 when he was buried here in the Riverland cemetery.



Oscar Ferdinand Bjornson



Mrs. Alta Atkinson

### MRS. ALTA ATKINSON Honorary Voyageur

"By the virtue of the powers invested in me by the Centennial Commission as Chief Voyageur of the Canadian Canoe Pageant, I hereby invest Mrs. A. Atkinson as Honorary Voyageur and further invite the presence of such honorable voyageurs at any or all of the 90 community celebrations between Rocky Mountain House in Alberta and Montreal and Expo '67 during the 104 days of the pageant, those days between May 24th and September 4th, 1967. Further I instruct the honorable voyageur that if he (she) be found anywhere within 50 miles of the 3,283 mile route of the pageant he (she) may be indentured to aid bona fide voyageurs with their task of portaging, driving tent pegs or performing any other task as required in which the honorary voyageur may show some modest proficiency. I sign this with full knowledge of the skills and attributes of the recipient." (a scroll)

W. H. V. "Bill" Matthews  
Bud Messinger  
Reg Fife  
André Croteau  
July 5, 1967

With her interest in Lac du Bonnet's Centennial celebrations of 1967 and 1970 which recalled the history of the past, it seems understandable that Mrs. Atkinson was the member who suggested to the Pioneer Club that a history of the Lac du Bonnet area be undertaken. Her devotion to this project is well-known and duly appreciated by the pioneers and their families.



Brenda Augustine and her medal.

### BRENDA AUGUSTINE

As a baby, Brenda Augustine came to live at Lac du Bonnet with her parents, Joe and Francis Augustine. She began water skiing at the age of six. For many years the Water Ski Club had a busy schedule training and competing locally at ski meets. In order to finance the cost of boats, gas to run them and other equipment necessary they hold a weekly bingo throughout the year in the Legion Hall.

Brenda competed at meets held locally at Betula Lake, Minnedosa and Sandy Lake. She was chosen to be a representative on the Manitoba team in July 1969 to compete at the Canadian meet in Halifax that August. Lac du Bonnet was thrilled when she won the Bronze medal in the Jump event and gave her a reception and plaque on her return home.

### DARLENE MEYER

Darlene Meyer became Centennial queen when Manitoba celebrated its 100th birthday competing with over 20 girls from different areas of Manitoba.

She first won the title of Miss Minnewawa when sponsored by the Curling Club for a local contest to celebrate Centennial Year. In June 1970 she rode in a beautifully decorated car in the Manisphere parade in Winnipeg. We were all very proud of Darlene.



Darlene Meyer just before the Pine Falls crowning of their queen.

### JOHN USACKIS

John Usackis has been the member of a total of thirteen zone winning rinks, the highlights being winning the Provincial Playdowns in 1977 and representing Manitoba at the Canadian Championships — the Macdonald Brier in Montreal. The team was composed of John Usackis, Dave Romano, Ed Thomson and Bob Collez. A history of John's major wins and experiences are told more fully in the curling section of this book. Truly his has been a remarkable achievement.



1977 Canadian Championship in Montreal. Team representing Manitoba — John Usackis, Dave Romano, Ed Thomson, Bob Collez.



Mrs. Aileen Oder

### AILEEN ODER

Aileen Oder, author of "Hello Soldier" — a picture of the times 1943-45.

This commemorative booklet was the inspiration in 1979 for the CKND-TV Remembrance Day Special "A Last Farewell" produced by Bill McCaughey of Film Factory Productions.

At the Can-Pro Festival for Television at Trois Rivières, Quebec this year it won the gold award for a performing arts special.

Parts of "Hello Soldier" intermingled with British wartime melodies by the Bunch of Grapes, a group who acquired its name from that of an English pub, makes this film a fitting tribute to the men and women who served in the Second World War.

# Fun Times



On the way to town for 1st of July celebrations.

## Programme

# SPORTS DAY

July 1st, 1930

Held by

**Lac Du Bonnet Social and  
Athletic Club**

LAC DU BONNET



## EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

President: W. J. Scherk

Vice-Presidents: G. H. C. Brown, A. Dancyt

Executive:

Miss G. Shapland

A. Rosenberg

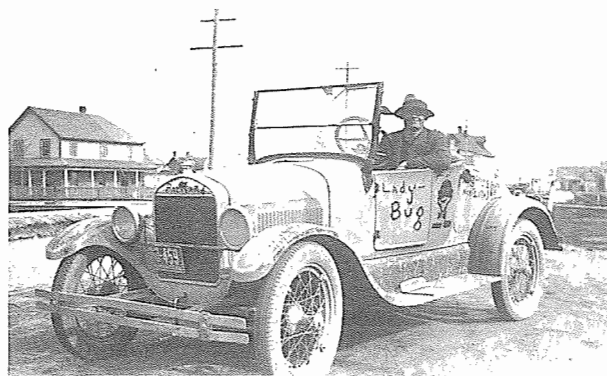
Mrs. W. J. Wood

A. Griffin

Miss V. Feely

R. Haubner

Secretary-Treasurer: W. L. Hammerstead



Eddie Richards



Got a few ducks. L-R: Charlie Lagsdin, Herman Kaatz, Alex Dancyt, Jack Wade.



Going fishing. Harry Nystedt Jr., Eddie Richards, Frank Brown.



July 1, 1932



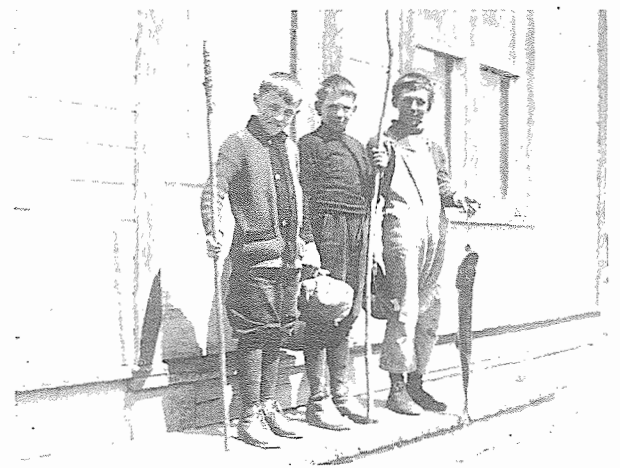
1st of July. Frank Allard, Frank Waters, Bill Peterson, Don McCulloch, Emil Nasstrom, 1926.



Joyce Sparman, Irma Balod, Gisele LeVasseur. Winter Carnival, Lac du Bonnet, 1939.



Bunting — Fred Small, Ray Park, Russell Waters, Gray Sherk — Dr. Wood collection.

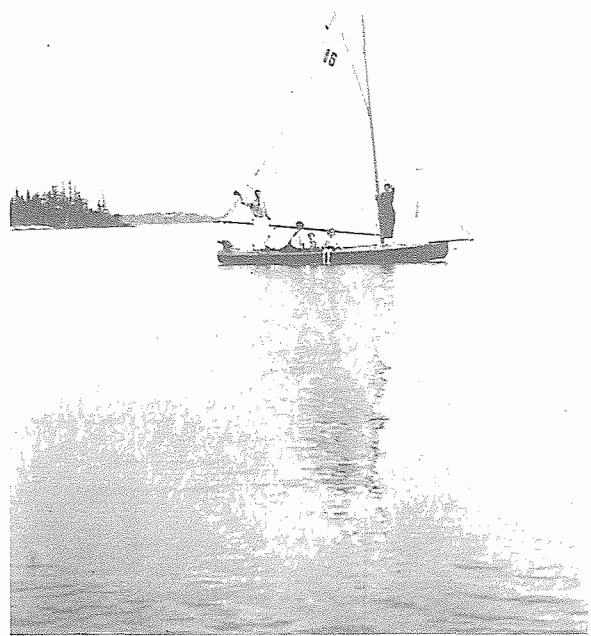


Norman Lee with Bill and John Zikman.





Jean Campbell, Greta Shapland, Ruth Olsen, Don McCulloch at Carnival.



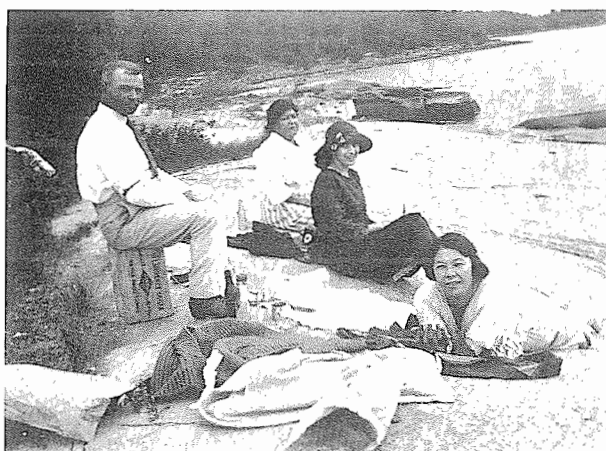
The Shapland family waving to the photographer from their sailboat. L. F. Shapland was Station Agent.



Hart and Robin Brown at Breens, 1963.



Eddie Richards, Edythe Waters, Astrid Olsen (Mrs. Ray Kempster), Agnes (Ness) Kirk (Hunt), Allan Hunt.



R. Robidoux, his wife, and daughters Dolly and Katie, on a picnic, 1921.



Edythe Waters placed wreath on Frank Waters winning horse.



A picnic at Brookfield School - Sack Race.



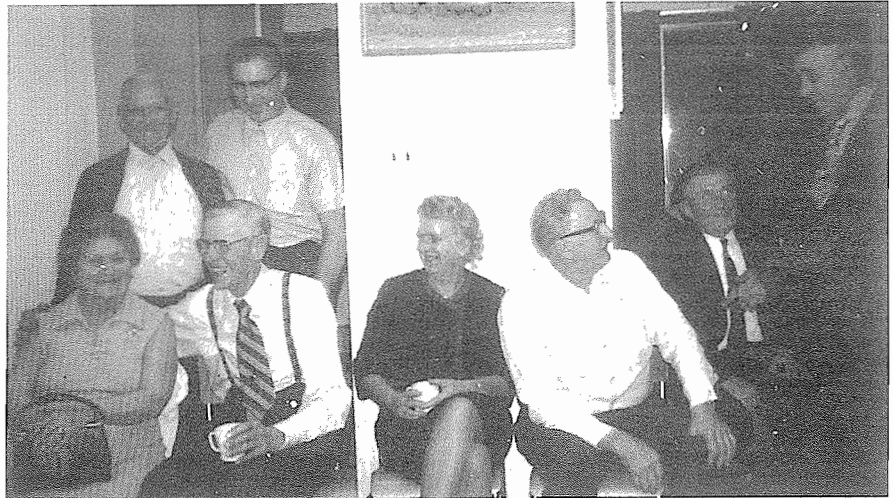
Jack Richards on the greasy pole, July 1st.



Joe Pitre, 70 plus, at Amateur Show.



Senior Citizen's Picnic at Arthur Haavisto's, 1973.



New Year's Eve. Bonny Vista Lodge, 1974.



Farewell party at the Cave Supper Club in Winnipeg for Arvid Dancyt May 1945.





### 3 GENERATIONS

L-R — Marlene De Paulo, her mother Jenny Cederwall and her daughter Carla. Preparing for Carla's marriage to John Enns.



Mr. and Mrs. Fred King. 50th anniversary on November 25, 1979.



Birthday party for Mrs. Ester Peterson at the Oder's home in Winnipeg February 17, 1977. Back row — Aileen, Kay Balcaen, Mabel Rowe, Hilma Solar. Next row — Dollie Hudson, Ester, Nicoline Olsen, Mary Park, Edith McClennan. Bottom row — Myrtle Brownell, Kay Barker, Frances Barker, Lena Gillis.



Visitors to Lac du Bonnet for a long weekend. L-R: Elsie Kelly, Allan Hunt, Ness Kirk, Frank Waters, Lorne McAllister, Edythe Waters, Thelma Travis. 2nd row: Edna Kelly, ?, Claren Bearsley, Frank Hartley.



Janet and Sherri Lynn at the Oders cabin at Brookfield.

# Some Essays

## THE RIVER

While writing histories I am afraid much time has been spent gazing out at "The River", intensely moved by nostalgic memories of the activities it brought about in each season.

The Winnipeg River had and has a great potential, not only supplying energy and transportation, but water for our homes and a haven for water-minded sports people. I can hear again the delightful laughter of children on the beach, building sand castles, gathering "blood suckers" in jars, picking up driftwood to make a fire for roasting potatoes and Squaw corn. When wieners came upon the scene they were speared and roasted also. Gooney burned marshmallows were a special treat. Big Macs were as remote as putting a man on the moon.

In the winter the lake became a bee hive of activity, preparing and keeping an open air skating rink shovelled, for hockey and skating. We skied, snowshoed, rode toboggans behind horses on the river, we, believe it or not, danced on the river.

In the fall we watched the path of the moon as it lighted the freezing water and we prayed I'm sure that there would not be a wind and the ice would be smooth. In the spring we watched the river changing colors, waiting for the ice to go out. Our first swim was May 17th, sometimes it was a bit chilly.

Like our lives The River may at times be smooth, rippled or turbulent, in a grey, blue or dazzling mood, or breathtakingly beautiful with a harvest moon and a hint of frost in the air.

It is almost spring 1979, and just as the winter winds and snow give way to gentle breezes, melting snow and ice, there will be a frenetic renewal of color, growth and warmth, so too are the changing ways of our lives in Lac du Bonnet.

The geese are slowly heading north and it's like the spirit of the universe that returns to lead us all to renewal again and again.

I have asked permission from Bert Wood to use the very appropriate poem which follows, describing the River. The author is a cousin of Berts, John Parish of England, who on a visit to Canada to

celebrate his Aunt May's birthday (Mrs. George Wood), became enthralled with the River. Mrs. Wood is well remembered by the pioneers of Lac du Bonnet for the hospitality of her home, her incredible cooking, playing the piano for our sing-songs after a famous Wood steam bath which Mr. Wood so patiently prepared and stoked for us, carrying the water from the River.

### Winnipeg River

John Parish, London, England

River angry, River sad  
River lonely, River glad  
Liquid mirror of the sun  
Place of peace when day is done!

Submitted by  
Edythe Ehrlich

## SUMMER RESIDENTS

Mr. and Mrs. Stowe; Dr. and Mrs. Bruce Chown; Dr. and Mrs. Pat Riley; Dr. and Mrs. Jackson; the Ken Eggelstons; Carl Austins; Alec. Purvises; John McCauleys; B. B. Dubienskis; Elliots; Ken Powells; R. Rutherfords; T. Houstens; Campbell Moules; Professor Martin; String Leslies; T. C. Wettons; T. G. Breens; C. Simmonsons; Rosses, Malabars, and McLeans; Bert Mathews; Frank Carpenters; Percy Longstaffs; Bert McNeals; Wm. Kotchapaws; John Baldners; Harold Steeles; Gordon Hollys; Holmes; Joe Merous; Tom Mackies; Bert Houstens; Art Galleys; Lloyd Moxleys; Bob Divens; Woks; Art and Lil Rosenberg; Premier and Mrs. S. Garson; Rube Ranges; D. Smiths; Paul Grahams; Dode Grahams; The Rivers boys, Ed, Joe, Romeo, Gus and Stanley; Fred Gauer; Frank and Willa Brown; Frank Lyons; Ralph Mindels; F. Wingates; Dr. C. Burns; Major and Mrs. Garton; Scott Neals; Frank Lyons; D. Simmons; J. Baldners; Duncan, James, Clayton Wilson; the Alistair Stewarts; Bruce Shaws; Tony Manns; H. Eby; N. Sures; A. Remples; Ted Clings; Al Dynes; the McKenzies; Fennels; Joe Piersons.

To our colorful R.M. of Lac du Bonnet came



the colorful summer people. Some came long before there was a highway from Winnipeg to Lac du Bonnet. They travelled by train, camping in tents while they searched for secluded locations on which to build their summer camps, later called summer homes.

The east side of the river had the greatest appeal with its beautiful sandy beaches, outcroppings of flat granite rocks, and trees. Until the Riverland "gumbo" roads became passable the campers kept their boats on the village side of the river. Many had hair-raising experiences crossing the lake during storms. When they had access by road the trips in a rain storm were as bad, until sufficient gravel was poured on these roads.

The earliest summer people that I can recall were the Stowe family. I have a memory of their daughter, a nurse. Margaret attended my mother following an accident until a doctor could be reached. This occurred somewhere 1918-1919.

In the early 1920's when the highway was being constructed, Mrs. Pat Riley recalls a stretch of road between Beausejour and Seddons corner where teams of horses pulled the cars some distance. Later, on the Milner Ridge road another team of horses pulled the cars through a mud hole caused by a spring.

A very interesting couple who found a quiet, secluded "point" between Pat Rileys and the Felt farm were Campbell and Mrs. Moule. Mr. Moule, a retiree from the British police force in South Africa and his wife were not happy back in England and decided to try Canada. They had relatives in Vancouver, but did not get by Winnipeg or Lac du Bonnet. Their cottage became a permanent home. They named it Dusa Manzi. I do not recall the translation or if I have spelled it cor-

rectly. The cottage contained many memorabilia from South Africa including a snake skin that appeared miles long. Mr. Moule was a survivor of the siege of Ladysmith in 1899, 200 miles north of Durban, Natal, South Africa.

The B. B. Dubienskis came in the early 1920's. Also Dr. Bruce Chown who built the cottage with the blue roof, out Lettonia way. The Al Dynes first camped at Mud Falls, they moved to an island past the bridge until the rise of the river, when he had to move to the mainland.

As a result of the construction of the McArthur Falls Power plant, the trials and tribulations of the summer residents were many. Their homes had to be moved to new locations, some were rebuilt and others "sold out" to the Hydro. Many of the offspring of the original campers and their off-spring are still in the old places or have built their own.

What stories could be recalled of incidents and happenings, life-long friendships made with locals, and many have made their summer homes such that they may retire on the Winnipeg River.

One interesting recall is that Lester B. Pearson, late Prime Minister of Canada, was visiting his friend Premier Stuart Garson on his island (later known as Gauer's Island) the day W.W. II was declared.

I gaze out at the river, it was tranquil until the water-ski boat went by. There is a bit of haze but I see the flash of cars crossing the bridge three miles away. Many could be campers coming in for supplies. When the snow falls the summer people become Winter-Weekenders racing their snowmobiles up and down the river and through the woods. An exhilarating sport.

Submitted by  
Edythe Ehrlich



Mrs. Viola McIntosh at ACW mini bazaar and tea held at the home of Edythe Ehrlich. Note the river in the background.

# Centennials

## LAC DU BONNET CENTENNIAL DAY JULY 5th, 1967

The village of Lac du Bonnet was chosen as a stop for the Voyageurs on their Canoe trip from Rocky Mountain, Alberta to Montreal. Ten canoes representing the ten provinces made the trip in 104 days. The grueling journey began May 24th at Rocky Mountain and ended September 4th at Montreal.

The Lac du Bonnet July 1st celebrations were held and Chris McQuade was chosen Miss Minnewawa from the six girls sponsored by different clubs and organizations in town. The centennial projects were delayed for official openings on our special Centennial Day July 5th.

It was a windy day for our Centennial celebration but it didn't deter the visit of the Honourable Walter Weir, minister of highways, from attending. In the morning, he assisted at the ribbon cutting ceremony at the lovely local granite gate marking the entrance to Leslie Park, the centennial project of the village. This park was named after the granddaughter of Mr. Alex McIntosh who donated the land. The park has a wading pool, entrance way, asphalt walks and tennis court with future plans for a bridge, picnic tables, putting green and kiddies playground.

The official party moved over to the future site of a planned closed-in skating arena where the building to be used as dressing rooms, the project for the Centennial of the municipality of Lac du Bonnet, was opened by Reeve Walter Zarecki.

Plans for a colorful greeting by 30 local boats who would escort the voyageurs into the town dock area had to be scuttled because of high winds. However the ten canoes did put on a short race to the delight of the crowd gathered at the dock and Manitoba canoe won.

History was re-enacted when Eddie Marchand of the Quebec canoe, played the part of La Verendrye, re-enacted a legend said to have given this town its name. He tossed his hat in the air. It was supposed to land on a tree placed at the side of the dock, but it didn't. Then he kissed an Indian princess called Minnewawa. Our Miss



Queen Minnewawa, Christine McQuade, in all her crowning glory, poses in her throne with her beautiful red roses, her Centennial trophy, presented by the Centennial committee, and her queen candidate trophy, presented by the Lions Club, her sponsor.

Minnewawa, Chris McQuade, was there to receive his kiss.

The Voyageurs were feted at a dinner in the hall. The Mayor and councillors were made Honorary Voyageurs and presented with colorful scrolls at the dinner. A dance followed in the evening to end a very colorful day.

## Centennial Commission Voyageur Canoe Pageant

Fine furs of fashion—not the silks and spices of China—brought two centuries of hardy Voyageur canoeists into the inner reaches of our continent—and helped open up western Canada.

In Centennial year it is right to remember the Voyageur—as the Canoe Pageant is doing—by tracing one of his routes from the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains through 3,283 miles of waterways to the fur-trade centre of Montreal.

The early Voyageur had his own fashion—flamboyant shirt, headband and flowing sash—but his entry into the interior was for cash. It was his livelihood.

This heroic period of our history saw mighty 40-foot Montreal canoes, each loaded with three tons of trade goods and supplies, pushed through to Grand Portage on Lake Superior, just south of the Lakehead, in treacherous six to eight week voyages.

Here they met the 25-foot North canoes laden to the gunwales with beaver, fox and other pelts.

A few short days of rest and frolic then it was time to move — to beat the ice. Canoes heading

north back to the isolation of remote fur trading posts and the big birch bark craft the comforts of Montreal.

The explorers remembered by each 1967 canoe were all brave men of vision. Each in his own way



Canoes ready to put on short race at Lac du Bonnet, July 8th, 1967.



Lac du Bonnet 4-H club centennial flag review opens Queen pageant.

paved routes into our interior, eventually linking the Atlantic, Pacific and the Arctic—and helping to create Canada in between.

Centennial Canoe Pageant Voyageurs came from the three oceans that lap on Canadian shores and every province in between. Trappers, lawyers, miners, accountants, students, railroaders, clerks—a Canadian cross-section each dedicated to 104 exhausting days so that their names will be entered in 1967's book of history.

Ten teams, from the provinces and territories, each with nine men and lead by their Chief Voyageur make up the Pageant crew. Six men paddle each day, the whole day, while their teammates move along on shore to set up the next camp. On the water, the Captain, usually in the stern, is in charge.

The paddlers camp out each night, and, except when feted by a community, do their own cooking.

Four years ago your Centennial Commission started planning the imaginative Canoe Pageant and has invested heavily in it. It is unlikely we will again see a stimulating historical project of this magnitude involving all levels of government and the individual.

Head of the Centennial Canoe Pageant is Chief Voyageur W.H.V. "Bill" Matthews of Gabriola Island, B.C. With him are administrators, timers, safety and technical people equally dedicated to the arrival of all paddlers, in good health, at Expo '67, in Montreal, September 4.



Left to right: Idella and Oscar Bjornson, Member of Manitoba Legislature, Alta Atkinson, Councillor of Lac du Bonnet Village Council, Al Campbell, Mayor of Lac du Bonnet and wife Hazel.

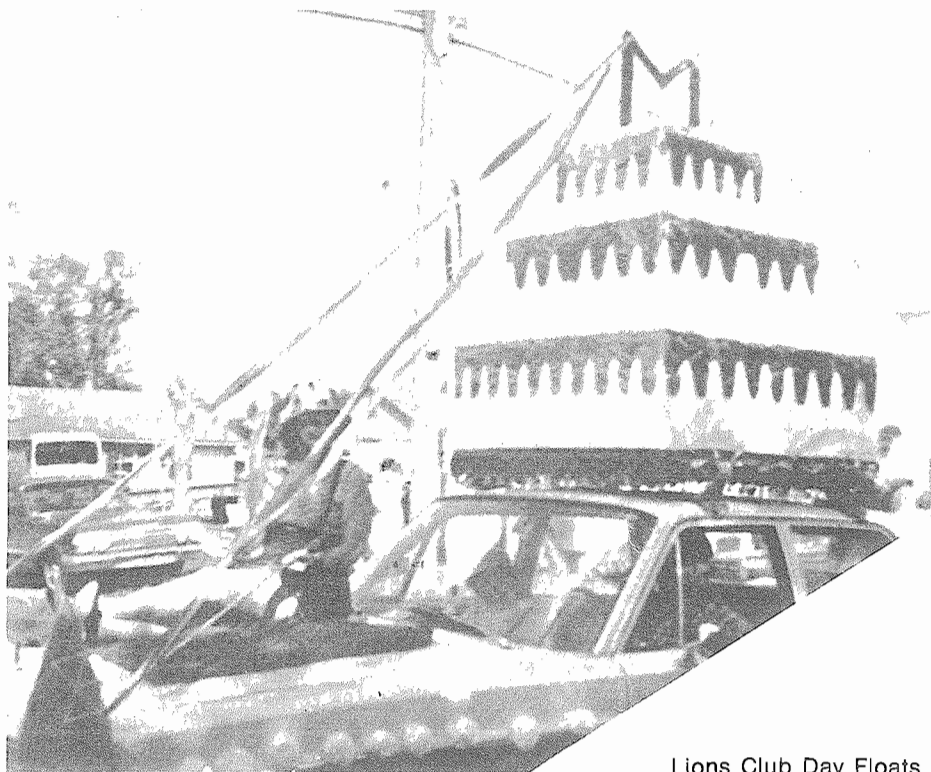


Alex McIntosh, A. W. Campbell - mayor, Oscar Bjornson - M.L.A., Honourable Walter Weir - Minister of Highways.



Stella and Bill Hammerstead are surrounded here by a beautiful array of antiques, all polished and set up by the couple in the newly constructed arena building. Majority of the antiques belong to the Hammersteads, while the balance were donated for the day by residents of the district.





Lions Club Day Floats.

#### MISS MANITOBA CENTENNIAL DARLENE MEYER

In 1970 Manitoba celebrated its Hundredth Birthday. Events were held throughout the year in many communities. The Queen, Prince Philip and their children, Prince Charles and Princess Anne, accompanied them visiting several communities and Winnipeg. They toured 22 centres from north to south and attended 70 separate events in six days. The Queen in a speech said that she had "a vivid impression of the intricate racial, religious and cultural tapestry which makes up the population of this province."

One of the projects for Centennial was the choosing of a Miss Centennial Manitoba. Towns and villages were invited to enter their choice in a main contest when Miss Centennial Manitoba would be chosen. Lac du Bonnet held such a contest and Darlene Meyer, sponsored by the Curling Club, won the title of Miss Miniwawa. In June she competed with over twenty other girls from different areas of Manitoba at St. Rose du Lac and was chosen to be Miss Centennial Manitoba. It was a great honor for her and the Village of Lac du Bonnet. She was invited to attend many celebrations and was chaperoned by Mrs. Ramsey McIntosh, accompanied by a member of the Centennial Committee. Among the many functions she participated in was the opening of an indoor swimming pool at Minnedosa, and outdoor swimming pool at Pointe du Bois, crowning the local

Queen at both Pinawa and Pine Falls. She represented Manitoba at the B.C. Grey Cup football game, also many other functions ending with the final Centennial celebrations the end of December, in Winnipeg.

Lac du Bonnet was very proud of Darlene winning this honor and who carried out her different duties in a friendly, charming and pleasing manner and we know she made many friends throughout Manitoba. We are sure one event she won't forget was having lunch in Winnipeg with Prince Charles



Darlene Meyer at the unveiling of cairn at Centennial ceremonies at Winnipeg Beach, with Howard Pauley and Mayor A. W. P. Harrison of Winnipeg Beach.





Darlene Meyer at the unveiling of cairn, erected in honour of W. D. Halliday, our first registered homesteader, July 1st, Lac du Bonnet.

By the Lac du Bonnet Boy Scout Troop, July 18, 1970 as their Manitoba Centennial Project. Inside this cairn is a container with the names of all boys in the 1970 Scout Troop and Cub Pack. Mr. Sitar at right.

and Princess Anne and a group of invited young Manitoba girls and boys.

Darlene is now married to George T. Williams and has a son, Daniel and lives at Thompson, Manitoba.

Some highlights of 1970 Manitoba Centennial.  
February — Valentine box social.

July 1st — Mr. J. J. Greene, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources was one of the 18 members of the federal cabinet visiting Manitoba to celebrate Dominion Day during the province's centennial. They toured the Nuclear Research Establishment near Pinawa. They chatted with Pinawa residents afterwards on the school lawn and then Mr. Greene moved into the Auditorium to speak. Darlene Meyer of Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba's centennial queen presented Mrs. Greene with a bouquet of white orchids, and Mrs. Vivian Nespor, chairman of Lac du Bonnet's all woman centennial corporation presented the minister with a silver centennial spoon during the ceremonies.

July 18 and 19 — International Village festival.

Though rain dampened the first day of the festival the dignitaries in the parade rode in open cars. A red coated Mountie was to direct traffic and be in the parade, but he had to attend an accident, so the ladies of the Centennial Committee directed traffic. "Now I've seen everything!" remarked one gentleman.

The program, afternoon and evening, in the Arena (a stage was put up on the gravel-covered ice area) began with a flag review, each child carrying a flag that could trace their ancestry to that national flag. There were 26 nationalities represented from the surrounding area. Ethnic



(Left to right): Ann Margaret Plummer, Shella Simpson, Celine Bellin, Vivian Nespor, Margaret Karklin, Kay Grabke, at opening of Centennial Year 1970. Members of the 4-H club took part in this ceremony.

groups performed and "Foods of the Nations" could be bought at tables set around the Arena.

Octoberfest — "Browsing Through Bavaria"

In October a four foot snow drift did not deter the Bavarian group from performing nor did it stop a large attendance at Octoberfest. With only a Herman Nelson heater to warm the Arena you really had to dance up a storm to keep warm.

All seniors 65 and over received a birthday card and a centennial pin from the Lac du Bonnet Centennial Committee.

## GREAT FALLS CENTENNIAL DAY A SUCCESS

Even the weather man was co-operative when Great Falls celebrated the main event of its "Manitoba 100" festivities on Saturday, July 11. Under a cloudless sky eight hundred residents, former residents, friends, relatives, young and old gathered from far and near to enjoy the fun of this once in a century affair, Centennial Day.

The parade got under way at 1:00 p.m. led by the rousing music of the Pine Falls Pipe Band and graced by the presence of Miss Centennial Manitoba, Darlene Meyer. There were floats, decorated cars, bicycles and tricycles and people in period costume on foot. Prizes for best costumes in the parade went to the Garry Flannigan family who wore bathing attire of an earlier era, Terry Van Mierle in traditional Dutch dress and to Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bruneau in costumes of the eighteen hundreds. Jeff Pluchinski, Jimmy Spence and Elaine Thomas took the prizes for best decorated bicycles and tricycles.

Following the parade Superintendent Ted Parry officially welcomed everyone and gave them a run down of the day's events.

The canoe race from McArthur to Great Falls drew a host of spectators to the finishing line. Winners were Mr. and Mrs. Hanley of Winnipeg, Campbell and Ylonen of Lac du Bonnet and the La Tender brothers of Fort Alexander.

There were races and pony rides for the youngsters and bingo was played in the Community Hall which was enjoyed by a good crowd. A Pee

Wee Ball Tournament drew five teams into contention, from Seven Sisters, Pine Falls and Fort Alexander. Great Falls won the tournament when they defeated Seven Sisters 2-0 in the final game.

Plane rides, offered by the Gaffrey brothers proved very popular as young and old took advantage of the opportunity to enjoy an aerial view of the surrounding district.

The humid heat made even enjoying oneself a thirsty occupation so the outdoor beer garden was truly the place where old friends meet, even if to just sit in the shade and enjoy the tyrolean music and the toe tapping rythm of the Fort Alexander Band while reminiscing with old cronies.

The small museum of pioneer artifacts gathered by Alec Bruneau and housed in a small log cabin became part of the scene for the day and drew many visitors. It was presided over by Mrs. Alec Bruneau and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bruneau.

A dance was held in the hall at night. The rafters rang and the whole place resounded with the laughter and gaiety of happy revellers. Early in the evening the crowd was treated to a display of authentic Filipino dancing by girls of that race from Pine Falls. This was very much enjoyed by all. Music for dancing was supplied by Rod Beaudry's orchestra.

Centennial Day, Great Falls style, was a success in every sense of the word. It is a tribute to the committee and townsfolk who planned and worked together to make the occasion a fitting memorial of Manitoba's hundredth birthday and one that will be long remembered.

# Souvenirs and Keepsakes

## SAVE BEFORE YOU SPEND

Let your Bank Account be your first concern.

It will more than repay you in later years.

A Savings Department at every branch of

**THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA**

Lac Du Bonnet Branch — R. E. Emmett, Mgr.  
Total Resources \$471,000,000



A

**Country Kid.**



STAGED BY  
**LAC DU BONNET**  
AMATEUR PLAYERS.



## Programme

A COUNTRY KID

Cast of Characters.

Tom Cunningham ..... Nephew to Zeben ..... C. SIMONSON.  
Frank Blandon .... Foster brother to Tom .... R. E. EMMETT.  
Bill Taylor ..... Tramp ..... G. E. WILSON  
Zeben Cunningham ..... Old Farmer ..... J. HAMMERSTEAD  
Reuben Thacker ..... Country Kid ..... W. HAMMERSTEAD  
Jim Jones ..... Tough ..... D. McCULLOCH  
Mariah Cunningham .... Farmers Wife .... MISS. L. PEARLMAN  
Mary Blandon..Wife of Frank Blandon..MISS VERA ONGMAN  
Chick ..... Farmer's Daughter ..... MISS R. L. McKENZIE  
Sheriff ..... D. McCULLOCH

ACT I

Scene — Country Home.

ACT I I

Scene I — Frank Blandon's City Home

II — Country Road.

III — Interior Country Home.

ACT I I I

Scene I — Exterior of Old Powder Mill.

II — Country Road.

III — Exterior Country Home.

Directed by Father J. A. L. SENEY

Scenery painted by W. W. CHILDE

## S. GRANOVSKY

GENERAL MERCHANT  
LAC DU BONNET

A complete stock of  
Dry Goods, Boots & Shoes, Rubbers, Groceries,  
Hardware, Patent Medicines, Flour & Feed, etc, etc,  
Always in stock at lowest prices.  
See us before buying. We pay highest prices for all  
your products.

## The Lac Du Bonnet Times

Issued monthly with the object of forwarding the  
interests of the municipality.

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION \$1.00

## BOAT LIVERY

Whenever a boat is required to any part of the  
Lake call on HANS JOHNSON. And if your own  
Launch and Motor is out of order bring it for repairs

TO

**Hans Johnsons Boat Livery**

## J. D. McArthur Company Ltd.

THE PIONEER STORE OF LAC DU BONNET

We carry a full stock of

GROCERIES, HARDWARE, BOOTS & SHOES,  
DRY GOODS, MENS FURNISHINGS,  
FLOUR, FEED, HAY, LUMBER & BRICK  
HIGHEST PRICES PAID FOR PRODUCE

## Tell your friends about SILVERLODGE

THE NEW POPULAR SUMMER RESORT.

LAC DU BONNET, MAN.

N. E. JOHNSON

**Gordon G. Malcolm M. D. C. M.**

LAC DU BONNET MAN.

THE SCENERY AND GENERAL DECORATING  
FOR

"A COUNTRY KID" was done by

**W. W. CHILDE.**

LAC DU BONNET,

MAN.

Painting, Kalsomining, and Signwriting done on  
reasonable terms.

## FRANK ALLARD

BUTCHER

&

CATTLE DEALER

LAC DU BONNET,

MAN.

**DR. T. L. GRANOVSKY**  
DENTIST

In Lac du bonnet every THURSDAY & FRIDAY.  
Extraction and all other dental work done by  
the latest methods.

*The Officers, N.C.O. and Aircraftmen of  
The Royal Canadian Air Force*

*Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba.*

*by kind permission of the Commanding Officer  
request the presence of yourself and lady  
and daughter  
at a Dance  
on Wednesday, November the Fourteenth, 1928.  
at 9:00 p.m.  
Air Station, Lac du Bonnet.*

*Please Present this invitation.*

*Lac du Bonnet Week End Club*

*requests the pleasure of*

*Mr. & Mrs. R. N. Campbell  
and Lady's Company  
at a  
Dance  
on Friday, February 16th, 1912  
at 9 p.m.*

INVITATION COMMITTEE:

MRS. T. WELLMAN      MRS. A. HUNT  
MRS. R. N. CAMPBELL      MRS. E. LAW

## 1922 LAC DU BONNET TIMES FOUND

Mrs. Stella Hammerstedt brought to the LEADER'S attention an interesting newspaper "The Lac du Bonnet Times" which was dated April 21, 1922 - Volume 1, No. 2. F. B. Fox was editor. M. J. Kavanagh business manager. Although the paper is 58-years-old, it is still very readable and in good shape.

Of interest on the front page is the heading, "July First to be Celebrated in Fitting Manner." Committee chairmen were Reeve O. Peterson, Councillor Ongman, Principal Mrs. Hamilton, M. J. Kavanagh, F. B. Fox. Football, baseball, running, racing and jumping were on the programme and prizes would be awarded to winners of contests such as Spelling, map drawing, writing, athletics, etc.

... The U.F.M. representatives were visiting the Municipality and holding a series of meetings.

... Great Falls "in 1922 presented a contrast to the scene two years ago when virgin forest bordered the waters of the Winnipeg River and the stillness was unbroken, save by the sounds of nature." It was pictured as a scene of activity - steady progress of construction work - pretty village taking shape - lady waitresses taking up duties.

... A play, "The Country Kid" was presented at the Lac du Bonnet School with such a good crowd, some people had to be turned away. Some residents will remember the following who took part in the play G. Simonson, R. E. Emmett, G. E. Wilson, J. Hammerstedt, D. McCulloch, Miss L. Pearlman, Miss Vera Ongman, Miss R. L.

MacKenzie, Directory Father Seney.

... An election was to be held in June and Mr. D. A. Ross was a candidate.

... A letter to the editor from a ratepayer expressed concern regarding the \$1000.00 which should have been spent on the Newcombe road in the previous year. Council was to spend \$500. in the new year!

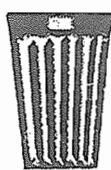
... Lac du Bonnet Local News - Councillors Billan, Ongman and Reeve Peterson, have recently been to the city ... J. G. Parks recently visited Winnipeg ... J. B. Letain is making extensive improvements on his farm, erecting buildings, etc. ... Mr. Allard has made quite an improvement in his butcher shop ... J. D. McArthur was in town looking after his interests ... Miss Beatrice McMillan is visiting during the holidays.

... From Landerville news - School has reopened under Mr. Petrie who occupies the recently completed teachers' residence.

... In Pinawa, school attendance during January and February was poor owing to an epidemic of chicken pox followed by several colds.

... Mitchell's Medicine Supply Store with M. H. Danzker as proprietor was advertising drugs and drug sundries at the most satisfying prices ... Rhubarb Roots for sale - 6 for \$1.00. S. Granowsky, general merchant, had a complete stock of dry goods, rubbers, groceries, flour and feed, etc. Apply to Mrs. Hamilton or Miss R. L. Mackenzie for piano lessons.

We wonder if any Lac du Bonnet oldtimers can remember The TIMES, and if so, how long it was published?



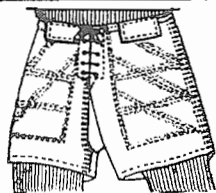
### SHIN GUARDS

No. 36—Blue Felt, Canvas-covered. No knee guard.  
Price, Per Pair... **.75**

No. 35B—Reed Strips covered with Leatherette. Blue Felt Padding. No knee guard.  
Price, Per Pair... **.90**

No. 33—Long Felt Pad over knee; Shin Re-inforced with Reeds; Waterproof.  
Our Price, Per Pair ..... **1.30**

No. 311—Long Felt Pad over knee; Shin Re-inforced with Reeds, Leather-covered.  
Our Price, Per Pair ..... **2.00**



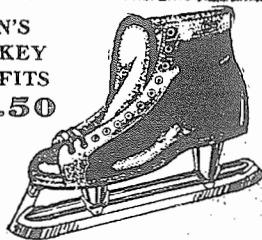
### HOCKEY PANTS

No. 31—Good Quality Khaki; Quilted. Padded Hips and Front. Laced Fly. Per Pair **1.60**

No. 33—Best Quality Khaki. Well Padded Hips, Fibre Strips down Front. Laced Front. Per Pair .... **2.50**

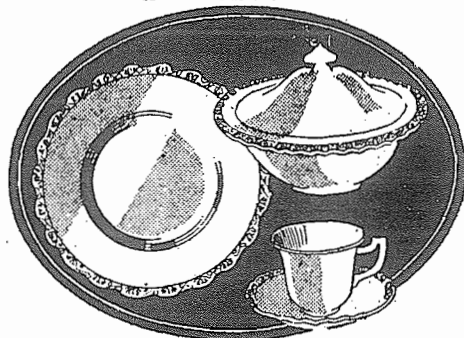
# 1935-1936

### MEN'S HOCKEY OUTFITS \$4.50



## Hockey Equipment

### A Bargain for the Thrifty! GEORGIA PATTERN DINNER SETS



Here's a splendid value Dinner Set for Everyday use. Ivory in color with Pie Crust Edge.  
32-piece Set, Our Price ..... **7.95**  
65-piece Set, Our Price ..... **7.50**

### Hand and Power Washers

For Hand Use—Can be operated either when one is standing or sitting, by Handle or Foot Treadle.

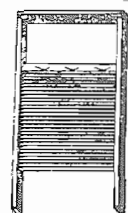
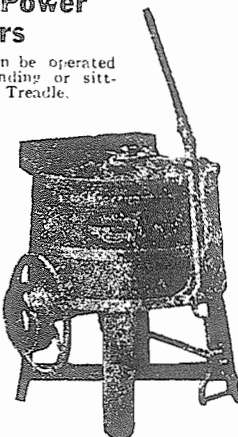
For Power Use — Can be run by steam, gas, gasoline, electricity or by windmill. Requires 1/8 H.P.

Tubs — Louisiana Swamp Cypress; Corrugated Sides and Bottom Toned and Grooved Staves. Solid Stave Legs Strongly Braced; Fitted with Wringer Board.

Cover—Hinged and Fitted with Support and Adjustable Lock

Gears — Malleable Iron; All Metal Parts Coming in Contact with Water Heavily Galvanized.

Flange on Fly Wheel 8 x 2 Ins., for 2-inch Belt. No. 3HP. Each..... **23.50**



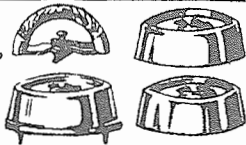
### WASHBOARDS

Good Quality; Well Made; Smooth Finish; with Soap Rack.

No. 30—Acme Zinc. Our Price, Each..... **.35**

No. 31—Acme Glass. Zinc Surface. Glass Surface. Our Price, Each..... **.55**

### MRS. POTTS' SAD IRONS



Nickel Plated; Set Consists of Three Irons: Nos. 1, 2 and 3. Complete with Handle and Stand. No. 350—Our Price, Per Set..... **2.65**

### Marshall-Wells "Blue Band" Galvanized Pails

Extra Heavy; Exceptionally Strong; Built to Give Lasting Service; Strong Wire Bail, with Wood Grip.

| Nos.       | Size, Ins. | Price, Each |
|------------|------------|-------------|
| 312 11     | x 9 1/2    | <b>.49</b>  |
| 314 13 3/4 | x 10 1/2   | <b>.55</b>  |
| 316 13     | x 11 3/4   | <b>.65</b>  |



### Extra Heavy Copper Boilers

Tinned Inside and Fitted with Hook-on Wood Grip Handles.

Covers have Deep Rim and Fit Tightly.

No. 395 — Our Price, Each..... **5.95**

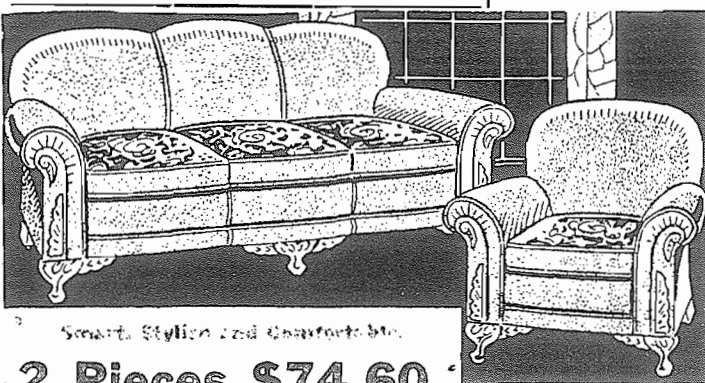


### DAISY COOK STOVES

The Daisy is an Excellent Cooker and Baker, giving Long and Economical Service. The Body is of Blue Steel with Smart Nickel Trim. Cooking Top has Four 9-Inch Holes (one Sectional) and Back Guard which is Nickel Trimmed. Duplex Grates burn Coal or Wood. Oven 18x21x18.



No. 3918NFE—With Reservoir, Wgt., 205 lbs. Our Price, Each..... **26.75**  
No. 3918NFS—Less Reservoir; Wgt., 190 lbs. Our Price, Each..... **24.75**



Smart, Stylish and Comfortable.  
**2 Pieces \$74.60**

# Granovsky Bros.

Lac du Bonnet







Mrs. John Small



Lars Malmgren  
Swedish Cavalry Corps, 1897



Mr. and Mrs. Tom Wellman



Albert Arsenault



Mr. and Mrs. William Halliday



Mr. and Mrs. J. Bloomquist, Charlie and Nancy and the Edlunds.



Mrs. Ernest Paul with Leonie

# Pointe du Bois Pierrots



## PROGRAMME

1. *We Will Sing You a Song*.....TROUPE
2. *Winter Will Come*.....MR. J. C. GRAHAM
3. *There Must Be Little Cupids in the Briney*  
MR. J. HAWKES
4. *In the Valley of the Moon*.....MRS. M. K. MACLEOD
5. *Far, Far Away*.....MR. J. UPRITCHARD
6. *Dreams of Long Ago*.....MR. C. SPIRITO
7. *Three Blind Mice (Monologue)*.....MR. THOMAS PETER
8. *The Motherland is Calling*.....MRS. S. HODGE
9. *Mr. Gallagher and Mr. Shean*.....MESSRS. SQUARE & PETER
10. *On a Holiday Monday*.....MR. J. HAWKES
11. *Golden Gate*.....MRS. C. CASTLING
12. *You Must Kiss Mama Every Night*.....MR. J. UPRITCHARD
13. *Oh! Golly, I'm in Love*.....MR. S. SQUARE
14. *Parade of Wooden Soldiers*.....MR. THOMAS PETER
15. *That Old Gang of Mine*.....MR. C. SPIRITO
16. *The Girl of the Olden West*.....MRS. C. CASTLING
17. *The Land of Broken Dreams*.....MRS. S. HODGE
18. *Uncle Josh (Monologue)*.....MR. S. SQUARE
19. *Shufflin' Along*.....MR. THOMAS PETER
20. *In the Old County Downe*.....MR. J. C. GRAHAM
21. *Some Sunday Morning*.....

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MR. J. UPRITCHARD

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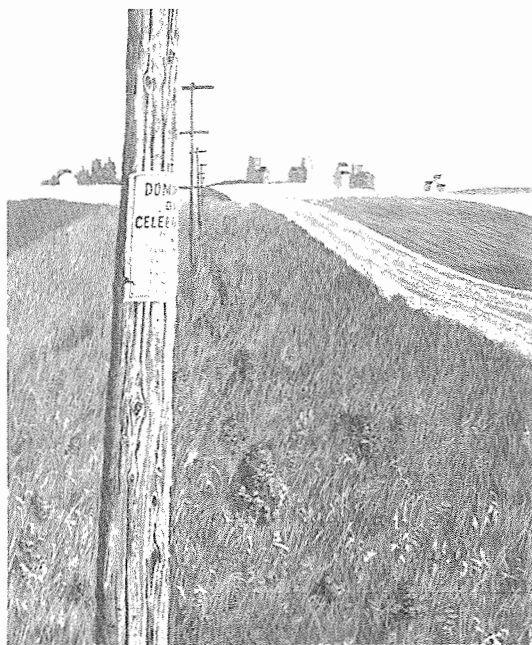
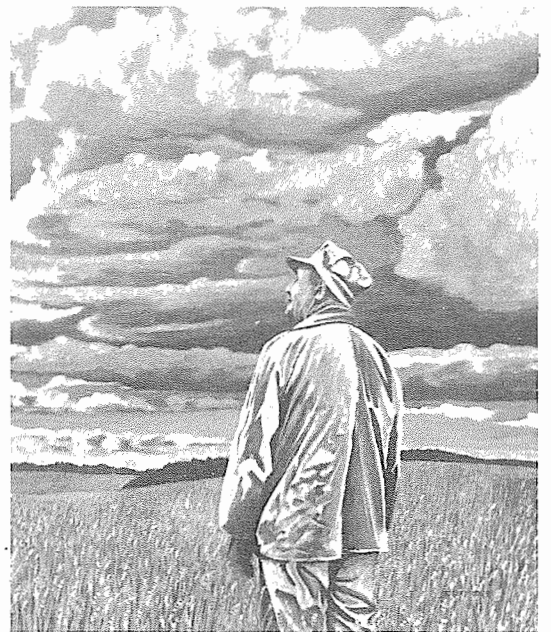
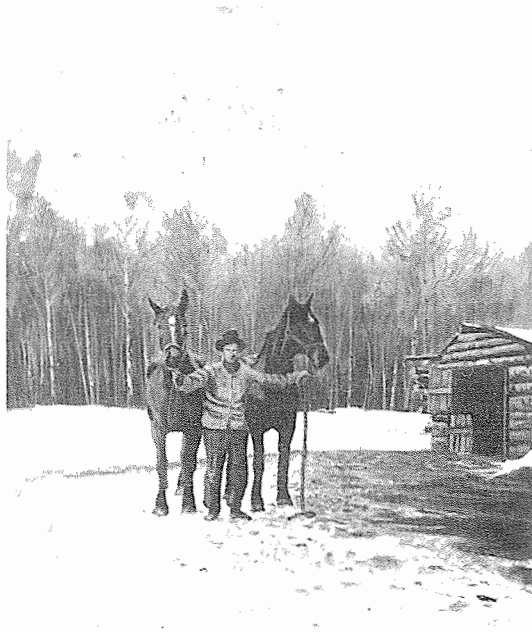
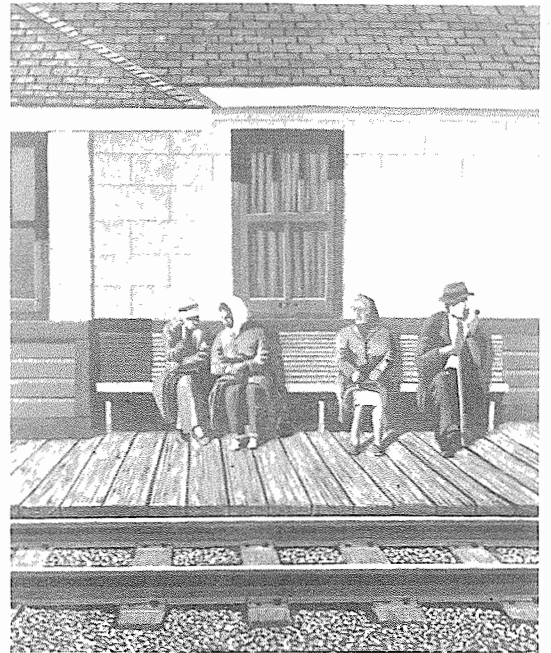
MRS. C. CASTLING
22. *Oh! Canada*.....TROUPE

*Accompagné par Mrs. More*

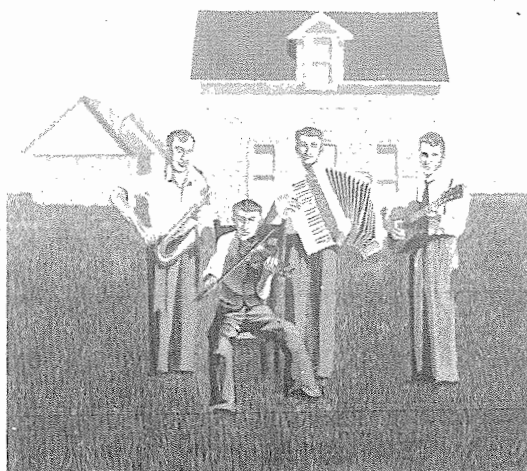
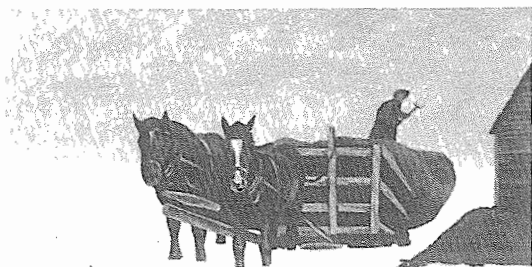
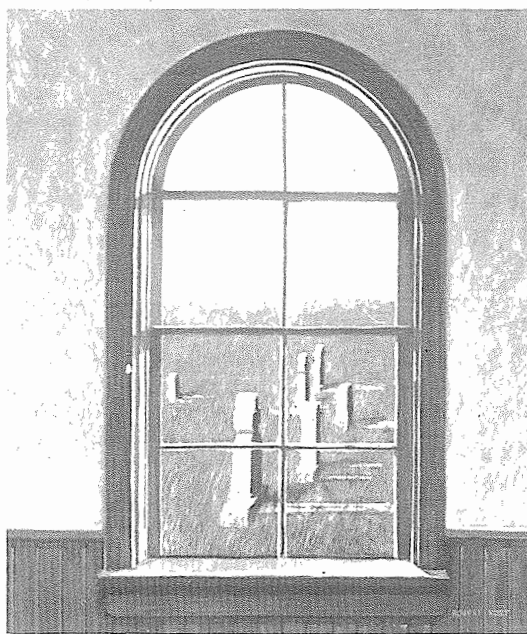
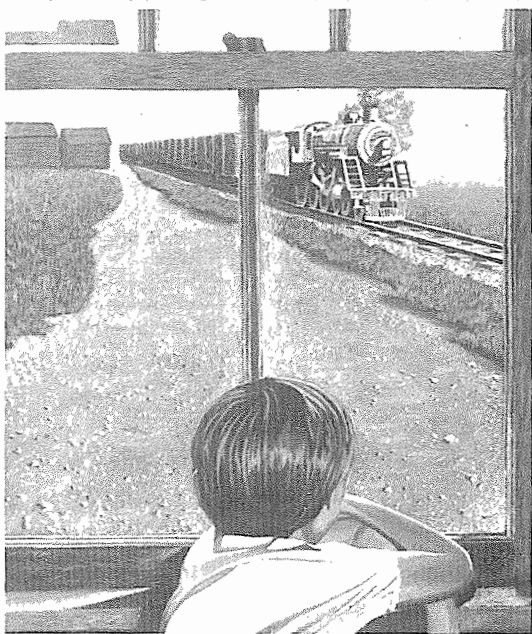
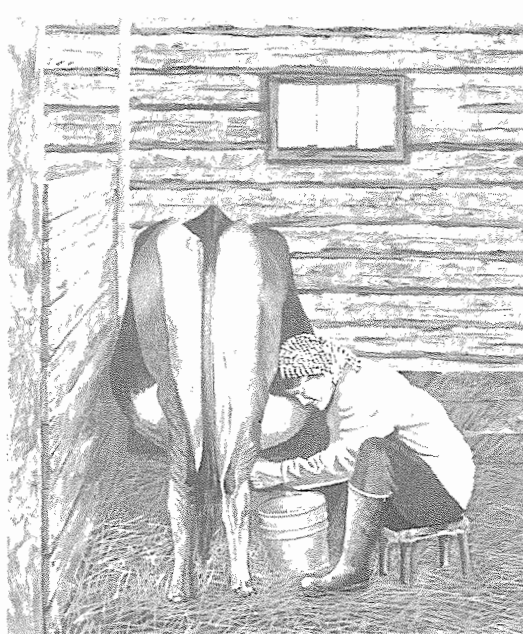
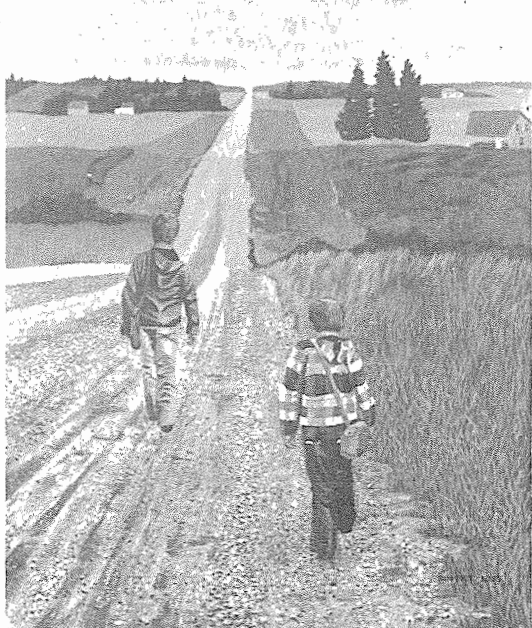
The order and number of items are subject to alteration



Mrs. J. Magnusson







*Prairie Paintings*  
by Robert Kost