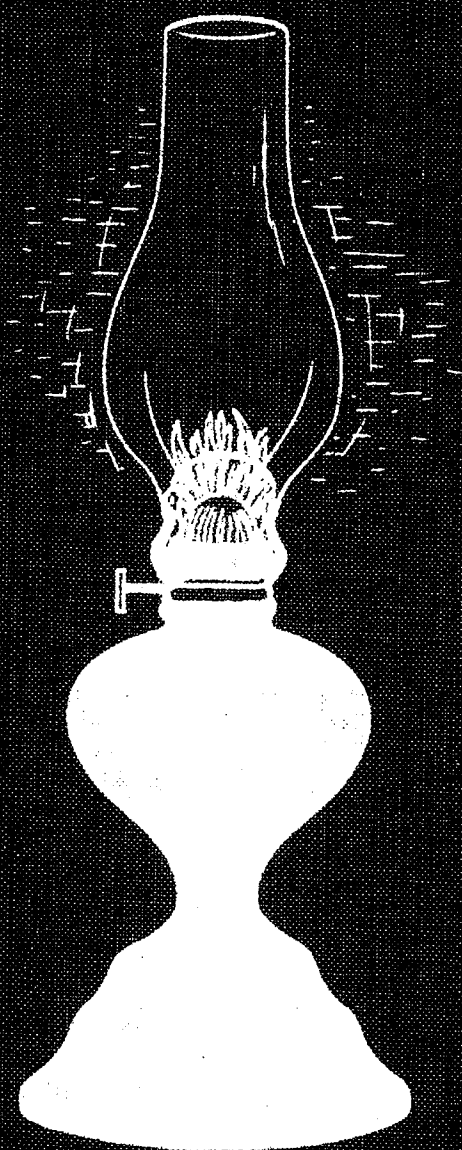


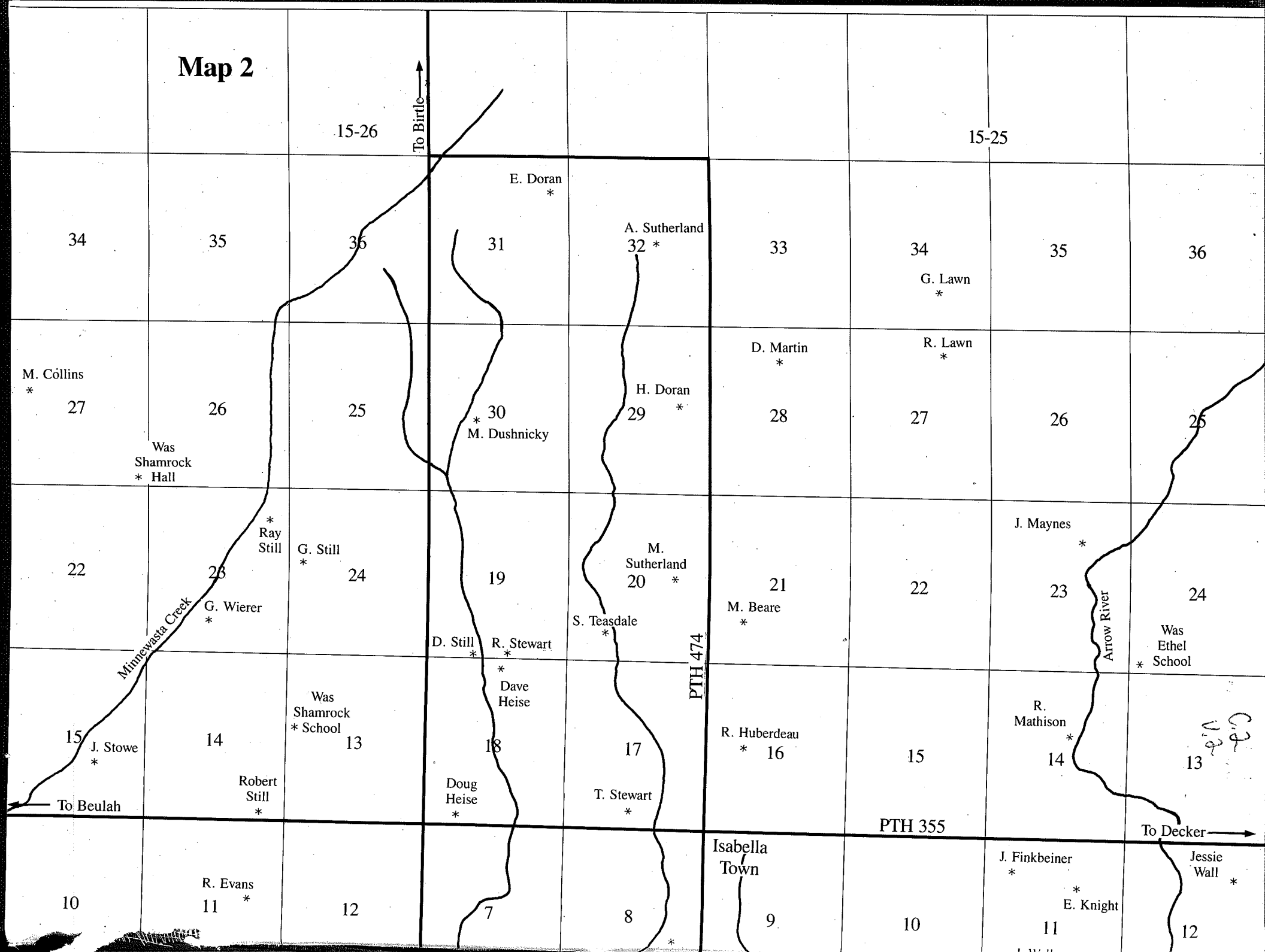
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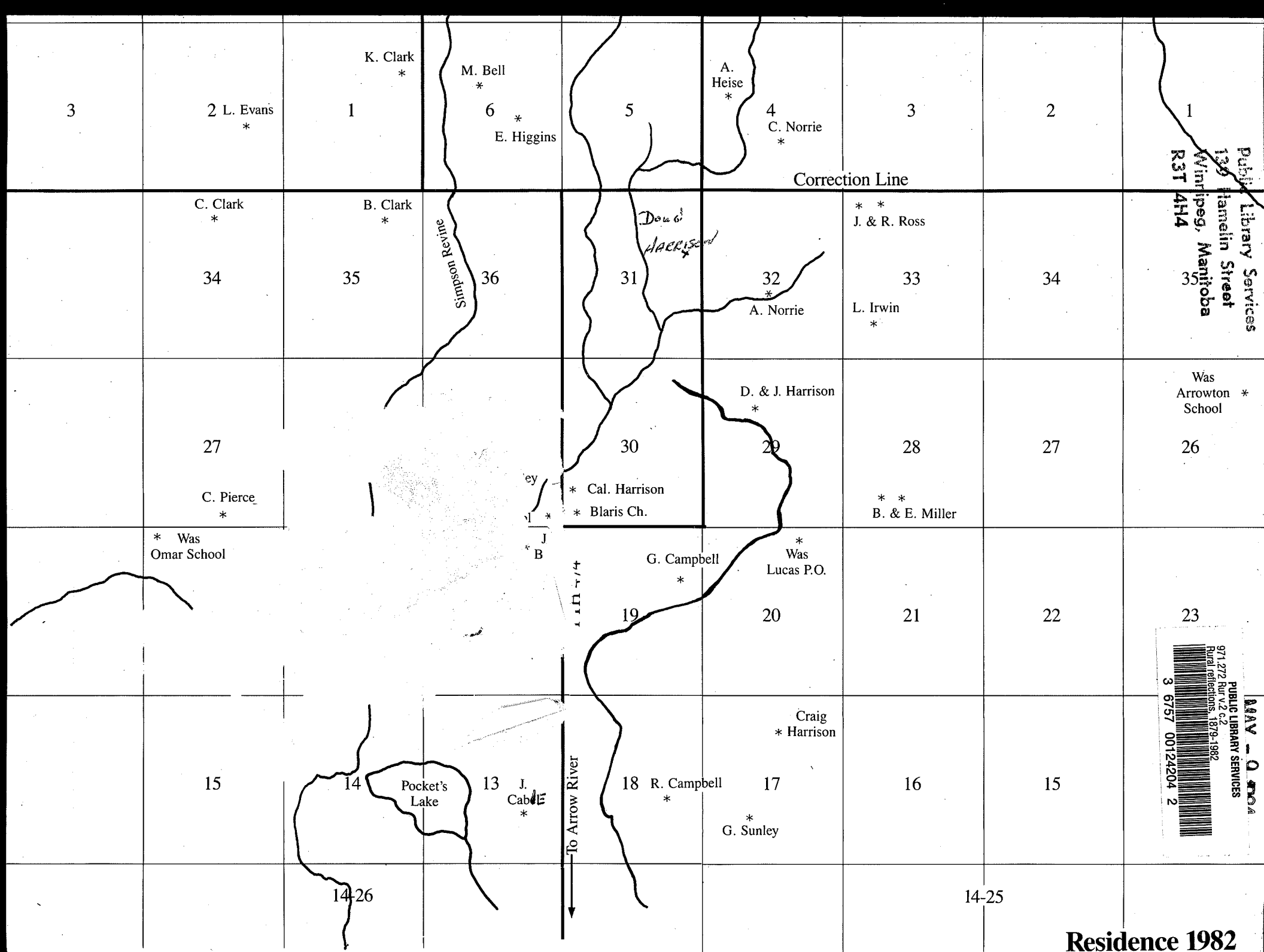
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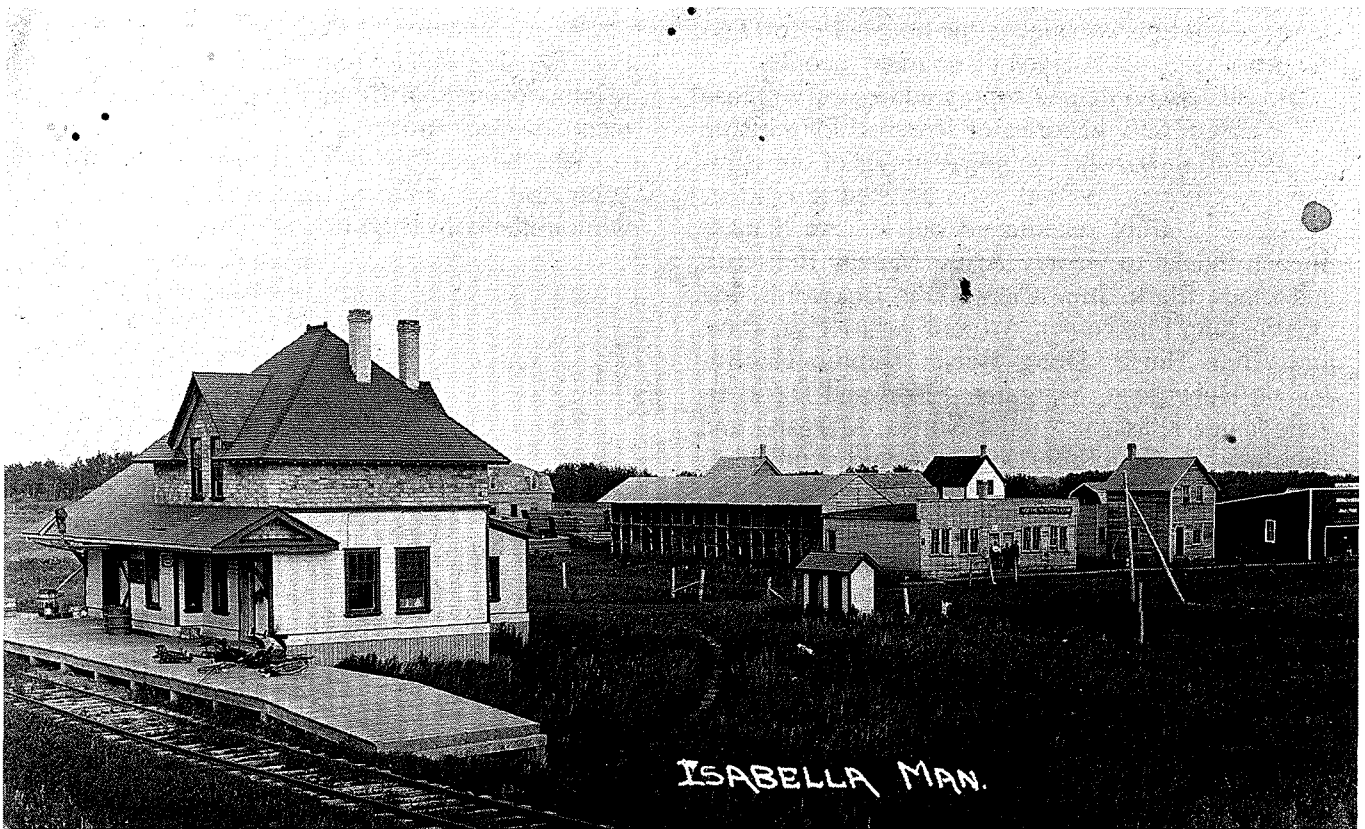


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Isabella looking from north-west about 1912.

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Acknowledgements

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To those who helped supply addresses; to those who wrote family histories or searched for suitable pictures; to those who compiled stories of our community activities; to those who assisted in editing, typing, and proof reading go our sincere thanks. Special thanks to George Ariss, Murray Bell, Bill and Linda Clark, June Clark, John Coxworth, Ina Doran, John Finkbeiner, Art and Arla Heise, Dave and Allan Heise, Doug Heise, Debbie Hanlin, Joanne Huberdeau, Margaret, Lloyd and David Irwin, Janice Klassen, Archie Norrie, Margaret and Tom Stewart, Glen Still, Denise Simard, Ruth Teasdale, John and Hazel Wall, and Joyce Wierer.

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We, the members of the history book committee know that we could never have published a book without the help of all of you. Thank you.

Bernice Still
Margaret E. Heise
Margaret L. Heise
Jean Norrie
Dorothy Finkbeiner
Margaret Coxworth
Jessie Wall

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Foreword

The story of the Isabella and Blaris communities contained in this book, covering almost one hundred years of development, has been made possible by the kind co-operation of many people. Although much of the story has been told by the second and third generations of those who endured hardships and privations in pioneer days, we were able to contact a few of the early pioneers who remain, who have contributed priceless information of their early life in this area. Each family who has lived in the community has also added to the story of life in our community. We thank each one of you most sincerely for your help. No doubt we have omitted stories that are more important for some and added stories some would

have omitted, but we have tried to compile an accurate history both informative and entertaining. If you find it this way, then we have achieved what we set out to do.

“Delving in the past of anywhere
And gathering items here and there,
Then sorting fact from fiction,
Gets results beyond prediction;
And when all is said and done,
You won’t, you know, please everyone.”

(Westwold B.C.’s “Saga”)
— The History Committee,
Isabella Women’s Institute.

Recollections

Manitoba Homecoming

I came home again to the prairie land
In the early green of spring.
I saw the great sweep of the fields again,
I heard a meadowlark sing.
I felt the strong wind as it crossed the plain,
Pruning the trees in its might;
Ruffling the poplar hems of the fields,
Dropping to whispers at night.
The wide straight road ran on and on,
Till it stopped where the blue skies bend.
A house stood there with a welcoming door,
And the reaching arms of a friend.
I stood in the door when the dark came down,
Wrapped round with infinite peace,
And I wondered how I had ever lived
Where the clamours never cease.
I heard the great crash of the thunder at night,
And saw the wide sky split with light;
By morning — a perfect dome again,
Washed beautifully blue and bright.
I stood at the door when the fingers of dawn
Spread a golden haze o'er the field.
The song of the birds broke the silence once more,
And the dark in the west had to yield.
I smelled the perfume of wolf willow and rose.
I saw lady slippers — bright gold.
The memory of lilies, like sparks of fire
Will warm my heart through the cold.
I saw the brown ribbon of river run,
Silent, majestic and slow;
Dignity strength and peace was there,
And the gentle hills lay low.
I will go back to my island home
Where the mountains stop my view,
Where the giant trees press me down with their
hands
And the sea birds wheel and mew;
Where the saucy, noisy, fussy brook,
Runs in its shallow bed,

And knows naught of the mighty stream
The winter snows have fed.
I will climb to the top of the hill,
And I will go down to the sea;
But my heart will return to the prairie land
And the friends who are part of me.

— Jessie C. Scarth July, 1970

Early settlement of the District by Mr. William Iverach in the 1930's

The first settlers of Isabella came into this district in the late seventies, followed by a substantial increase in the 80's. By 1884, there was a fair settlement—all English speaking, mostly from Eastern Canada and the British Isles. About midway in the 80's, the movement towards depopulation had begun and continued until there were only two occupied houses in the township the village is situated in today.

This condition continued until the forward movement of 1896 began. From that date on, people began to slowly move in again. Married people came and our own bachelors began taking to themselves wives, and another generation began to appear on the scene.

Most of those who came here about that time had educational traditions behind them and there was, in a few years enough of the new generation to demand a school. The usual preliminaries were gone through, by-laws passed, a site selected and a school was built.

A name had to be found for the district, and after a thorough canvass, the name Isabella was selected. Isabella was named for a Scotch lady, Isabella Taylor, who came here right in the depth of the first depression to keep house for a bachelor son who owned one of the two houses that had continuous occupation.

The mail was carried across country at that time from Elkhorn to Beulah, and it was carried into this settlement on the co-operative plan. Anyone going to Beulah usually carried all the mail and left it at Mr. Taylor's place where at a great inconvenience to themselves (that is to the Taylor family) it was distributed often after lying for days.

This led to the demand for a post-office, after stacks of correspondence and after the usual petitions, and "your petitioners will ever pray", the post-office was finally started at the home of William Iverach on section 16-15-25.

The name of the school was again retained.

Then after years of waiting and disappointment, the movement for a railway began in real earnest. A few years later this, too, was achieved. Prior to the coming of the railroad a Sunday-School and Church service were held in the school.

As soon as the townsite was surveyed the movement for getting a church and manse began. That, too, was soon carried to a successful conclusion, and since that time services have gone on without interruption. Of course, the new town carried the old name Isabella.

So far the good lady, for whom it was named, if she were still with us, would have had no reason to be ashamed of her namesake. The Church for some years was the largest contributor per member of the Presbyterian Church of Canada. The school has on several occasions acquired the highest marks in the provincial examinations.

Ferries

When many of our pioneers came to this part of the country, Brandon was the end of the Railway line. Many tell of long, tiresome, and hazardous journeys up the Assiniboine River to first, Fort Ellice landing, then Doyle's landing, and then Herkemer's landing, which we are told, was near what was known as Mitchell's Bridge. From these landings, they took to the trails by ox-cart or horse and buggy, to their new homes.

In by-law No. 23, passed at Beulah on the 7th day of April, 1885 —

"Where it is expedient to pass a by-law for regulating the running of the Beulah Ferry, and for regulating the fees to be collected at said ferry, also to appoint a ferry-man. That William Henry Lynch be first ferry-man. Rates:

For each span of oxen, horses, mules and wagon or other vehicle — each way — .25 cts.

For each vehicle drawn by a single beast — 20 cts.

Any beast driven without conveyance — 10 cts.

For each horse or mule and rider — 15 cts.

Passengers on foot — 10 cts.

Passengers on stage, coach, or wagon, shall go free, also ministers of the Gospel on their Pastoral Charge duties, people going to and from Church.

Parties requiring ferry between 9 P.M. and 5 A.M. are charged double fare and double rates for Sundays, either night or day."

The second ferry-man was Henry Turner. They received \$200.00 and extras for their duties.

Trails

by Laura M. Clark

William Cullen Bryant, after viewing the western plains, was moved to describe them. He wrote: —

"These are the gardens of the desert, these
The unshorn fields, boundless and beautiful,
For which the speech of England has no name;
The Prairies. I behold them for the first,
And my heart swells, while the dilated sight
Takes in the encircling vastness. Lo! they stretch
In airy undulations, far away,
As if the ocean, in his gentlest swell
Stood still, with all his rounded billows fixed
And motionless for ever.

. . . Fitting floor

For this magnificent temple of the sky,
With flowers whose glory and whose multitude
Rival the constellations."

I have always been grateful that I was privileged to see a little of the virgin prairies, where in small areas plows had never turned the sod, and where some of the wealth of wild flowers could still survive. From spring to fall children going to school could revel in this parade of beauty. In still earlier days, travellers over the trails that ran from here to there, could really enjoy the beauty all around them.

The prairie sod was kind to the feet of man and beast. Buggy and wagon wheels ran quietly over the trails, and as horses trotted along their hooves gave back a soft hollow sounding ring that carried for some distance.

Travellers learned the contour of the land, the sky-line of the bluffs, for at night these guided them. If it became too dark to see the bluff top against the sky, then one depended on the horses to bring one safely home and they did, many times.

In attempting to locate the routes the old trails followed, we are at a great disadvantage, for few of those who travelled them, remain with us.

We have tried to trace them through memories and by the bits that remain.

The results can be approximate only. There may be those who will disagree. When the earliest white settlers came to these western prairies, the Indians had established trails which they customarily travelled, as they moved about the country. One of these early trails known as the Sioux wound through the south west corner of our area, coming from the south east through Harry Dowell's farm, and crossing Walter Palmers S.W. 24, not far west of their building site on the bank of their ravine. From there it crossed over John Bell's land, where Mr. Bell told me a portion of

it can still be traced through a bluff, that has since grown over the road.

It crossed Bell's west quarter where the marks are still deep and plain — and not overgrown. From there it headed north westerly toward Old Beulah.

When Mr. and Mrs. Walter Palmer first came, and particularly during the Indian unrest of 1885, this trail was frequently used. The Indians camping site was near a spring which was then flowing along that ravine, and their numbers and frequently hostile attitude cause much nervousness among the settlers. The Wagon trains of Red River carts passing along this old trail route could be heard for miles as they screeched along on ungreased wooden wheels. For some reason oxen would follow these sounds, and always had to be watched when a wagon train was passing by.

An early trail was known as the old Boiler Trail. I understand that in 1878 a large boiler intended for use in a mill, (some say, "sawmill" others, "grist-mill"), at Elphinstone, was brought by river barge to Doyle's landing near Beulah, and taken from there overland to its final location.

It was tremendously heavy, was hauled by many teams (I've heard "100 teams" quoted) of horses and mules and guided overland by Indians hired at two dollars per day. As it passed along, the wheels made a deep imprint on the prairie sod, forming a road which was used for many years by people of this locality who went west to Old Beulah or north-east to Shoal Lake.

The old Boiler trail can be traced through this district from a point across the road from Jack Satterthwaite's buildings (formerly Stuart Gordon).

It travelled east from there, keeping north of the railroad line, coming around south of the large bluff on Ken Warren's quarter, on the hill west of the intersection. Reaching the intersection it crossed over on to section eighteen, followed along through Doug Heise's barn yard, crossed in front of his house and went south east out toward the present road allowance, (passing north of the bluff which is still there, east of the foot of his lane.)

Traces of it are lost for the next two miles, but it must have stayed fairly close to the present road allowance, though it probably took the higher ground north of the bluffs and sloughs between Russel Warren's and Tom Stewart's building sites and thence straight east to the west gate in the Calder farm. There some of the original trail can still be traced through S.W. quarter of sixteen. It went east through the next half section, across the Drummond farm, taking a north easterly course toward Shoal Lake.

Incidentally the boiler was never put to its intended use, for when they attempted to take it down the

Elphinstone hill, it overbalanced, and rolled part way down the hill. My father pointed it out to me many years ago, but I do not know if it is still there.

The trail between Hamiota and Birtle went through this area from north west to south east. It came down from the north west to the Andrew Doig farm 36-15-25 and thence across the south western edge of the Doran farm and along the western edge of Peter Still's farm, then cutting south-easterly through Dave Heise's across the edge of the south-east quarter of 18-15-25 past the buildings then occupied by the A. F. Kelly family. From there it angled across and passed quite close to the D. Wright house. Mr. Wright said he had built his house there, close to the Birtle trail. A portion of the old road still can be seen on the east edge of the bluff just north of their house. Marion and Rose Wright told me that when they were children they "played on the old Birtle Trail".

From there it continued in a south easterly direction, and I think when J. E. Heise built his homestead shanty to the west of the bluff near the correction line, he built near the old trail. At least it passed by the first Craig homestead on the north west quarter 32-15-25, and then on in its south easterly course to Hamiota. This Birtle trail forked at the Doig farm (the farm now owned by George Weirer) and the west fork ran south past the Chapman (now Glen Still's) buildings to their south west corner, and then cut diagonally across section 13 where it crossed the "Boiler Trail" near Doug Heise's corner.

Thence it went south to Will Taylor's (now Murray Bells) across the Tom Ariss farm to John Clark's, from there to Stevenson's, then to the west side of the bluff at the Sunley farm, and so to Blaris School and Church, and on to Arrow River. As soon as the C.P.R. line went in and grain elevators were erected, the people from this area hauled their grain over this route to Arrow River. A south route to Old Beulah, branched off west from Will Taylor's and ran past Charlie Evan's, on to Sparling's (now the farm owned by Lawrence Amy) to the Lyon's farm (now Charlie Fraser) and on to Old Beulah.

From these main trails numerous roads branched off to go the shortest way from here to there. One of these came south from the Irvine farm south from the Palmer farm, crossed the Boiler Trail at the Drummond buildings, angled south-east from there, to section eleven right across the rise where the J. Finkbeiner buildings now stand, south and east again, then down to the G. Phillips farm (now the Adams farm). From there, it angled across to the west side of the Jo Bedford farm, south and east again until it joined the road to Crandall. The old prairie trails were most pleasant to drive on and much more safe than the modern roads with their high grades and

steep banks. They were ideal for the odd bit of horse racing which was indulged in occasionally, just to see if your driver was better than mine. In those days there were many fine driver's and their owners were justly proud. One of these drivers was a long lanky horse named Prince, who was owned by Mr. Will Palmer. (This story was told me by Mrs. J. T. Finkbeiner). One day, Mrs. Palmer, accompanied by her neighbor Mrs. Jack Finkbeiner, with the buggy loaded with tubs of butter, crates of eggs and two children drove to Crandall (which was one of the nearest stores at that time) to trade their produce for groceries. As they were driving home along the prairie trail, Elsie Phillips, another neighbor, who was driving a smart team of cream colored ponies, turned out to pass them. Mrs. Palmer took one look at her and said, "She's not going to do that" and she took the whip to Prince. The butter tubs, egg crates, and passengers had a merry ride for a few minutes, but the cream ponies did **not** pass Prince!

Mr. Russell Warren told me that when he broke up the sod east of the buildings, he ploughed up an old trail that had evidently been used between Taylors and the A. F. Kelly place — where it could join the west fork of the Birtle Trail. Another branched off the Birtle Trail near Mr. Wright's house, angled east and came out on the present road allowance and continued north to Mr. Calder's west gate (Boiler trail) followed that for a short distance then north toward the Iverach buildings. Mrs. Scarth remembers driving along that way with her parents, going to Church at Blaris, with their team and democrat.

After Calder's lived on their quarter and the school of Isabella had been built, they made a trail south which was a short cut to town. The first Isabella mail was brought from the Orrwold Post Office in the Jack Norton home in 1906. The trail angled south-west from the Norton farm, through the Ed. Allingham farm, the Fred Bedford farm through the yard on the Drummond farm, past the Don Iverach buildings and over to the William Iverach farm to the Post Office.

Another old mail trail came from Old Beulah past J. Fraser's, through Webster's farm (formerly Tom Stevensons, now Elmer Clark's) across the Simpsons farm (now Bill Attwood's) the John Bell farm, the Walter Palmer farm, the William Grey farm, Mr. Wilson's south half, through the Cunnington farm, and on to Lucas Post Office on the Frank Campbell farm.

I can remember a trail through the Will Palmer farm. Coming in at the south west corner to the middle of the section where his buildings were, wound around the edges of fields and bluffs north of there, to come out just south of the Crozier buildings.

From there it turned east, and although a trail road, and had to go around bluffs and sloughs, it followed the road allowance to Orrwold Church.

Another trail I can remember travelling on, led north from the W. Iverach farm and went along the west edge of section twenty one, following the high land. This led up to Mrs. McPherson's farm, and was used by them and others in the north when they came to Church, after it was held in Isabella school house.

And so the old trails served their day during the very beginning of the settlement of this west. Who the adventurous traveller was, who first drove his wagon over the prairie sod, leaving a mark which others followed, has long since been forgotten. But he played his part in the history, the adventure and the romance of his day.

Our earliest settlers blazed their trails from one homestead to another winding around bog, sloughs and bluffs with horse and buggy. Gradually improvements were made, until we realized hard surfaced highways of the present day.

The first move towards improvement of roads was found in the "Statute Labor by-law" which required that each landowner put in so many days each year in road work. If he neglected to do so, a stiff penalty was imposed, which could mean a jail term. Sloughy places along the prairie trails were the first improvements made. At Parkissimo — August 10th, 1898, the Statute Labor by-law was abolished by the following motion:

Taylor-Gurney — "That this council abolish Statute Labor and substitute therefore an increase of the general rate of taxation amounting to a sum of about two dollars per quarter section and that each ward according to its assessed value include an equal sum for expenditure on roads in lieu of Statute Labor and that all work on roads be let by council through public competition. (Carried)"

The first council minutes which show a trend to road building was in May 1898 when on motion of Clark and Gurney we find — "that Councillor Taylor be authorized to have road brushed running east and west, south of sec. 16-twp.15-R25 in time to have statute labor done on said road. (Carried)." This would be from the corner of Isabella school running east towards Decker. In October 1898, Councillor Clark was authorized to have the roadway running east from Blaris school to Lucas Post Office repaired and made fit for travel. On Jan.4th, 1899, Taylor-Hamilton — "That the treasurer be instructed to set aside a fund for the purpose of making roads at the rate of four mills on the dollar of the assessed value of the respective wards of this municipality and that said sum be expended in the ward in which levy has been made. (Carried)." In June 1899, Councillor Taylor

was authorized to advertise and let by auction or tender the grading and cutting of scrub on the road-way running south of Isabella to the correction line, one mile west of that corner and one mile west from Isabella school. In 1900 a man and team earned 35 cts. per hour, and the same year Councillor Thompson was appropriated the sum of \$30.00 to be used to cut scrub in Ward I or whatever may be necessary to grade sloughs. Later, in 1900, the wage for man and team was cut to 30 cts. per hour. That year an appropriation of \$3600.00 was made to expend on roads in the municipality, each ward not to exceed \$600.00. In Miniota on Feb. 2nd, 1914 — Maxfield — Bruce: "That a by-law be drafted and submitted to the electors for the purpose of borrowing the sum of \$75,000.00 on a thirty year debenture for the purpose of building main roads, as our share in conjunction with the government offer. (Carried)".

After the roads were made passable, the next move was for better walking conditions in the town. At Miniota, October 16th, 1914 — Doran — Bruce — "That this council grant \$250.00 for opening up streets and building sidewalks in Isabella. (Carried)".

Gradually roads were built around the perimeter of many sections of land, enabling all residents to travel by road rather than by trail. Then more improvements were made. The roads were built up higher so that the water would drain off into the

ditches from their mud surfaces. A few years later, they were built higher still and coated with a generous layer of gravel to make them passable through wet weather including the changing seasons, spring and fall. The family automobile was put away as soon as the snow became too deep for travel in the fall and remained there until the warmth of the spring sun melted the snow, and they were able to navigate once again.

Not until 1950, were the roads plowed free of snow to allow everyone to use their cars the year around.

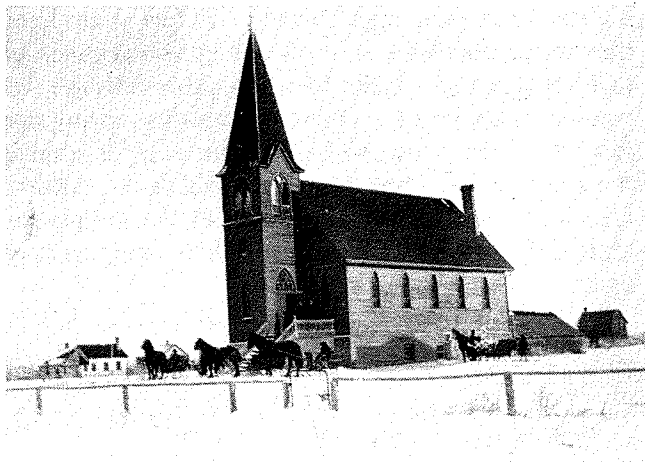
In many cases, the roads have been built up three and four times and are gravelled sufficiently so that no one has the horror of being stuck to the axles in mud. Many of our highways are covered with a form of asphalt, which gives an excellent surface.

In this process of improvement, we cannot begin to account for the hours and hours of hard labour on behalf of man and beast, that went into the building and re-building of roads. In the early days, men and teams of horses worked for weeks to accomplish what can be done in a few hours, by Caterpillar tractors and huge machines.

Too soon we forget the labours of our forefathers as they looked to the future. Of the many improvements made, were any more useful to future generations than the roads they helped to build?



Back Row, L.-R.: Reg Campbell, Al Clark, Roy Bell, Archie Hill, Dave Bell, Herman Hill, Steve Bell, John Reid, Lorne Miller, Will Sutherland, Ernie Sunley, Ellery Sunley, George Torrance, Ted Miller, Levi Miller, May Stewart, Alma Brown, Edna Ellis, Laura Miller, Gwen Bell, Jimmy Mitchell, Marjory Hill, June Torrance, Angus Craig, Irma Torrance, Allie Sunley, Will Bell, Doris Palmer. Second Row: Amos Gurr, Harry Harrison, Pete Stewart, Fred Hill, Will Grey, Mattie Astle, Rob Clark, Mary Harrison, Don Sutherland, Norma Torrance, Wm. John Robinson, John Bell, Gordon Grey, Will Palmer, Lawrence Stevenson, Bertha Reid, Dewart Harrison, Mamie Stevenson, Edna Irving, Anne Campbell, Mayme Campbell, Hazel Campbell, Vivian Campbell, Georgina Torrance, Dorothy Fredborg, Ruth Hill. Third Row: Louie Cowling, Mrs. Walter Palmer, Frank Harrison, Jessie Palmer, Lizzie Bell, Violet Campbell, Stella Harrison, Ken Hunter, Mrs. J. D. Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. John Sunley, Mrs. D. J. Hill, Mrs. C. Craig, Mrs. T. Stevenson, John Clark, Mrs. W. Iverach, Walter Palmer, Mrs. John Clark, Wm. Iverach. Front Row: Laurence and Gordon Harrison, Ray Sunley, Roy Hill, Vern Sunley, Gordon Campbell, Percy Hudson, Murray Bell, Colin Campbell, Charlie Hill, Crawford Campbell, Frank Campbell.



Isabella Church in the early years.



The first store in Isabella (burned in 1917).



Isabella looking south-west from United Grain Growers Elevator.

Mrs. John T. Finkbeiner recalls:

When my husband and I moved to the Isabella district in March, 1908, there was no railroad, there was no road, just a prairie trail; there was a one room school, where the town now stands. Horses and buggies in the summer and sleighs in winter were the only means of transportation. The nearest stores and elevators were in towns over ten miles away. Grain was hauled with team and wagon or sleigh after freeze up.

In 1909, the Canadian Northern Railroad was built from Hallboro to Isabella and the site for the town was just south of the one roomed school. The town grew like a mushroom, and for many years was a thriving and busy place.

In 1954 a fine three room school was built, but owing to a change in the school system, the school was moved to Birtle in 1968. The children were all bussed to Hamiota, Miniota and Birtle.

From then on the town started to deteriorate. The station was closed, the elevators were closed and in 1979, the railroad was taken up. The district has gone partly back to where it was 60 years ago. The Church, store, post office, hall and rink are still there; but there are few residents left in town. I often think back through the years, to the pioneers who had lived there for so many years, and what the coming of the railroad meant to them, the building of the town, and all that they appreciated so much. I wonder what they would think if they saw it now?

They say this is progress, but many times I wonder.

Mr. Dewart Harrison's Memoirs

In 1930, Mr. Dewart Harrison began these sketches of the different families of the Blaris district, and was pleased to have them incorporated into Volume 1 of Rural Reflections.

John Clark was born in Quebec. His father, Samuel Clark, left there and went to Howick Township in Huron County, Ontario. At that time the country there was covered with bush. Mr. Clark came to Manitoba in 1882, and settled on the north half of sec. 36-T14-R 26. He married Miss Taylor, raised a family of four sons and one daughter, Samuel G., Robert T., James, and John Allen. Margaret married Milford Drummond of Winnipeg. Mr. Clark and brother-in-law, William Taylor, bought a horse-power threshing machine and did most of the threshing around Blaris for a number of years. Mr. Clark told of putting a couple of plow shares in a sack and carrying them on his back to Birtle, having them sharpened and then carrying them home again. Mr. Clark built the first barn around Blaris which is still standing.

Thomas Stevenson was a neighbor of John Clark in Ontario. They came west together. He settled on the south half of sec. 36-Twp. 14-R26. He built a large house and barn on the banks of Simpson's ravine. This was farther west than his first house. Mr. Stevenson taught at Blaris school for awhile. He was Reeve of Miniota Municipality in the early days. There was a family of three daughters and one son: Edna, Mrs. James Irving of Central Butte, Sask.; Merle, Mrs. John Fraser; Elizabeth, Mrs. S. Fraser; and Lawrence on the farm, and later his son Frank.

The **Campbell** family have been in Canada for many years. Mr. Campbell's grandfather fought in the war against the Americans in 1812-13-14. For his services the government granted him and six sons, 1000 acres in the bush in Chingacousy Township in Peel County. The village of Campbell Cross was named after the family then living in Lincoln county. They moved on to the land in 1820. Mr. Campbell came west in 1882, settling on the east half of sec. 20 -tpw. 14-r. 25. He later bought the homestead of John Cunningham, the N.W. ¼ on the same section. The Cunningham house stood for many years on the banks of the ravine. He came back some years later as Dr. Cunningham, a veterinarian. Mr. Campbell built a log house with logs hauled from the Assiniboine Valley.

He was instrumental in getting Lucas P.O. established. He was the postmaster for many years. There

was only one mail a week, on Friday. The mail was brought by the stage from Elkhorn to Parkissimo P.O. just west of Miniota and then to Arrow River. Mr. Wm. Tennant Sr. brought the mail to Lucas, then to Arrowton and on to Orrwold. When Isabella P.O. was opened he came there also. Mr. Campbell married a Miss French. She came from Brandon to Doyle's Landing, west of Beulah, on a steamboat. There were three in the family: Seth (Seddie), Reginald and Mamie. The two boys homesteaded near Humboldt Sask. Walter Hill went at the same time. Walter and Seddie married sisters. There were nineteen Campbell grandchildren.

David James Hill was a native of Rockford near Guelph, Ontario. The Hill family came from Armagh County in Ireland. Mr. and Mrs. Hill, (who was a Miss Sunley), with their five children came to Blaris in 1882. Their sixth child, Walter, was the first child born at Blaris. Mr. Hill homesteaded on the S.E. ¼ of sec. 22-tpw. 14-R26 east of the "Six Mile" or "Big Slough" as it is called. The first house was of logs but later the fine stone house and barn were built. Mr. Hill was the rugged type of pioneer and endured many hardships. He drew grain to Birtle with oxen, going one day and returning the next. On one occasion in March the snow was quite soft. Later on it froze and made the oxen's feet so sore, they could go no farther. He stopped in the shelter of a bluff and tramped around until morning, to keep warm. Mr. Hill was one of a family of twelve children. He had a family of ten: Florence, (Mrs. Robert Bell); Ada, (Mrs. Geo. Webster); Bertha, (Mrs. Wm. Reid), Oakner; Maud, (Mrs. Ross Bell), Humboldt Sask.; Herman, Miniota; Walter, Plumkert, Sask.; Fred, Blaris, (now of Gorrie, Ont.); Archie, on the home farm; Alma, (Mrs. Chris Brown), Oakner; Jean, (Mrs. Glendenning), North Battleford, Sask. There are thirty nine grandchildren and nineteen great-grandchildren. Mr. Hill lived to be eighty.

Mr. Henry Wilson was born in Huron County, Ontario, son of a Scottish father and an English mother in the year 1860. Just who was the first to take up land around Blaris is hard to decide. Mr. Wilson claims he was. He said when he prospected the neighborhood, he saw no sign of anyone. The land he chose was the S.W. of Sec. 32-Twp. 14-R25. He started breaking just south of the small slough near the corner. He had broken a few acres when he saw a man breaking on the north side. He was a son-in-law of Andrew Doig, named McKay. He convinced Mr. Wilson that Doig had entered ahead of him. There had been a mistake, somehow, and Mr. Wilson took up land on S.W. ¼ Sec. 30-Twp. 14-R. 25 at no cost to himself. He also was paid for his time and the work

he had done. McKay homesteaded the S.E. ¼, now the Dave Bell farm. The McKays moved to Rapid City. Mr. Wilson was the only person living in the township the winter of 1882-3. The next winter he bached with a Truman Kelly who lived in a large house on the S.W. ¼ Sec. 20-Twp. 15-R. 25. The house was on the side of the trail to Birtle. Mr. Wilson married a Miss McCorkuedale of St. Marys, Ontario. There were two children, Frank and Mary. He was secretary-treasurer of Blaris school until he left.

Mr. John Torrance was an elderly man when he left Grey County in 1878 and came to Oak River in 1882. He came to Blaris neighborhood with his family and settled on the W. ½ Sec. 16-Twp. 14-R. 25. The first church service was held in his house.

James Torrance, son of John Torrance, homesteaded the N.E. ¼ Sec. 28-Twp. 14-R. 25. When he proved up he sold out and returned to Ontario. Thomas Irwin bought the farm. George Irwin lived there until he went east. Hedley Day rented it for three years, followed by Edgar McNeil, who married Dave Whyte's daughter, Helen. Then Grant Whyte rented the farm until he went overseas. The present owner is Perry Eastcott.

Enos Torrance homesteaded S.W. ¼ Sec. 20-Twp. 14-R. 25. He married Miss Brownridge, a daughter of George Brownridge, who was an early settler along the Arrow River north of Decker. There were four in the family: George, in Miniota (married Norma Sunley); Louie, (Mrs. Dan. Cowling) of Hamiota; Pearl, (who married Ernie Fleming of Crandall); Melvin, who went to Edmonton thirty years ago. Mr. Torrance died at the age of thirty eight. He was hauling wood from the Assiniboine near Uno. His feet got wet and pneumonia set in. Sixty years ago the poplar trees were small as prairie fires swept the country before the settlers came. Some drew wood from the Riding Mountains, a three day trip. James Young, a son-in-law, came on this farm. A daughter attended Blaris school. He bought a farm south of Decker, later moving to Crandall.

Mr. John MacDonald came on the farm next. He had a grown up family of three sons and five daughters. He was also a nephew of John Torrance. The family all left and took up land near Lake Athabaska. They took a herd of cattle with them. The trip took most of the summer. The cattle pastured along the way.

James Duncan was the last to live on the farm. His wife was a sister of Mr. W. T. Grey. Several daughters went to Blaris School. He bought a farm near Lavinia. After he left, Dan Cowling bought the farm and the buildings were wrecked.

It may be interesting to younger people to know that all the wood was bucksawed by hand, a winter

job. To prevent their being covered with snow, the poles were stood on end forming teepees. The snow never piled up around them. Every farm had its teepee.

William Bell was a native of Scotland. He came to Canada and lived north of Toronto. In 1882 he came west in company of his son-in-law, Walter Palmer. He settled on the north ½ of Sec. 24-Twp. 14-R. 26. Two of his sons and two of his daughters lived on Sec. 24. Another daughter, Mrs. Wm. Mitchell, lived south of Arrow River near the Assiniboine. Mr. Bell was one of the first trustees of Blaris school. He did not live long after coming west. He is buried in Arrow River cemetery. Mr. Walter Palmer was one of the original settlers in 1882. He learned the carpenter trade as a young man. His father was Samuel Palmer who came from England in 1827. He settled in Pickering Twp. in the province of Ontario. He married Miss Janet Bell. He homesteaded the S.W. ¼ Sec. 24-Twp. 14-R. 26, now owned by Ernest Sunley. There were three in the family: Will, who married Miss Preston of Birtle; Annie, who married Harry Hobson; Frank, who married a Blaris school teacher, Jessie Woodman.

William Simpson came from Ireland in 1882 and homesteaded the N.E. ¼ Sec 26 Twp. 14-R. 26 and bought all of Sec. 25. He now had eight-hundred acres, a large farm. He hired a foreman to be in charge of the other help. He advertised in the English papers for young men to come to Manitoba to learn farming practices. Mr. W. H. MacKee was one who came. When Blaris school was organized, he donated the land on the corner of his farm with the provision that it be called "Blaris", after a place in Ireland. He was the first secretary-treasurer of the school.

John Armstrong Sr. met Wm. Simpson on the ship, when coming from Ireland. He came from Aughnacloy, County Tyrone, with his wife and three children: John, James and Minnie. They were the first children who attended the new school built in 1885. Others were Will and Anne Palmer, Wesley Pockett, Florence, Ada, Maud and Bertha Hill. He homesteaded the N.E. ¼ Sec. 22-Twp. 14-R. 26. He was a hard worker and a very genial man.

John Armstrong Jr. bought the S-½ of Sec. 23-Twp. 14-R. 26. He married Miss Nellie Richardson, a daughter of Samuel Richardson, an early pioneer of Carlingville district, which was near the present Crandall. They had a family of seven children: Glady, Minnie, Sarah, Ralph, Frank, Robert and Marion. They all attended Blaris school.

James Armstrong farmed his father's homestead and also the N.W. ¼ Sec. 23-Twp. 14-R. 26. He married Miss Eva Clyde, daughter of Andrew Clyde,

an early pioneer of the Miniota district. They had two children Hugh, and a daughter. They attended Omar school which was three miles west of Blaris. He sold the farm about 1920 to Fred Hill. Wm. O'Callaghan owns the farm now. Jim went to Nelson B.C.

Miss Minnie Armstrong married Wm. MacKee. There were seven children: Alice, Betty (Mrs. Frank Harrison), Nell (Mrs. Wm. Watts), John, Dorothy (Mrs. T. Davis), James and Gordon, all in B.C.

John G. Sutherland came to Manitoba from Ontario in 1889, settling on N.W. ¼ Sec. 18-Twp. 14-R. 25. This had been homesteaded in 1882 by Albert Spiers. There were seven children: Isabella (Mrs. W. J. Hill); Barbara (Mrs. Bruce Wallace); Mattie (Mrs. Robert H. Reid — later Mrs. Astle); Donald who married Miss Mary Wilson; Will who married Miss Marion Wiggins, and John who married Miss Annie Allen who came from Scotland, and they farmed north of Isabella. George, the youngest son, died many years ago in Saskatchewan from injuries suffered when thrown from a horse. Mr. J. G. Sutherland died in 1923 at the age of 85 years. The Sutherlands farmed a lot of land. They operated a large steam threshing outfit, doing a great amount of threshing.

Mr. Wm. Rowles came from Berkshire County in England in 1888 and homesteaded S.W. ¼ Sec. 28-Twp. 14-R. 25. There were five children: Edith (Mrs. Alfred Chapman, Empress, Alta.); Christine, (married at Empress, Alta.); Tom who married Lydia Rivers of Crandall. Eddie died in the flu epidemic in 1918. Tom farmed at Central Butte, Sask. Like many Englishman, Mr. Rowles liked sport. About 1900 he organized wolf hunts. A number of young men at that time mounted on horses, accompanied by dogs, would run the wolves. There were few fences. It was looked on as good sport. Mr. Rowles built a fine cement house on the site of his small shanty. In 1912 he bought South African veterans' scrip and moved west and took land along the Red Deer River, miles from the railway. He sold the farm to John Harrison who sold it to Alf. Smith. Alf. Smith sold it to Robert White. Earle Miller is the owner now.

Mr. W. T. Grey was born in Scarborough Township, York County north of Toronto. The Greys were a large family who came from England in the 1850s. Mr. Grey, who married Miss Anne Bell, came west in 1888, homesteaded S.E. ¼ Sec. 24-Twp. 14-R. 26. Mrs. Grey and two children came the next year. There were five children: Minnie (Mrs. J. R. Mitchell), Arrow River; Will who married Miss Laura Miller; Hazel who died many years ago; Violet (Mrs. Reg. Campbell); Gordon who married Miss Florence Stewart, Chumah. Mr. Grey was a good farmer and put up good buildings. His first barn was

destroyed when a cyclone hit the district in 1915. Mr. Grey told of an experience he had when there was only a ferry to cross the Assiniboine River. He had been to Virden and was late getting back. The ferryman had left. Not wishing to spend the night there, he walked across the cable holding on to the rope above. In the centre the cable had sagged below the water. This all took place in the dark. He pulled the ferry across for his team and then back again.

Mr. Thomas Irwin farmed the N.E. ¼ Sec. 28-Twp. 14-R. 25. There were seven children in the family: James who married Miss Adeline Pearson of Hamiota; Rebecca; Wilbert who married Miss Laura Duffy of Ontario; George who married Miss Florence Ruthledge of Ontario; Maggie; Ethel; Minnie (Mrs. Norman Lawson). They all attended Blaris school except Ethel and Minnie.

Mr. and Mrs. John Craig Sr. were elderly folk when they left Huron County, Ontario. They came from the vicinity of Harriston and Clifford. This was in 1889. They lived in the Doig house on the N.W. ¼ Sec. 32-Twp. 14-R. 25 until Mr. Craig died. Their daughter, Jessie, who was an invalid lived with them.

John Craig Jr. homesteaded the N.E. ¼ Sec. 32-Twp. 14-R. 25. This had been homesteaded earlier by Fred Reid. He built a shanty and stable. A prairie fire swept across. He left and never came back. John Craig married a Miss Murray. There was a son Murray and several daughters. Later he went on the railway and died in Sask. Wm. Miller bought the land.

Mr. Charles Craig purchased land from Doig — S.W. ¼ Sec., and the S.E. ¼ from McKay. He married a Miss Harding. They had six children: Mary (Mrs. H. Harrison); Agnes (Mrs. A. N. Thompson, Brandon); Maggie, R.N.; Kate (Mrs. D. J. Bell); John who married Miss Mabel Stewart of Crandall; Esther, aged six, died from an operation.

A Miss Isobel Craig married Sam Taylor, Miniota. Miss Mary Craig married John Antcliff, Arrow River. Miss Kate Craig married Isaac Sararas, Miniota. Miss Elsie Craig married Nathaniel Sararas, Two Creeks. Miss Jennie Craig went to B.C. Mr. Angus Craig, the eldest son, came to Arrow River in the early days, homesteading between Arrow River and Miniota and married a Miss Lelond.

Wm. M. Taylor came from Scotland and was an early resident of Miniota Municipality. He settled on the N ½ of Sec. 6-Twp. 15-R. 26. Section 6 was the only land in the Blaris school district north of the correction line. He built a log house and the next year his mother, two sisters and a brother, John, arrived. Isabella school was named after Mrs. Isabella Taylor. Mr. Taylor was a veteran of the North West Rebellion. He was reeve of the Municipality. He was

nominated to contest the Birtle constituency as a Conservative, but was unsuccessful. Mr. Taylor was remembered at Blaris as a splendid Bible Class teacher. When Mr. Calder married Miss Taylor he lived there until they left for B.C.

Harvey Webster homesteaded the S.W. ¼ 6-15-25. Joe Bliss, an Englishman, had the S.E. ¼ 6-15-25. He married a Blaris School teacher, Miss Duncan. This is now the C. Ariss farm.

Chapman Harris homesteaded S. ½ of Sec. 14-Twp. 14-R. 26. He sold the farm to George Sunley and went to Neepawa. A number of renters lived on this farm. After Mr. Sunley had a sale and moved to Ontario, James Lumsden, Frank Gardham and Francis Watters lived on this farm.

Albert Pockett took up the north half of Sec. 14-Twp. 14-R. 26. His son, Wesley, was one of the first children at the new Blaris school. Gordon Grey and Archie Hill now have a quarter each of the old farm. Pockett's Lake took its name from Albert Pockett. It is a small lake some four feet deep, but has never dried up. It was a good place to have a swim. The west side had a sandy beach, but there was no way to get to it. Reg. Campbell built a boat and took it down for anyone to use. One of the early trails in the country was known as the "Old Sioux Trail". It went along the east side of the lake. It was made by the Indians of the Griswold reserve going back and forth. Settlers from as far away as Kenton used to go to Birtle.

Josiah D. Harrison's grandfather, Thomas Harrison, came from Wiltshire County in England in 1819 with his wife and family. His land was Lot 12 — Ist concession Trafalgar Township, Halton County, Ontario. My father was born there in 1848. He was one of a large family, eight sons and four daughters. His mother, a Miss Bell, was Irish. Before he left Ontario, he had entered for a homestead and pre-emption at Totonka, a post near the Cardale of today. He came with a car of settlers effects. Prior to 1885 the only way to get to Manitoba was through the U.S. by way of Chicago and St. Paul. He was delayed, and his homestead had been taken. At that time you could not enter for another. The original survey of the C.P.R. was to go northwest from Brandon to Edmonton. He followed up the survey to the northeast quarter of Sec. 31-Twp. 14-R. 25. The first summer he did not build, but slept under a wagon box turned upside down. He broke some land and put up hay. A Miss Greenshaw who lived with her brother on Sec. II, the one-time Phillips farm, baked his bread. In 1883 he built a house and that fall married Miss Emily who had come from Milton with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Reid to Totonka in 1879. She rode in a wagon, with a milk cow tied behind, from Winnipeg

to north of Oak River on the Edmonton Trail. Their children were: Dewart J. who married Della Massina of Beulah; Stella of Brandon (deceased); Harry S. married Mary Craig; Frank C. married Betty MacKee; Grace (Mrs. Gordon Hunter of Kenton).

Thomas Daly was an Irishman. He bought the E. ½ Sec. 19-Twp. 14-R. 25 in the 1890's and broke it up. It was bought in 1904 by John Harrison who sold it to Will Grey. He sold it to Gordon Campbell. Gordon built north of the ravine. The Daly house was up on the hill south of the ravine.

Frank Albertson came from Ontario and took a homestead on the N.W. ¼ of Sec. 28-Twp. 14-R. 25. He built a log house. The farm is now owned by M. G. Little.

Mr. and Mrs. John Sunley came from Guelph, Ontario in 1891. They first lived in the Pockett house with their two daughters. When it burned down he bought the S. ½ of Sec. 25-Twp. 14-R. 26, the former Simpson farm. Mr. Sunley had been a blacksmith in Ontario. He built a shop on his farm which was a fine thing for the neighborhood. Probably it was not well liked by the older boys who carried a plow share down when they went to school and then carried the sharpened share home again. Mr. and Mrs. Sunley retired and lived in Isabella. Their family was: Ethel (Mrs. Albert Schofield); Norma (Mrs. George Torrance); Myrtle (Mrs. A. L. Decker); Ellery who married Jessie Bell; Ernie who married Allie Miller.

Wm. J. Hill came from England to Manitoba in 1879 when he was 19. He worked at railway construction and other jobs for a few years and then took for a homestead the S.E. ¼ of Sec. 28-Twp. 14-R. 25. He lived alone for some years until he married Miss Isabella Sutherland. There were seven children; the four eldest: Maggie, Susan, Isabella and John went to Blaris. When the second Carlingville school was built, some of their land was in that school district and, as it was closer, some of the younger ones attended there. About 1912 the farm was sold to Will Bell. The family moved to White Rock, B.C.

In the early days a young man named Freed lived on the section now owned by Elmer Clark. He was killed when a separator upset on him. This section 35 was in the Blaris school district.

Robert Bruce Wallace came from England as a young man. He worked on farms. In the days when threshing was done from the stacks, it was often after freeze-up when it was done. He would work on threshing gangs often as a busheler. He took a homestead on section 28 north of Isabella. He sold it and bought the N.E. ¼ of Sec. 26-Twp. 14-R. 26. This was Wm. Simpson's homestead. He then married Miss Barbara Sutherland. They also bought the N. ½ of Sec. 25-Twp. 14-R. 26. After Mr. Wallace died,

Alex Wyness rented it. Their daughter, Marion, went to Blaris. Mr. Wyness died and Fred Robinson went on it. After that, the present owner, Wm. Attwood, lived there.

Harry Guy Dowell came from England many years ago and homesteaded the E. ½ of Sec. 18-Twp. 14-R. 25. Some of his housekeepers had children who attended Blaris. He had a sale and Joe Johnston rented the farm for three years. Then Gordon Lelond came home from overseas and bought the farm. Mr. and Mrs. Dowell went to Brandon to live.

William Miller took up the S.W. ¼ of Sec. 17-Twp. 14-R. 25 as raw prairie. Mr. Miller sold this to George Torrance. Wm. Miller then bought the H. A. Wilson farm, now owned by Lorne Miller. When the Torrances retired to Miniota, Harry Gardham lived there until the farm was sold to Glen Sunley.

When listing land in the former Blaris school district, I omitted the S.W. ¼ of Sec. 33-Twp. 14-R. 25. I also omitted Norman Lawson who married Minnie Irwin. I am sorry that I omitted the story of W. T. and Lloyd Irwin.

Mr. William Iverach's Letter (1928)

In the rush and work of making a living for ourselves in these days, it is very easy to forget those who paved the way and laid the corner stone of our community as we know it today. It is well for us to go back, and in view of the hardships faced by the pioneers, we may realize that we who are here now are not the only ones who have had troubles. Many of our own are trivial as compared with the handicaps under which those earlier citizens lived and worked.

It is to be regretted that it is not possible to find a more complete and accurate account of those first homes and any who read this report and feel there are other names and events that should be mentioned will be so kind as to remember that no omissions were made purposely but only through lack of reliable sources of information.

No one living here now need to be told that Isabella was not the town of the pioneers. It is such an infant, as towns go, that many of us who are not so very old can remember its beginnings quite distinctly. Beulah dates back a little earlier and holds the honor of serving the pioneers, along with Birtle, Shoal Lake and Hamiota.

As far as can be determined, the home of John A. Frazer was the first to be erected in what we now call the Isabella district. They moved in here about 1879 and built a house on the banks of the Arrow River, on the same quarter section where Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Bedford now have their home. The house was built of poplar logs gathered from the bluffs around. There were six children but just how many of the family

were born in that house, is uncertain. To the best of our knowledge, the eldest son, William, was born there and his is the first birth recorded for the district.

For three years these people lived here without neighbors and during that time Mrs. Frazer saw no other white woman.

Their first neighbors were the Brownridges who made their home across the Arrow River north of Frazer's. On a corner of their farm the first school was built. The work was done by Joseph Broadley of Beulah and that his workmanship was excellent is testified by the fact that the school is still standing and in use, although now in a different location. When completed the school was named "Ethel" and its first teacher was Miss Nellie Elliott who is well known to many of us as Mrs. Eagland and whose home was then at Arrow River where two of her brothers still live.

The school was now used on Sunday for services. Previously services had been held in the Frazer home and in the Brownridge home. Rev. Alex Frazer was the first minister. His home was at Beulah and members of his family still live there.

The next year after the school was built a community picnic was held on May 21st, 1886. Seventy people were present. A photo of the gathering is still in the hands of one of the old timers. Quite a few of them are still in our community or in neighboring districts: Mrs. Bailey, Deckers, Iverachs, Heises, Mr. John Clark from Isabella, Mrs. Gow and the Frazers from Miniota. Rev. Long, who succeeded Rev. Frazer as minister. Miss Flora Fraser was the teacher in the school at the time. The day was fine. The leaves were out to make a pleasant shade. Even in '86, you see, the sun was kind on a picnic day.

In 1884 the first marriage was solemnized when Miss Eliza Brownridge was wedded to Mr. Enos Torrance. Mr. Torrance died about 25 years ago (1900) and Mrs. Torrance lived as a respected citizen of the Blaris district until two years ago, when she died at her daughter's home.

The first death recorded was that of Mrs. Robert Wood in 1883. They lived on the farm later owned by Mr. Donald Marshall, now owned by E. D. Heise. After his wife's death in Birtle, Mr. Wood left the district to return to Ontario with his little two year old son.

In 1883 the Heise family moved in from Portage la Prairie, where they had been for three years. The Heises and Brownridges brought horses with them, the first to come to the district. Mr. Heise also brought the first binder, a five foot Osborne Wire Binder. Mr. Henry Heise was the first sec.-treas. of

the Ethel School. The original record book is still intact and interesting.

There were no organized social activities in the early days. Visiting between neighbors was more popular then than now.

I have mentioned that church service was held in Ethel School. Then in 1899 a church was built at Orrwold, which still stands.

As the south end of the community was settled, the need for the new centre rose, and the building of Isabella school in 1905 became necessary.

Then a Ladies' Aid was formed, and a Missionary Society, with Mrs. Kelly, still a valued member, as the first president. The Isabella Church was built in 1910.

In 1909 the railway was built and with it came the beginnings of the little town. It was named after Mrs. Taylor, the oldest resident at that time. The first child in the town was born to the wife of the station agent and was named Isabella Opal Stone. Mr. Heddeshimer, later of Hamiota, built the first store, and the first bank did business in a tent until a suitable building could be erected. The post office was moved in from Wm. Iverach's farm, where it had been for several years.

The mail had been carried by Mr. Wm. Tennant of Arrow River. He came twice a week, calling at Lucas, which was in Mr. Campbell's house at Blaris; at Arrowton, then at Orrwold and on to Isabella. This made a trip of 36 miles twice a week, and to his credit be it said that the mail was late fewer times then, than it is now when it comes by the C.N.R.

So we have come to the present day. We could recount many more interesting things but perhaps we have said enough to prove our appreciation of the foundations that have been laid for us. May we continue to build, and may our building be worthy of the foundation upon which it stands.

Memories

This story of Isabella town was written by Mrs. Eva Kennedy in 1962, as she recalled the early days, when she first came to Isabella.

My daughter, Merle, and I arrived in Isabella on April 12, 1910. Isabella was just a townsite at that time. The station was being built. All the buildings in sight were a small store run by Mr. Heddeshimer, and my husband's blacksmith shop. Both buildings were located where the manse now stands. The only other residence besides our own small dwelling was a house Mrs. J. Thompson had moved in, to allow her children a better chance to attend school.

The railroad grade had been built to Beulah, but the rails were just laid to Isabella. A "Y" had been put in where the Stevenson house now stands.

During the summer, the Imperial Lumber Company, had shipped in a good supply of lumber. A hardware store was built with James Iverach in charge. His family arrived in July and occupied the Calder farm home for some time.

In the late summer what is now the Pool elevator was built, as well as a flour house. Mr. William Palmer, who had been a traveller for the United Grain Growers elevator company, was the first agent.

When the hardware store was completed, the Post Office was moved down from the William Iverach farm house. Another part of this building was fitted up for a bank, with a Mr. Thompson in charge. Mr. Stone was the first agent at the station.

The J. Thompson family moved back to the farm, and the section boss — Mr. Harold Harrison and his family took up residence in their house. Early the following spring, Mr. Palmer built part of the residence now owned by Mr. Robert Young. Later he added to it, and for many years this was the regular boarding house for the town.

During the summer of 1911, the people began to see a need for a church. The Presbyterians decided to build, and a short time after January, 1912, they had the present church and manse completed. The Methodists rented it for their evening services until 1917, when the two churches were united, and the evening service was discontinued.

As the railroad refused to survey lots on the north side of the tracks, the store, blacksmith shop and dwellings had to be moved to the south side. This was done in 1911.

The first school was built many years before the town was started. The south room of the highschool building was the original portion of the school. The north room was built in 1912 or 1913, followed by the primary room in 1920. The "tin" school was brought in from Omar, in 1923. The Brisbin house was built in 1910, followed by the Scott house in 1912. The Beveridge, Stevenson and Adams homes were built soon after. In 1914, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Iverach built what is now the Wayne Griffin house, and for many years it was used as a nursing home.

There have been two serious fires in Isabella. On Christmas night in 1917, Mr. Scott lost his store. This was replaced by the present one. The garage, which had been built by Jim Beveridge in 1920 was burned in the thirties, when Mr. Alex Clark was the garage-man.

The next big undertaking was the building of the rink in 1920. Much credit is due to the Women's Institute, for their constant energy and enthusiasm in pushing the project. Mrs. Stevenson, Senior, was president at the time and worked hard to accomplish this work. Canvassers had to cover all the district

twice before the amount promised was sufficient to attempt the building of the rink.

As I look back over the years since 1910, I think of so many fine people who have lived here and now make their homes in all parts of Canada. We welcome them so gladly when they come home.

Our Pioneer Days

by Mrs. W. Iverach in 1924

I have been asked to give a paper on our pioneer days, but as I was only a girl of twelve when we left our Ontario home, I have had to depend on other memories besides my own to gather up the story.

I can remember the day we left Toronto though, it was the 17th of March, 1880. We saw a copy of our old home paper a few weeks later which stated that we left on the 17th day of ould Ireland "and a foine day it was to be sure!"

We were a party of eight in a trainload called "Prittie's Party", so called because Prittie was the immigration agent who had charge of the train. We came by the States through Chicago and St. Paul to Emerson. None of us will forget changing trains in Chicago. Each person was loaded down with a bundle or parcel of some description. Mine was a little collie puppy. Ed's was a cheese box full of sandwiches which escaped from him and went rolling down the street ahead of us. At last we reached the buses that were waiting to take us across Chicago to the North-Western depot to catch the next train.

We made good time until we reached Dakota where we caught up with another train of settlers that had been blocked in snowdrifts for seven hours. We were looking out over a bare prairie with never a tree or scarcely a building in sight when suddenly we spied a man and some cattle emerging from a hole in the snow. Some of the party went to investigate and found that the man's stables were completely buried in snow and that he had tunnelled a passage and steps down through the bank to get his cattle out to water.

While we were waiting for the track to be cleared, so we could move, we passed the time with songs and recitations. Mary's concertina was the only musical instrument on the train and we still remember Johnnie Speers with his funny songs and speeches. It must have sounded good to the trainload ahead because they weren't long in coming back to our coach to join in the fun. Johnnie Speers was the life of the party. That evening, when everybody was tired and drowsing away, he walked into the coach with his coat turned inside out and with orange peel for teeth and called gruffly for tickets. When all the sleepy people had found them he laughed at them for their pains and walked on. On board the same train were three of our old Ontario neighbors who settled at Balmoral, and

the Neil family, three of whom are still a few miles north-west of Isabella.

We arrived in Winnipeg on a Sunday-crossing the Red River on the ice. All the party were feeling well with the exception of Ed who had caught a cold. We all attended Grace church in the evening.

Winnipeg would not attract much attention in those days unless you got some of its mud on your shoes. I remember Father trying to rub off his on the grass and remarked, "Well, I've heard of Red River mud and now I'm experiencing it!"

Next day all the party, with the exception of Father and the two boys, went on by stage to Portage taking nearly two days to make a trip that we now make in a few hours at most. We made our way over snowbanks as high as the houses and arrived at last at our friends, Mr. and Mrs. C. Logan's, who had come west some years before. We were given a warm welcome which we appreciated a great deal more, a few weeks later, when we learned that they had got a letter from Ontario, warning them not to let us in because of a small pox scare in the old Ontario district. Even dread of this awful disease didn't prevent them from taking us in and making us feel at home.

As for the people left in Winnipeg, Ed's cold developed into pneumonia and he spent two weeks in St. Boniface hospital. He still remembers gratefully the kind and considerate treatment received at the hands of nurses and sisters there. Six weeks passed before he was able to join the rest of the family. He went by river boat to Portage.

Father and brother Will had to wait in Winnipeg until our car of stock and household effects came through the States at that time because of the danger of spreading an epidemic among them, so our only stock was our pig, two horses and some chickens. It was ten days before they got out to Logan's and during that time we hadn't heard a word to let us know where they were or how Ed was. The boys went back for another load and the rest of the luggage came by barge when the river opened. Unfortunately the barge was sunk and although practically everything was recovered later, things were much damaged by the water.

At the time we came out, there was no railway past Winnipeg but shortly after, a track was laid on the prairie by a round-about way, coming into Portage from the north-east. Still later the CPR syndicate was formed, surveys were made, and an air line was taken from Winnipeg to Portage and on to MacGregor, Brandon, Virden, Elkhorn, and west. Before we moved up here, the track was laid all the way through the points mentioned.

The year after we came to Portage, brother

Henry, who had stayed in Ontario, joined us and Father decided the boys should secure homesteads someplace where all could get land close together. So after seeding was finished, a travelling outfit was hunted up, and Father and the two boys went on a land seeking excursion, going west from Portage, crossing the Assiniboine River at Little Souris and circling the Brandon Hills. From there, they could see Brandon, a city of tents. They went south of Brandon and made their way to Virden and from there to Elkhorn and Birtle where they met Mr. Orr, an uncle of the Mr. Orr who was in our bank here a year or so ago and whose name is still remembered through Orrwold, then a post office named after him. He told Father that land could be had in this district. They came to see it and were much struck with the appearance of the country and with the Arrow River which was then a good stream, so wide and deep that the stock had to swim across. Three years after we came to Portage we moved up on the homesteads. We had lived on rented farms during that time.

In the spring of 1883 Mother and we girls came by train to Elkhorn where Henry met us with the team. We drove to Beulah and from there to Brownridge's place which was just south and east of where Mr. Ed Allingham's farm is now — later the first school in this district was built on his place with Miss Nellie Elliot, now Mrs. Eagland, as teacher.

From there we went to Henry's homestead which has lately become Mr. Calder's farm. Henry was building a small frame house 12' x 16' and there we girls lived for the summer. The rest of the family lived on Father's homestead in a log shanty on what is now Mr. D. Anderson's place.

That same spring Father shipped a car of cattle and implements from Portage to Brandon and then he and the boys drove the cattle by way of Rapid City, Oak River and Viola Dale, which is about three miles east of where McConnell is now, to the homestead. Ed and Sim went back to Brandon for a load of implements.

That fall, lumber and shingles were hauled about thirty-five miles from the Big Bend Saw and Grist Mill which was a few miles north of where Strathclair is now. Part of the house was put up that fall and the front part and kitchen two years later, the boys doing the work themselves. The house still stands and is Mr. Anderson's home now. Although we were now settled in our new home, the pioneer stage was not yet past nor the hardships in connection with it. Our first crop was lost by fire. One of the neighbors set a fire which got away from him and although we fought as hard as possible and in spite of a guard we were forced to stand and watch our precious stacks burn down. You can imagine what that meant.

It was quite a task to get good flour too, in those days and even when you took your own good wheat to the mill you sometimes got back flour from someone else's frozen wheat. One time, a few years later, we thought we would try taking a load of wheat to Virden where we had been told a new mill was running. Sim started out one day with the load of wheat expecting to be back in three days, if not sooner. A week went by before we saw or heard anything more of him. We were pretty glad to hear the old dog, Toby, give the special little bark he kept for our men. He had sat on the trail almost steadily from the third day until Sim came back. Sim had had trouble on the way, first upsetting his load on the Assiniboine hill and finding, after he got to Virden, that the mill was not running. He drove on then until he found a mill before Brandon at Plum Creek, now Souris. This was just one of the long trips that had to be made in those days.

One of the most outstanding things of the early years was caused by the dry year of 1889. That spring was like no other spring we had seen in Manitoba. The snow was all gone early in March; we were sowing wheat on the nineteenth of March. Everything looked promising from then until the twenty-fourth of May when we had a heavy frost. The ground then was already dried out and we had no rain all spring nor was there anymore rain until fall. There was not even dew enough to wet your shoes at any hour of the day or night that summer. My husband cut all the hay in this township and hauled it home in one load and piled it in one double stall in the stable. We didn't know what to do with the stock; there was no market for them and no feed either. The men explored two sections of the Riding Mountain, both east and west of the Birdtail, but no place that would do for a pasture, could be found. At last, word came of a township of hay on the Turtle River east of Lake Dauphin. The men went up to see it, found a marsh of hay and a wooded ridge running through it. In August they put up the hay and built stables for the stock on the ridge and in October six men of this district drove up about one hundred and twenty cattle and horses to winter there. That was practically all the stock in the district at the time. What had to be left, the women and the few men who were left, had to pull through as best they could. On that same ridge at Dauphin were five other camps as large as ours within a mile. Some of the men came back to the Riding Mountain and worked in the woods while the others stayed to tend the stock. It was the following May before the stock could be brought back.

One more year of hard times would have disheartened the few who had stayed through, but the crop of 1890 was good and we got a good price for it which

made us decide to stay in the district we had chosen for our home. After that, times began to get better and although there were "ups" and "downs" as there still are, not one of us regretted leaving Ontario. Even Mother, after going back for a visit, preferred to live here. We were a happy, carefree sort of a neighborhood. People somehow did not seem to fret themselves over the dollars as they do now — perhaps because there weren't so many dollars. All our produce went in trade instead of cash; and eggs and butter were sometimes as little as six cents a dozen or six or eight cents a pound.

Up until now I have told you practically nothing of the social side of our life, so if you will just listen for a few minutes longer I will make it as short as I can.

The only church on the Portage Plains that we knew anything about was a Presbyterian one — a little log building situated at East Prospect, about six or seven miles north-east of Portage. The minister who preached there was a Mr. McKedar. It was, however, too far away for us to attend, so we held our services at the home of a neighbor, Mrs. McNeil. Mr. McArthur, whom many of you will remember, and who was a young man just out of college, was our minister. The last year we were at Portage we had the very great pleasure of being present at his wedding reception — at the home of Mrs. McNeil — and then we nearly missed it, for the bride, through some misunderstanding, came a day late. They had been married at Gladstone and had travelled from there to Portage by buckboard.

When we moved up here, we again held church at a neighbor's house — that of Mr. John Frazer. Mr. Hodnett was our first minister and Reverend A. Frazer the next. After service had been held at Mr. Frazer's for two years, it was changed to the Brownridges's. They were a family of good singers and, besides that, they had an organ — the first we had for a church service out here — and it certainly did make a difference in the singing of the hymns.

All the ministers whom I have mentioned were Presbyterian. Our first Methodist ministers were Mr. Betts and Mr. Young, both of Birtle. At this time we had a very pleasant surprise when we met Mr. McArthur and his family in Shoal Lake. We had lost track of them altogether and it was indeed a surprise to see them again.

In those days there were no women's societies at all — no W.M.S., no Ladies' Aid and no Women's Institute. I believe the first Ladies' Aid we heard of was organized in Birtle sometime in the 80's.

The first school to be built east of Beulah was built in 1885 on Mr. Brownridge's farm, not far from Orrwold. When it was finished we had our church

there and many of our other gatherings as well. The first teacher was Miss Elliot, now Mrs. Eagland, and after her came Miss Frazer, now of Miniota, but then of Hamiota. In 1886 we held our first picnic and a good time we had, too.

Well, while I could keep on telling you things for hours yet, I guess I'd better stop and let you come to modern things and the business of the hour.

Recollections from P. I. St. George

This letter was received about 1967, from Mr. P. I. St. George, who resides at "Woodsgift", Woodlea Way, Ampfield, Nr. Romsey, Hampshire, England. He had come to Canada, and accepted a position with the Northern Crown Bank of Canada, at Isabella.

You will no doubt be very surprised to hear from me after the passing of so many years since I was in Isabella. The year was 1909, when I went out to Canada at the age of 19.

I obtained a post as Clerk (Teller) with the Northern Crown Bank of Canada and was forthwith sent off with a Mr. Thompson (Manager) to open a branch of the Bank at Isabella. We arrived by train to Hamiota or perhaps it was Miniota, hired a buggy, and told the driver to take us to Isabella. After about a forty mile drive, we arrived at our destination, which was composed of one general store run by a bearded Mr. Heddesheimer, and one small house occupied by a Mr. Kennedy, his wife and small daughter — he being the local blacksmith.

So this was Isabella in its entirety and where our Bank was to be opened! I think you can imagine our mixed feelings. However, we pitched a tent and strung a canvas sheet across with the words, "Northern Crown Bank Of Canada" displayed on it in bold letters. The Kennedy's gave us all our meals daily — I cannot remember for how long. Looking East one day towards Rapid City, we saw smoke coming nearer and nearer towards us, which eventually turned out to be a train with a large gang of men laying a track which eventually stopped at Isabella. This was the Canadian Northern Railway, and in no time at all, up went a Railway Station, and which we were allowed to use as our Bank temporarily.

Later on another train arrived with a load of timber for the Imperial Lumber Company, who built themselves a Depot with the Northern Crown Bank adjoining. The Western Canada Flour Mills Company then erected an elevator, at which I helped as engineer at the same time as acting as teller of the bank!

I remember especially the schoolhouse on Sundays, where everybody, from far and near, came in their buggies and cutters to attend Service (regardless of whether Protestant, Roman Catholic, Methodist or

any religion). It was a wonderful way of meeting your friends.

As a small boy I had lived in India (my father being a soldier and stationed there). This fact became known, so I was induced to give a talk on India in the school house. I was only about 19 years of age at the time, and believe me, I was so nervous that the sweat literally poured off my brow, with the appropriate remarks and jokes of good humor from the younger element present.

I remember when the "Beef Ring" started and a heifer was brought weekly and tied to a tree by an imported butcher and slaughtered by an axe and shared around. Also in the winter I remember a driver with a team and a Bob Sleigh with straw on the bottom, going around picking up all the young folk and driving to Arrow River to skate on the ice there.

Mrs. Mac Pherson had a son and three daughters. They lived up Birtle way. We used to have barn dances at their place. One of the daughters was a teacher out east somewhere. They were lovely people, and I have a photo in my album.

I think you will agree, I have some wonderful memories over the 60 years. I only wish I still had the negatives so I could have prints taken off to send to you. They would show what Isabella really looked like in those very early days about 1908-9.

After leaving Isabella, I came back to England to take part in the 1914 war, which I was fortunate to survive, except for being blown up and shell shocked. However I am still alive at 77 years and went through the last war with the rank of Major in the Intelligence Corps. I am now retired and getting to be an old man I suppose, but my dearest and happiest memories go back to Isabella.

I would be more than grateful to hear from you and especially if there are any survivors of my time who might remember me. A photograph of present day Isabella would be most appreciated.

The only names I can remember are as follows:
Iverach — (Mayor) about two miles north of town
Kennedy — local blacksmith
Palmer — 2 or 3 miles west of Isabella
McPherson — Towards Birtle.
Heddesheimer — Kept the only store when I first went there. Can't remember the man that followed him, but still have a photo of him.

I will be very grateful if you would write to me.

Yours very sincerely,
P. I. St. George
(Major retired).

H. A. Wilson
by Mary Wilson

My father, Henry A. Wilson, looked forward

eagerly to his trips west, following the moving of himself and family to Ontario in 1912. He returned several times over the years, and although these were ostensibly business trips, he always took time to renew old acquaintances and visit with his friends.

At the time this story was written, his health was failing and he regretted that it had not been undertaken earlier. It was Dewart Harrison who prompted



Mr. Henry A. Wilson, Mary Wilson, and Mrs. Wilson.

him to put down some facts concerning the early days, as even at that time most of the original pioneers had passed on. I believe he took the notes to Dewart on what may have been his last trip West.

Through the years, perhaps three or four times, I have come across the rough copy, and have sat down and read it over. Each time I read this simple story I have been more impressed with the ingenuity, stamina, and courage of these early settlers, and reminded of how very much we owe to them.

Henry Wilson died at his home in London, Ontario, on January 26, 1941.

H. A. Wilson
written by Miss Mary Wilson, for her father,
Mr. Henry Wilson (January, 1933)

I was born in a log house in the year 1859, on the Town Line between West Zorra and East Nisourri, Oxford County, Ontario. My father and grandfather were Scottish emigrants, having come from Kilbarchan, Scotland, and my mother was English, her parents having been born in Cornwall. My maternal and paternal grandparents pioneered in the bush in Oxford County.

My father died in June, 1864, when I was five years of age. I was the eldest of three children, having

a younger brother and sister. In the winter of 1866-67 mother married again and I was taken up to the County of Bruce, with her. Bruce at that time was just being settled. The clearings were small and the buildings were of log and rather primitive. The roads were cut through the bush and were known as "corduroy". Where the ground was soft, round logs were laid side by side, close together, and sometimes covered with dirt, sometimes not.

The school, fortunately, was on the next farm. It was, of course a country school, and had one teacher for ninety pupils. It might not be amiss to explain here just why there was this staggering number of pupils for one man to look after. At the time we moved into the settlement there was a Roman Catholic school and church, both of log construction, on our farm. The supporters of these found that the upkeep of the school was too heavy a burden and asked that they be allowed to send their children to the public school. This request was granted, with the result that the attendance was doubled and as high as ninety-five pupils attended the school at one time. There were forty of us smaller pupils who sat on plain homemade wooden benches and had no desk of any kind. As I look back on it I often think that it was a good thing that the two schools were merged. With the passing of a few years prejudices were worn down and in my opinion both parties became better citizens as a result of their closer contact with each other.

I remember our teacher as a man of slight stature and slightly lame. It was his last school, as he later went to college and became a successful medical doctor. His name was Mr. Patterson. I went to school about four winters and perhaps one or two summers.

With the coming of sugar-making time, early in April, my school days for the year would be over. I well remember the stacks of maple sugar which was made on our farm annually. The sugar cakes were set in large milk pans and turned out as they were finished. These big cakes were piled one above the other in tiers, and in all there would be several hundred pounds of maple sugar made each year. Of course, this was the only sugar used by us for domestic purposes at that time.

The sugar-making season being over and the seeding time on, I helped to cover the seed by driving one horse hitched to a "V" harrow. This was a harrow with a hinge in the centre which allowed the two sides to fold up together and admit the harrow going between stumps, as the land was newly cleared. The clearing was added to from year to year, there always being fresh land to subdue. At that time there was absolutely no grass in the bush, the foliage being so dense and the trees so thick that it could not grow.

Very little stirring of the soil would permit a crop being sown on it. Of course, all grain sown in those days was sown by hand, just among the stumps, and reaped by hand with a cradle, raked up with a hand rake and tied by hand.

Some livestock was kept by each farmer, but the number of these animals was small owing to the limited acreage under cultivation. In some cases where there was a stream of water on the land the farmer would have a little beaver meadow, which helped out greatly for pasture for his stock.

Ten years with my mother and step-father passed uneventfully, and I was called back to Oxford County by my grandfather, to work the old homestead and share with my brother. This did not work out satisfactorily, and after four years I found myself cut adrift, without any financial backing whatever. In the meantime my grandfather died, but I was disinherited, and had to make my way without any financial assistance from then on.

I worked for two years for the man who purchased the family estate. Then I went to Goderich, stayed there for two or three months, and then started for the West, accompanied by my brother and a friend, William Copeland, of the Township of Culross, Bruce County. On the 25th of March, 1882, we took the train from Goderich and travelled by way of Detroit, Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul, and crossed at Emerson, Manitoba.

We landed in Winnipeg, a city at that time of 12,000 to 14,000 population, with a floating population of several thousand. We arrived on All Fool's Day, having been four or five days coming from Goderich. Some were sixteen days on the road, which had been blocked by snow.

It was in the afternoon when we arrived in Winnipeg, we went from one boarding house to another trying to obtain lodging. We couldn't find a building where there was room, even on the floor, if we would furnish our own blankets. Finally, we went into a place that was under construction, the walls being up. A man told us we could sleep in a big box in which furniture, or something of that nature, had been shipped. We piled shavings into this box and we had our own blankets and slept there. In the morning we went to a restaurant and had our breakfast, after which we resumed our hunt for a boarding house. This we finally succeeded in getting about ten o'clock, the only stipulation being that we would consent to sleep on the floor in the hall upstairs until there was a vacancy in a bedroom. We did this for about a week, breathing coal gas from the soft coal in the stoves with which the house was heated. This was a frame house on Main Street near Alexander — I

believe it was the corner house, and there were about forty boarders in it at this time.

Then we started out to look for work. The first job was working at a kind of dock on the Red River, where they were building three scows and a tug. I worked there for a time. When that job was finished I obtained work on the C.P.R., on a ballast train running from Winnipeg to the gravel pits at Bird's Hill. In those days this work was all done by hand, that is, with shovels.

I stayed with the railroad until the homestead fever got the better of me. My brother and I and William Copeland were together at the time. We started West to get a homestead about the middle of May. We went from Winnipeg to Brandon. The steel was laid from Winnipeg to Brandon on the prairie and even that late in the season there were snowdrifts on the right of way; in fact at Portage la Prairie the snow was as high as the telegraph poles, and passengers walking from the train down town stepped over the telegraph poles. This sounds exaggerated, the explanation is, that in the winter time, when the first drifts began to form along the tracks, these drifts were shovelled out, with the result that every wind storm increased their height. By spring it was a common thing that three men would be required to throw the snow to the top of the drift. The man on the track would throw it to a man on the shelf of snow higher up, who in turn would toss it to a third man who threw it over the top.

We were a day and a night travelling from Winnipeg to Brandon on the C.P.R. Express. There were all kinds of delays, such as being held up by construction trains and sometimes the coupling would break. I remember one time the engine broke loose and travelled some miles before the engineer discovered that the rest of the train was not attached. We would be on a siding for hours at a time to permit construction trains to go back and forth, etc. Finally we arrived in Brandon, which consisted of two or three frame houses, the remainder of the population living in canvas tents. We stopped at what was known as the Palace Hotel, which was entirely of canvas and divided into dining room, kitchen, sleeping quarters and a common room. Bunks were tiered along the canvas walls for sleeping. These were I think, three deep. We were about three days waiting for the Assiniboine River steamboat to take us up the river to Fort Ellice. Where we decided to look for land.

The river at this time was in flood, in fact the highest flood I have known it to reach. There were two boats, the one we were to take being the "Alpha". We started up the river on it and were about two miles I should judge on our way, when it began to sink, as it was overloaded. We heard the Captain

shout: "Blow the whistle like Hell for Heaven, we're going down." He ordered one of the boat hands to take soundings. This revealed the fact that the depth at the point where the boat was, was forty feet. He then ordered the Steersman to run her ashore. The Steersman replied that it didn't answer to helm. All this time the whistle was blowing continually. The other boat that we had left in Brandon came to our rescue, and as soon as they pulled along side they threw ropes out and lashed the two boats together. They cut the cattle loose on the "Alpha", and they jumped from her deck to the deck of the other vessel. There were sixty head of horses and cattle aboard. There was a wild scene for a time, throwing luggage of all kinds from one boat to the other. I remember one English fellow who jumped from the upper deck to the lower one, to which things were being thrown, and was repeatedly thrown to the floor by the luggage that was pitched that way. Excitement ran high until enough of the luggage and cargo was transferred to lighten the boat so it could be towed back to Brandon where the remainder of the cargo was transferred to the larger boat. This took about a day.

We started again. The waters were so high that the channel of the river could not always be followed and we ran aground several times, and had to tie up to a tree every night. We were four days on the trip to the Sioux Reserve, southwest of Beulah. Instead of going to Fort Ellice we got off the boat at the Reserve, and walked across the prairie to Birtle, a distance of perhaps fifteen miles. We had to go to Birtle because the Land Titles Office was there and it was necessary for us to obtain a list of the lands open for homesteading.

On our first trip from the Land Titles Office we went north from Birtle. We travelled a day around bluffs and sloughs and did not find anything to our liking. Footsore and weary we returned to Birtle, and stayed there overnight. Birtle at this time was a small village of log houses on the bank of the Birdtail Creek.

The next day Copeland and I decided we would see if we could buy a couple of ponies to ride. We succeeded in purchasing one each, mine being iron grey and his a bay. We bought them in the evening, and started out with them in the morning to the Shell River country, about which we had heard such glowing reports. This point is where the town of Russell now stands. There was no sign of Russell at that time. We noticed in the morning when we were getting ready to start that the male inhabitants of Birtle had congregated around the stable where we had purchased our horses. They had apparently gathered to see us off. I became suspicious that there was a joke somewhere, but we didn't know where it was. I

suggested to Copeland that we let our horses walk until we got out of sight of the crowd of interested spectators. We did this and passed out of view without mishap. After getting around the bend in the road and out of sight, I touched my horse with a whip with which I had been presented just before leaving. The horse jerked to a dead stop and then commenced to back up until I was in danger of getting into sight of the townpeople. Becoming desperate I dismounted and led him up to the top of the hill and safely out of sight of the villagers. From then on, to the close of that day my steed and I were at constant warfare. He either went as fast as he could go, or not at all! By that time, we were both played out. Copeland had fared better, his horse being all that could be desired in a pony.

We stayed that night at a settler's home, the owner of which was an Englishman, who had a library the equal of which few can boast. His wife was a Scottish half breed. They had about six children, some were dark like the Mother, others fair like the Father. The man had evidently been ranching there for some years and possessed a wonderful herd of cattle. He was a well educated man of gentlemanly appearance.

In the morning we resumed our journey, striking north to look over the lands on our list. We found nothing that appealed to us. We stopped for dinner at another settler's home. The people there admired my pony, and wanted to buy him. I took them up, and sold him for the same amount that I had given for him in Birtle. This left us about forty miles from Birtle, with one pony. We saw nothing that suited us and decided to return to Birtle and get a fresh list and look in another direction.

To get back to Birtle we used the "ride and tie" system of travel. We started off together, that is, one on the pony and the other walking, both travelling as fast as we could. After the one riding the pony got about two miles ahead of the one on foot, he dismounted and tied the pony to a bush or tree on the trail and started off as fast as he could walk on foot. When the other came to the pony he mounted and started off at a good clip, the pony having had a little rest, passed the one on foot, tied up again, this was kept up until we got back to Birtle.

We arrived at Birtle again, and called at the Land Titles Office, and got a new list open for homesteading, south and east of the village. Next morning we started out for township 14, range 25, the three of us going this time and on foot. We stopped over night at Tom Woods, and spent the next day looking over lands. The other two found places that suited them, and so enthusiastic about them were they, that they returned immediately to the Land Office to register them. They started back, leaving me to look over

some other lands that were marked on my list. Two of these appealed to me and I marked one as first and the other as second choice on my list, and started for Birtle, arriving between ten and eleven o'clock that night. It was a walk of about twenty-five miles, after having tramped all day over prairie without any road or trail.

Returning to Birtle I got on the Indian Trail, running between Birtle and Shoal Lake, about fifteen miles out of Birtle. The boarding house was full and I threw myself down on the floor beside some other unknown transient, and slept until morning. The door of this place (owned by Johnny McDougall) was never fastened, and it was a common practice to do just such things. We all hastened to the Land Titles Office the next morning to make our entries, and found that it was the 24th of May and the Land Office didn't open that day. On the following morning, the 25th of May, I was the first one to make a homestead entry.

At noon of the same day we arranged among ourselves that my brother was to take the pony which was unsold and ride it to Brandon. Copeland and I, on foot, went south to Beulah, and got the Sioux Trail there. What we intended to do was to walk to Beulah or a little past (12 miles) and stop at some homesteader's tent or shanty for the night. Such hospitality was never refused. However, at that season the days were long and as the sun was still high in the sky when we reached Beulah, we decided to go a few miles further. We therefore, kept going, and looked for a place to stop, but failed to come to one and darkness overtook us. We may have passed a shack or tent beside the trail after that but could not see it, and there was nothing for us to do but keep on walking. All through that night we walked. We had nothing with us to cut wood for a fire, and if we could find none along the trail and couldn't leave it for fear of becoming lost. We just had to keep going, as the ground was cold and damp. At times the trail led through sloughs, and it being dark we knew of no way around them and we just had to pull off our boots and socks, roll up our pants and wade through them. The night was cold and the sloughs were covered with a crust of ice which we broke at every step. When we came to the Arrow River we had quite a difficult time in crossing, as the river was a regular torrent and running swift and deep. I have passed this river many times in later years when there wasn't enough water in the river bed to give a sparrow a drink.

As the night wore on we began to feel pretty well fatigued, and when daylight broke early in the morning there was still no tent or shanty in sight. We had heard a dog bark once during the night, but at some

distance, and as it only barked once we could not locate it. After keeping on for quite some time we saw a settler's house and made for it, only to find it just an empty shack. We started on again and had not gone very far until we met a man on horseback. He told us that about a mile or two, farther on we could leave the trail and turn to the right and just back of a bluff there we would find a shanty. We both looked anxiously for that shanty, but we missed it in some way. We kept plodding on until about eight or nine o'clock, and finally came to a log house on the border of the Indian Reserve at Oak River. When we came to this house a woman met us at the door. We asked for breakfast, not having had any food since leaving Birtle the noon before. During breakfast the woman told us that it was fifty five miles from there to Birtle, and we had walked this distance without either food or rest.

After breakfast we rested for two hours and resumed our journey for the "end of steel". We arranged with an Indian to put us across the Assiniboine River in a canoe. For this privilege we each paid \$1.00, and bailed hard all the way across as the old canoe was leaking very fast and it was bail or sink. However, we got safely across and then climbed the Assiniboine Hills on the level prairie and made for the end of steel, which was about four or five miles from where we crossed the river. When we reached the end of steel we found a settler's sod shanty where we put up for the night. It cost us fifty cents each to lie on the earth floor on our own blankets. We were grateful for the shelter, never the less. The next forenoon we got a work train which was going to Winnipeg for supplies, and rode a flat car into Winnipeg.

When we arrived in Winnipeg, I came down with the low fever and was laid up with this for two weeks. We then, Copeland and I, bought our outfit. We planned to go into partnership — each partner to own a share. My share of the partnership deal was the wagon and plough and the tent, and a half share in the provisions. Copeland's share was the oxen and the stove, and the other half of the provisions. When we dissolved partnership each took that which he paid for, an arrangement which worked out very well.

We loaded our outfit on to a car in the yard at Winnipeg and shipped it to Brandon, our nearest point by rail at that time (sixty miles from the homestead). We unloaded at Brandon and started with the oxen hitched to the wagon. We were five days on the road and sometimes were stuck for hours in a mudhole and would have to unload. At one time we had to unload the wagon and take two wheels out of the mud. It rained every day, which made our pro-

gress very slow. We pitched our tent each night and slept on the ground, while the oxen fed on the prairie.

We got to Copeland's homestead first, in the evening and in a pouring rain. We spent a day or two getting the location and blocking out the place where he wanted his house and where he wanted to plough. He dug a cellar and made a trip to Birtle for lumber (about 24 to 25 miles). I broke ten acres on his homestead with the oxen while he was building his house and ten on my own and a few on my brother's place. Copeland wasn't a carpenter, but he built his own house. It was fourteen feet square.

By the time the breaking was done my cash had disappeared and about the middle of July I hired on with the Birtle Farming Company for \$30.00 per month and board. This company was formed to cultivate $2\frac{1}{4}$ sections of land. It employed a number of men, also a cook, etc. At first after going there I was given a team and put to breaking. Later I was given the job of freighting provisions for the camp from Elkhorn to which point the end of steel had reached. There were no buildings in Elkhorn, save construction tents, at this time.

I stayed with the Birtle Farming Company, and my brother came up and worked with them also, until the freeze-up in the fall. I then had to go to Birtle and get a load of lumber for a shanty for myself. One of the homestead rules was that we had to live six months in each year on our homestead and break at least fifteen acres on it. I built a shanty in a bluff. It was one tier of boards with tarpaper on the outside, fastened down with lath on the seams. Not being married, I could afford to live in a smaller house than Copeland and I therefore made mine twelve feet square. I secured a stove at Beulah. The furniture was homemade, out of spruce lumber and poplar poles. Being right in the bluff the house was warm all winter when the fire was on, but of course, it became intensely cold at night when the fire was let out.

My brother and I passed the winter in this shanty and in the spring he went back to the Birtle Farming Company. I stayed on the homestead and put in the crop and did breaking, until my money ran out, when I had to go to work to earn some more. I took mostly odd jobs as it was necessary for me to be near the homestead. The crop was good and I thought I had a fine one, but just as it was ripening it was frozen. As I only had a few acres this was not a very great loss.

During the first years we were in the west we made few acquaintances, due to the fact that we didn't know where our neighbors were. While I was breaking on Copeland's homestead, one Sunday, I started out to see if I could locate anyone else on the continent. I found a small log shanty down on the banks of the Arrow River. As was the custom of the

times, whenever one saw a house he went to it. I found the settler to be one Donald MacKenzie. His wife was lying very sick in a rude bed with no one to care for her except Mr. MacKenzie. There were several small children, and they were very short of provisions at the time, as of course Mr. MacKenzie could not leave his wife to go and get food. I returned home, set a batch of bread, baked it, and the next day took some down to McKenzie's place. I cannot recall making the acquaintance of any other neighbors until the following spring, as they all left their homesteads in the fall, some to return to the East and others to take work wherever they could find it.

In the Spring of 1883 they came back and I became acquainted with Tom Stevenson, Jack Clark, Walter Palmer, David Hill, William Bell, Frank Campbell, John Torrance and his sons Enos and James, Albert Pocket, Harry Spiers, John Cunningham, William Simpson and John Armstrong, all residents of our district, besides several other families in surrounding districts. During the first winter, of 1882, Copeland and his wife and my brother and I were the only settlers in the township, so far as I am aware. Chapman Harris and his wife lived in the adjoining township.

The second winter (1883-1884), I lived with a Mr. Truman Kelly, four miles from my homestead. Kelly was a married man and his wife was in Ontario. I think we went to every dance within fifteen miles all that winter.

I sold my oxen that fall and the next winter my brother and I went to Ontario, and in the spring of 1884 we took out a carload of settler's effects. We each had a team of horses, I had three cows and we had a pig each. I had a dog. I also had lumber for a house. I took out two dozen chickens, which I sold in Virden for \$1.00 each, having bought them in Zorra for seventeen cents each. I considered myself lucky, as the wolves would have taken them if I had got them to the homestead. I also sold one cow in Virden and another just before I got home. We figured when leaving Ontario that we would be out in time to cross the Assiniboine River on ice, but found that we were late and the ice was breaking up when we got there. In those days there were no bridges and we had to cross on the ice in the winter and on the ferry in summer. When the ice was breaking up the ferry could not run because the ice was thick when the river was in flood. When we reached the river the ice had jammed and the ferry was not running. We fell in with another man who wanted to cross, making three of us. As mentioned before, I was taking out lumber for a house. We laid down several feet of this lumber on the ice jam and what effects we didn't leave in Virden, we carried across on this lumber in boxes, bags,

etc. We took the harness off the horses, took one at a time and put a strong rope around their necks. By this time there were six or eight people on the other side of the river. I remained behind and started the horses off. I followed each one with a sharp whip and kept them going as fast as possible, because by the time we would reach the opposite bank the waters would be almost to the horses' knees. If they had not been kept moving briskly they would have gone down.

After getting across the river we had no further difficulty in reaching our homestead, except that the road was very poor on account of the trails breaking up. The cows we were forced to leave in Virden until the ferry started running. The pigs and the remaining poultry and other things we had to have, we carried across.

In the summer of 1884, I tore down my 12' by 12' residence and built a little more elaborate one, 14' by 22', a story and a half. I hired this work done, the carpenters being William Cox and Alex. Gordon.

During the fall of 1884 I went threshing with my team across the Assiniboine; came back when this was over and lived in my new house all winter. I had done considerable breaking by this time and put in a crop the following summer. I had several hundred bushels of wheat which was frozen and sold for from 17¢ to 35¢ per bushel. I raised something like 60 pigs that year and sold them, dressed for \$4.65 per hundred pounds. Times were hard and money very scarce, but we appeared to be happy. The people were very friendly and helped one another, and in this way we kept our expenses down. We were a stubborn group of settlers in our district as we refused to acknowledge defeat, though we were absolutely defeated every year for years with frost and drought.

The Blaris Public School was built in the spring of 1885, which was the year of the Riel Rebellion. For a number of years church services were held in the school-house, which was also used for what we would now term a community hall. Many an enjoyable evening was spent in that little school-room, the people gathering there for miles around. All of our entertainments, debates, etc., were without expense of any kind, and very different in this way from the present day.

During the summer of 1885 a number of small frame houses were built in the settlement, which began to take shape as a community. It often occurred to me that we were fortunate in having so many fine people settle in our community. Through all the hardships of those early years the greater majority stuck to their guns, while in the township to the north, all of the original settlers with the exception of William Taylor and Joe Chapman, left their homesteads.

In the winter of 1885-86 I went to Ontario and returned in the spring accompanied by Mrs. Wilson. That year was exceptionally dry, the crops being very light, most of the farmers not having even sufficient grain for seed for the following year.

The crop of the summer of 1887 was one of the best that the West has ever seen. Prices were low and the acreage under cultivation small, so that we did not profit greatly by the bumper crop. The following year, if I am not mistaken, was the year of the early frost on August sixth when the wheat was completely destroyed, and I for one burned the fields to clear them of straw. From 1888 on, conditions started to improve, although our crop was more or less frozen for a number of years but never completely ruined. We usually had some grain that was free of frost. As more land was brought under cultivation the damage from frost became less.

We were handicapped for railroad facilities and our roads were poor. When Statute Labour was abolished and the system of taxing the people and hiring labour to work on the roads was adopted, we soon had roads that were passable.

The first grain crops had to be teamed to Virden. In 1885 a line of railroad was built from Portage la Prairie through to Shoal Lake, Solsgirth, Birtle, Foxwarren, Binscarth and on west and eventually to Yorkton, Saskatchewan. Virden as the crow flies was 24-25 miles from the homestead and by trail some miles further. Solsgirth would be 18 miles in a direct line. Either Birtle or Solsgirth were better as a market than Virden, being shorter distance, and we avoided the Assiniboine River when we went to these points.

Prices were low for all farmers' produce in those days. I have sold three-year-old fat steers for as low as \$30.00 per head. When wheat got to be 60¢ to 65¢ per bushel we felt encouraged, as with a fair crop this enabled us to make a little advancement.

About this time, the odd sections, that is the C.P.R. lands, began to be picked up. The Canadian Pacific Railway owned each odd numbered section of land in each township, with the exception of the school lands of which there were two sections to a township. The Hudson's Bay Company owned 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ sections in each township. At this time C.P.R. lands sold for as low as \$2.50 per acre. Later the price advanced to as high as \$20.00, and sometimes more, per acre.

In the early days we had to store all our grain in granaries, as it was threshed, and market it in the fall and winter.

The first threshing machines were run by horse-power. In a few years these were replaced by steam engines, and the steam have largely been superseded by gasoline engines. The separators were fed by hand

and the grain was bushelled from the machine. Straw carriers handled the straw. Now all this has been replaced by self-feeders, the grain is elevated into the wagons by the machine and the straw is disposed of through a blower, which very much lessens the labour. I have noticed that with every advancement in convenience there has been a corresponding advancement in the overhead expenses.

In 1889 the Government granted the pioneer settlers the privilege of taking a second homestead. The quarter adjoining my original homestead was vacant, so I made application and succeeded in getting it. I then had a half-section of land. In the spring of the year 1898 I bought another half-section, and from then on, in fact up until the year we left Manitoba (1912) times were good and the farmers built themselves substantial houses and barns.

Improvements came quickly. Fences were built, roads were improved, and rural mail routes were established some few years before we left. Telephones were installed through the municipality, and taken altogether we were a very prosperous district.

In the year 1904 I bought a quarter-section south of the homestead and then owned 800 acres of land.

Help up to about that time (1904) was principally English and Canadian. From then on we had to depend more and more upon foreign labour, chiefly Galician. I have had many of these men, some good and some good for nothing. These men would appear in the spring and during the summer. In the spring a few would come, in haying time more, and in the harvest as many as twenty at a time would travel along looking for work. Their headquarters at that time was the Rosburn district. They carried their few personal belongings in a flour sack slung over their shoulder, and usually had included in this a loaf of black rye bread. Many of these men now own farms throughout the western provinces.

By this time a very nice church had been built on the corner of our homestead. This was used by the Methodist and Presbyterian denominations alternately, practically the same congregations attending both services. The church was burned down the winter of 1911-1912 and has since been replaced.

Any account of the district would be very incomplete without a reference to its church and school life. I have mentioned that for a number of years before the church was built, services were held in the Blaris School, but have not given the names of the ministers.

The first recollection I have of attending church services on the prairies was of a service held at the home of Mr. James Elliott of Arrow River. This was held in their house and the preacher was Reverend Hodnett, who was stationed at Birtle.

As stated previously, the Blaris Public School was erected in the year 1885. The first teacher was Mr. Thomas Stevenson, who taught for three seasons. I believe the school year was an eight months term, with holidays during the winter.

I can think of fifteen of the pupils who attended that school during these early years and later obtained teacher's certificates.

The Blaris school in 1933 is still in operation, and is one of the few schools in the municipality which has not been drawn into the consolidated school plan.

A word about the railway systems: when I first settled in Manitoba there was no railway closer than Virden, through which place the main line of the C.P.R. had just been built. At the time we left there were three lines of railway within four miles of the homestead, being the C.P.R. to the south (Arrow River), the main line of the Grand Trunk one-half mile north of the C.P.R., and a branch of what is now the C.N.R. at Isabella, four miles north.

An event never to be forgotten by those who witnessed it was the hailstorm which came just before harvest time in the summer of 1896. The storm came up on a Sunday afternoon. The black clouds came up from the west and I went out to bring in the cows to a shelter. I remember going into the house after this and telling my wife that I thought our harvest was about to begin in a few minutes. It did. Our crop was entirely ruined. It was by far the worst hailstorm ever experienced in that section of the country. It was a terrific storm and covered an area from somewhere in the neighborhood of Yorkton, Saskatchewan, which was northwest of us about 140 miles and went southeast to the Dakota boundary, which was 60 miles from us, so that it covered about 200 miles in length. Where we were, the path of the storm was about 10 miles wide, but in some places it was only about a couple of miles in width. The farm to the west of us, which was owned by Robert Bell was unharmed while on ours, and all east of us, for about eight or nine miles all crops were completely destroyed. The windows on the north and northeast sides of the buildings were all broken. The marks made by the hail stones were in the lumber on the north sides of frame buildings on our property when we left the west. The bark was stripped off the trees. Any fowl outside at the time of the storm were killed. There were geese on Hoopers Lake, north-west of Beulah and I heard that they were all destroyed by the hail. The stones were jagged and all kinds of shapes, excepting round. They were very large and fell in such quantities that in sheltered places where they had piled up they could be scooped up the following day. That was depression enough for one year.

There was, I believe, there still is, an abundance

of wild flowers throughout the summer on the uncultivated parts of the prairies. The woolly crocuses appear in great profusion early in the spring very soon after the snow disappears, and are followed by violets, cowslips, buttercups, sweet-scented roses, tiger lilies, yellow ladies' slippers, black-eyed susans and very many more varieties of beautiful wild flowers dot the prairies up to harvest time.

Wild fruits such as strawberries, raspberries, chokecherries, pincherries and saskatoons were plentiful; while the wild cranberries grew on the banks of the Assiniboine River and the Indians sometimes came around selling them — these shirt-buttons as the children called them.

The land is not flat but slightly rolling, and in our part of the province we had an abundance of poplar bluffs. This type of poplar does not grow to any great size, but provides good shelter and fire wood.

We had our little garden plot and grew such vegetables as potatoes, peas, beans, beets, carrots, and onions. For some years we did not attempt growing tomatoes or corn. For sometime before we left, however, these were grown successfully, and now even such fruits as plums and apples are grown there with very good results. We had a few black currant bushes in our garden which yielded more currants and larger ones than any bushes of the kind I have seen before or since.

As to animals — the coyotes or prairie wolves were plentiful and carried off any of the domestic fowl which ventured out from the shelter of their home yards, and sometimes they even were bold enough to take them right out of the yard. Rabbits were plentiful some years, that is the cotton-tail, and later the jack rabbit. Gophers were a considerable menace to the grain crops in the early days. There were the usual small fur-bearing animals, such as the weasel, skunk, badger, muskrat, etc.

Prairie chickens, partridges, wild ducks, occasionally wild geese and what was called wild turkey or sandhill crane were in evidence in the summer. The prairie chicken makes a particularly toothsome meal and these birds were killed off in such numbers that they were threatened with extinction. As a result the shooting season for them was very short and I believe they are becoming more plentiful.

While wheat was the main crop of almost every farmer, the majority of the farmers grew other crops as well, chiefly oats and barley. I grew a small plot of flax successfully but only tried it once, owing to the difficulty of having it threshed.

On the whole a fine grade of horses was kept, most of the farmers having a team of drivers and sometimes a saddle pony.

Several thriving towns and villages grew up.

When we first went out, Birtle was our nearest village. It had two small stores, two hotels — wide open twenty-four hours a day — the land Office, and the Registry Office, a blacksmith shop, butcher shop and such other shops as were necessary to the business of the town. The dwelling houses were mainly of log construction. I recall that at least one of the hotels was made of logs. There was a post-office at Beulah which was established, I believe, somewhere around 1882, and a little store. Since then Miniota, Arrow River, Crandall and Hamiota have sprung up along the C.P.R. Then when the main line of the Grand Trunk was built provision was made for a number of villages or stations along their line. These all failed to amount to anything, the grain elevators, etc. built at these points being later removed, and now there is no station between Pope and Miniota on this line. Along the north line of railroad there is Beulah, Isabella and Decker, each with its grain elevators, and apparently doing a good business, as this is one of the best grain districts in the province.

I could not bring the above remarks to a close without saying a tribute to the pioneer woman, whose loyalty, courage and devotion were largely responsible for whatever success was achieved.

These notes may be of some interest to the present generation living in the Birtle District, as I have tried to give some reminiscences of the early days in this particular district, and am writing this some fifty-one years after my pioneer experiences in Manitoba. It is quite possible that there may be some slight discrepancies in the dates given, owing to the facts that I have never kept a diary, and the above facts have just been set down as I to-day remember them.

Firsts:

The first pioneer in the Blaris district was Henry Wilson in 1879. The first pioneer in the Isabella district was John Fraser in 1879; in the Ethel District George Brownridge in 1882. The first death in the district was Mrs. Robert Wood in 1883. That was the year that Mr. Peter Heise bought his five-foot Osborne Binder. The first marriage at Ethel was Miss Brownridge and Mr. E. Torrance in 1884. Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Argyle were the first couple married in the Isabella church. Opal Stone was the first child born at Isabella, Walter Hill, at Blaris and Will Fraser, at Ethel.

The first bank in Isabella was in a tent. Henry Heise was the first Secretary Treasurer of Ethel School. The first picnic at Ethel was on May 21, 1886. The first store was opened in 1910. The first Ice-well was built in 1926 on the Harry Reid farm. The first organized wolf hunt was in 1900. John G. Sutherland had the first lighting plant in 1919, Will Palmer had the first car in Isabella, and John Clark in Blaris in 1912. Crockett, Thompson and Chapman had the first Steamer and thresher. Thos. Stevenson had the first top buggy, and Mr. J. D. Harrison had the first self rake reaper. Will Bell had the first swather, John Clark had the first Gas engine separator 1907. The first poultry shipping pool was held in 1921 C. T. Wall had the first Television in 1955.

Ethel school was built in 1885, Orrwald church in 1899, Blaris school in 1885, the first burial in Isabella Cemetery was Mrs. W. Wallace. The first house in Isabella town was owned by Jim Thompson 1910.

Mr. D. J. Hill had a horse powered rolling-mill to roll grain for livestock. He also had the first binder which took two oxen and a horse to operate.

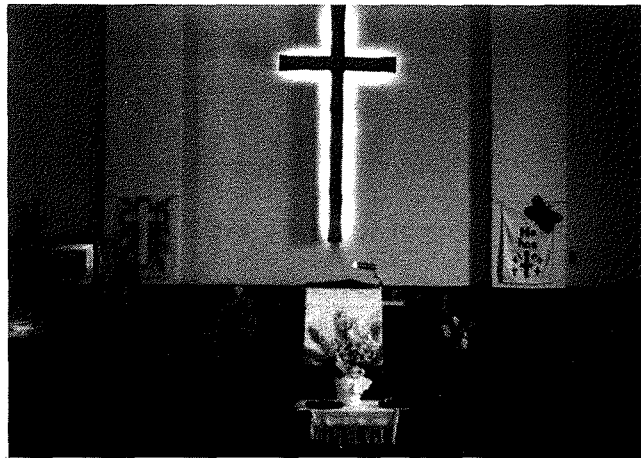
Churches



Blaris Church, 1879-1982 (torn down).



Isabella Church, 1980.



Interior of Isabella United Church.



Isabella Congregation, August 30, 1981: John Coxworth, David Irwin, Lloyd Irwin, Art Heise, Margaret Coxworth, Arla Heise, Margaret E. Heise, Dave Heise, Margaret Irwin, Jessie Wall, Bernice Still, John and Dorothy Finkbeiner, Brenda Mac-Lauchlan, Charlie Casselman, (both student ministers), Ina Doran.



Leslie Bowman, Rev. H. I. Bowman, Mrs. Bowman.

The Presbyterian Church at Blaris R. L. Stevenson

The first settlers in the Blaris district who were of the Presbyterian faith attended church at Arrow River where services were held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Sr. by Rev. Hodnett. At that time, services were only held periodically as Rev. Hodnett had charge of all the settlements from Birtle to Oak Lake.

The first move toward Presbyterian service in this district, was in 1883 when on the 7th of October Rev. Alex Fraser was appointed to take charge of a portion of the Mission field then under the charge of Rev. Hodnett. The new field to include Beulah, (that was later) Blaris, Arrow River and Miniota congregations. However Rev. Fraser was taken ill of fever and died on the 24th of October the same month in which he was appointed to take charge. No further services were held as no minister was available until the spring of 1884 when Mr. Duclose a student minister was sent out to take charge as assistant to Rev. Hodnett for the summer months. Up to this time, services were held in the homes. But in 1885 Blaris school was built and Mr. McDonald another student missionary was sent out in the spring of 1886 holding service in the school and leaving in the fall to resume studies at Manitoba College.

Shortly after he left, Mr. Littlehales was appointed, to take charge for the winter and Mr. McDonald at the request of the congregation, was re-appointed for the summer of 1887, with Mr. Colin Mc Kercher here for the winter of 1887-8.

On April 1st 1888 Rev. John McArthur the first ordained minister, was appointed by Brandon Presbytery to take charge of the field which was again

divided in 1890. Penrith, Arrow River, and Miniota formed one field, and Beulah, Blaris and the Indian Reserve another. The latter field retaining Rev. McArthur as minister, until he resigned in 1902 and moved with his family to New Zealand.

In June 1902 Rev. A. McMillan was called to the charge and during his term as minister, the people to the northern part of the district organized a congregation and held services in the Isabella school. The reserve was taken from the charge and Rev. McMillan held services at Beulah, Blaris, Isabella and Gnaton until 1906.

In 1903 the Methodist congregation built the first Blaris church and the Presbyterian congregation also held their service in the new church.

After Rev. McMillan resigned, the congregation was served by supply for some time. Rev. Burgess supplied for a considerable portion of this time.

In 1907 Rev. Wm C. Murdock was called to his charge and it was during his term that the Presbyterian W.M.S. was formed. Also the Young Peoples Society of Christian Endeavor was organized, which held regular meetings and were quite well attended by Young people of both denominations. During this time, the Methodist Church was burned down and rebuilt by the Methodist and Presbyterian congregations as a Union Church.

In 1911 Isabella at the request of Presbytery withdrew from the field and joined with Orrwold. The Indian Reserve was again joined with Beulah and Blaris.

Rev. Miller was the next minister followed by Rev. Alex. Riddell, who was in charge when Local Union was organized in 1923.

The Methodist Church at Blaris Mr. R. L. Stevenson

The first services held by the Methodist Church in this community were occasional services held at the home of Mr. John Torrance on the N.W.16-14-25 in 1883 by a minister from Birtle who was a Methodist, an Irishman, and who rode the circuit on horse back, but whose name unfortunately can not be recalled. But in 1884 there were regular organized services held there.

The first quarterly meeting of the Beulah Circuit was held at Beulah on the 23rd of August 1884, when the following Stewards were appointed. For Beulah: J. W. Sparling and Joseph Bradley; for Arrow River: J. T. Lynch and Wm. Copeland; for Brownridges: Peter Heise and George Brownridge; and for Torrances: Jas. S. Torrance. Geo. Brownridge was also appointed recording Steward.

At a board meeting held at Beulah November 8th 1884, two more appointments joined the field. They

were Masons now Rothesay and Eyers later Arrowton.

At a meeting of the Quarterly Board held on May 17th 1885, the following motion was passed. Moved by J. W. Sparling, seconded by J. T. Lynch, "That Torrances appointment be moved to the new school, being built in the neighborhood". This was the Blaris school, and Mrs. Enos Torrance was organist for both Methodist and Presbyterian services for quite a number of years.

The first Methodist Minister to preach in the Blaris School, was Rev. James Rawson, followed by Rev. Geo. H. Long; then Rev. Wm. P. McHaffie; then Rev. T. B. Beynon. He owned the S.E. ¼ of the section on which the church was built for quite a number of years. It is now owned by Mr. Earl Miller.

The records show that Blaris associated with a number of other appointments. In 1888-9 the Rev. T. B. Beynon assisted by local ministers had charge of ten appointments; Beulah, Blaris, Ethel, Arrow River, Carlingville, Chumah, Miniota, Hamiota, Viola Dale and Oak River.

In later years Blaris was associated with Crandall and Arrowton, and later still with Miniota, GlenLochar and Isabella.

Following Rev. Beynon, there were Rev. S. O. Irwin, Rev. F. G. Huntsman and Rev. James Murchison.

In 1896 the Beulah Circuit decided on building a parsonage and as Blaris was the most central, a parsonage was built just east of where the present church now stands.

This arrangement only lasted a very few years, as the coming of the rail road in 1899 to Crandall and Miniota made necessary a re-arrangement of the field. A parsonage was built in Crandall, and the building at Blaris sold to Mr. Henry Wilson and now forms part of the Lorne Miller home.

The first minister to live in the Blaris Parsonage was Rev. W. R. Hughes followed by Rev. S. W. L. Stewart who lived there till the parsonage was built at Crandall. He still preached at Blaris as at that time Blaris was connected with Crandall and Arrowton.

The next minister was Rev. H. L. Smith followed by Rev. A. B. Osterhout.

About 1901 the congregations of both Methodist and Presbyterian churches began to plan to build a church. A great many meetings were held and at one time each had decided to build, the Methodists at the present site and the Presbyterians 1½ miles north, but early in 1903 the Methodists made a proposition that they would build the church and rent it to the Presbyterians at a percentage of the cost of building and upkeep. This was accepted and the church was built

that summer, with some assistance from Presbyterian members of the congregation.

Nesbitt and Tulley were the contractors who built the church. (There were two Nesbitt brothers and Mr. Tulley). The church was built with a main auditorium and a lecture room or class room on the east side.

Rev. Osterhout was the minister until late in 1906, when Blaris was again joined with Miniota and Rev. R. A. Basham was appointed minister for 1907, followed by Rev. T. Y. Williams 1908 and Rev. J. H. Shemilt for 1909-1910, Rev. H. C. McNeil 1911, Rev. F. A. Chapman for 1912, Mr. J. T. Wotton 1913, Rev. T. W. Bird 1914-16, Rev. H. L. Reynolds 1917-19, Rev. C. E. Somerset 1920-23 when a Local Union was organized.

The church was burned down in the spring of 1912 and rebuilt as a Union Church by the Methodist and Presbyterian Congregations in 1913. The contractors who built this church were Kircaldy Bros.

Local Church Union

by Mr. R. L. Stevenson

When church service was first held in the Blaris School, and later in the church, they had an arrangement that was rather uncommon. Service was taken on alternate Sundays by Methodist and Presbyterian Ministers. At first Mrs. Enos Torrance was organist for both services. Later when the church was built, a Methodist Minister would preach one Sunday, the Methodist Hymn Book would be used, and a member of the Methodist Church would be organist. The alternate Sunday it would be a Presbyterian Minister preaching. The Presbyterian Hymnary would be used and a member of the Presbyterian Church would be organist. The choir would be almost the same both Sundays, and there would be no difference in the congregation from one Sunday to the next.

With this background, it was only natural, that the two congregations were ready and impatient for Church Union.

So, in 1922, they along with congregations in some of the surrounding churches, decided to do something locally. Meetings were held from time to time and in 1923 at a joint meeting of the Methodist and Presbyterian congregations at Blaris, the fifty-three members present voted unanimously in favor of Local Union and agreed on an arrangement whereby they would unite and support the parent churches on a 50-50 basis.

This arrangement held good and worked quite satisfactorily, until the United Church of Canada was organized in 1925.

Rev. Alex Riddell, who was the Presbyterian Minister in 1923, stayed on for the balance of that year. He was followed in 1924 by Rev. A. B. Simp-

son, who remained on the field and was the first minister under the United Church of Canada. He left in June 1927, to do work with the Church of All Nations at Port Arthur, Ontario. For the next two years, the minister was Rev. J. Dunnet, who in 1929 went to Scotland for further studies and the charge was taken for a year by Rev. G. H. Hinds. He was followed in 1930 by Rev. H. I. Bowman, as the field was again rearranged to be the Isabella, Beulah, and Blaris field, Rev. Bowman was the minister until 1947 when he moved to B.C. Rev. W. Royle was the minister for three years, followed in 1950 by Rev. S. Walmsley who was in charge, when the church was closed in 1952. Most of the members joined the Isabella congregation. Some at the southern part of the district joined with Arrow River.

The Blaris Sunday School was organized almost as soon as church services were held in the school house. It was always a Union Sunday School.

Some of the early officers were Mr. J. D. Harrison Superintendent; Mr. Thos. Grey, Secretary; Mr. Thos. Stevenson, Bible class teacher; Mr. Wm. Hill, young men's class; Mr. Wm. Iverach, young women's class; Mrs. T. Stevenson and Mrs. Wm. Rowles teachers of younger classes.

First Church Service In The Schoolhouse by Nan Emerson

The brand-new school was finished, word spread
the country wide.

There would be church on Sunday, the building
sanctified.

Some folks came a-walking, and some on
horseback rode,

In two-wheeled carts and buckboards they came
rumbling down the road.

In two-seated democrats families rode with pride.
Top-buggies — some with gay red wheels and
whipstock on the side.

The horses were as varied, from ponies small and
neat

To those handsome Clydesdales with such
enormous feet.

Some were high-stepping drivers, pacers, too, and
nags.

Remember all the little girls, their curls fresh out
of rags?

Or else long braids a-down the back, tied with gay
ribbon bows.

Big boys in pants above the knee felt stiff in
Sunday clothes.

The ladies in their sailor hats, long pins to skewer
them straight,

(Two-ninety-five in the catalogue-number sixty
eight.)

How they all come back to mind, those sturdy
pioneers.

Their names ring like a roll-call that echoes down
the years.

Iverachs and Heises, Taylors, Clarks and Dunns,
Sutherlands, Finkbeiners, Kellys, Harrisons,
MacPhersons and Miss Elliott, Reverend Murdock
and his wife,

Reids and Wrights and Arisses, The Squibbs, Stills
and Jack Forsyth,

The Palmers, Calders, Drummonds, The Warrens,
Sunleys, Wall,

Chapmans, Phillips, Millers, Stevensons and Hall,
Craigs, Wallaces, Doran and other folk whose
forms I almost see,

But though I struggle for their names they've left
my memory.

How still they sat, how reverent; how strongly
swelled the song;

And only little children thought the sermon
overlong,

They heard again the word of God, The Holy
scriptures read,

Their thirsty souls were satisfied; their hungry
spirits fed.

Then, the service ended, the benediction o'er,
They began a weekly visit, all clustered 'round the
door.

Dedication to Isabella Church by Jean Evelyn McPherson. (Deceased 1940.)

Our Father God we now present
This earthly house to Thee.

O let Thy blessing rest on her,
Thrice happy may she be.

May many souls be born in her;
Born for eternity.

And many more upbuilt in faith,
Most holy faith in Thee.

May sinners be convinced of sin,
And to the Saviour fly
For Thou wilt never turn away
The souls to Thee that cry.

Oh, touch thy servants lips dear Lord,
As with a coal of fire,
As he expounds to us Thy word;
Compass his heart's desire.

Now let Thy benediction rest
Upon us as we roam
Until the day that we shall meet
In our eternal home.

Isabella United Church

The pioneers of Isabella early recognized the need for establishing a Christian church to have regular meetings for worship. Before any organization was attempted here, the early settlers attended the church at Beulah under Rev. J. MacArthur and also services as early as 1885 in the Blaris school and later in the Blaris church which was built in 1904. The first year of services held at Isabella was 1905 and 1906 with Rev. McMillan as the minister. These were held in the Isabella school. Names first appearing on the records were: Wm. Iverach, David Wright, Don Iverach, James Drummond, Ed. Ariss, Miss Frazer, W. S. Palmer, Wes. Stewart, Tom. Arris, Harry Reid and J. Dunn.

The field as first organized consisted of Beulah, Isabella and Blaris. A call was sent to Rev. Wm. Murdock, who accepted and came in the spring of 1907. Some can remember the snappy team of ponies that he drove, which, of course, is not the only thing we remember.

In May, 1910, a meeting was called to consider the erection of a church at Isabella. Mr. C. Craig and Mr. Wm. Iverach were authorized to get plans and specifications from Mr. Anderson at Hamiota. Quite a bit of discussion centered around which denomination should build the church. It was finally decided that the Presbyterians would build and the Methodists would pay rent for the use of the church. Building was started in the summer of 1911 and the main part completed by winter. Rev. W. Murdock remained as minister until the end of November, 1911, when the field was changed to Isabella and Orrwold. Rev. M. J. Leith became the minister and served one year.

In the fall of 1911, the manse was built and a picture of Mr. Leith standing on the back steps with his pet wolf hounds is still clear in the minds of some members of the congregation. After Mr. Leith left, Mr. Murdock returned from December, 1912, to the end of February, 1913. Rev. W. Ross was called and came to the charge in March, 1913, and remained as minister until September, 1918.

The theme of Union seemed to be to the fore from the beginning of the church. A Union Sunday School was repeatedly mentioned in the minutes. On July 3rd, 1912, a congregational meeting was held to consider this resolution by the Session. "We recommend that a meeting of the Presbyterian Church be called to consider the whole question of Union and to devise some means whereby we may all work at this point under one organization." Signed Wm. Iverach, W. S. Palmer. M. J. Leith. However it was not until the spring of 1917 that definite action was taken and Isabella Union Church was formed.

The congregation was without a regular minister

until Rev. W. J. King came in July, 1919. He left in June, 1922. In 1920 the field was expanded to include Decker. Rev. H. C. Harris was called in July, 1922, and stayed until June, 1924. He was followed by Rev. J. C. Anderson who remained until June, 1927. While Mr. Anderson was with us the United Church of Canada was formed in June, 1925. A call was sent to Rev. H. I. Bowman who came in July, 1927. We were served faithfully for twenty years by Rev. Bowman, which comes close to being a record. In July, 1930, our field was changed back to Isabella, Beulah and Blaris.

Rev. H. I. Bowman was followed by Rev. W. Royle who stayed from July, 1947, to June, 1950. In July, 1950, S. Walmsley, a student, came and served for two years. In July, 1952, the field was changed to a four point charge and called Miniota-Isabella. Rev. K. Moffatt came to this new field in July, 1952, and stayed until June, 1955. We were then served by supply — Prof. K. Hamilton and Prof. G. Newcombe until Rev. A. M. Watts came in December, 1955. He left in the spring of 1959 and again Prof. Hamilton and Prof. Newcombe supplied until Rev. C. A. Geddes came in August, 1959, and remained until 1962 when Rev. J. Sloan became our minister in July, 1962.

A Sunday School was started at the same time the church was organized and continued to serve faithfully all through the years. The Sunday School has given us some records that are outstanding: Mr. Wm. Iverach served as superintendent for sixteen years; Mrs. J. T. Finkbeiner served as secretary-treasurer for seventeen years; Mrs. T. J. Kennedy served as teacher of the beginner's class for nearly thirty years. Mention should also be made of well attended boy's and young men's classes and their faithful teachers; the Women's Foreign Missionary Society was organized in June, 1911, with Mrs. Don. Iverach as president.

In March, 1912, a Union choir was formed and its offer to sing at the morning service was accepted by the Presbyterian congregation. Miss Retta Kelly, now Mrs. C. Lints, had been appointed organist and continued as organist for the Union choir. It is fitting that a word of appreciation be given to all who have helped with church music over the years. We have had many outstanding choirs which have added so much to our services of worship.

Some events of note over the years might include: the first wedding in the church was Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Argyle; the burning of the mortgage on the evening of Feb. 10th, 1920; the purchase of a Thomas organ from Knox Church, Brandon, in 1937; the unveiling of the Honor Roll on June 15th, 1947;

dedication of a Hammond Organ in June, 1957; installation of the "Cross" on Feb. 9th, 1957.

In a lighter vein, these minutes were recorded at a Congregational meeting in the school house on Dec. 30th, 1907 — Quote: "Rev. Murdock in the chair. After Divine Service led by Mr. Murdock, business was proceeded with. The explosion of a tea-can created a laugh and some excitement." And from the minutes of the meeting of the building committee, May 23rd, 1910, quote: "The meeting adjourned to see Halley's Comet."

This history has been made possible by a complete record made by the three secretaries. In 1907, Mr. W. S. Palmer was elected secretary-treasurer at the first congregational meeting. He held office until Feb. 1912 when Mr. S. P. Heise was appointed sec. treas. In September, 1920, Mr. R. E. Heise was appointed assistant and at the 1921 congregational meeting, received the appointment of secretary-treasurer.

On August 27th, 1961, the fiftieth anniversary of the building of the church was held with three hundred attending the service at the church. Two former ministers Rev. H. I. Bowman and Rev. K. H. Moffatt were in charge of the service assisted by the minister Rev. C. A. Geddes. After the service, a social time was held in the Community Hall. Lunch was served, friendships renewed and photographs and souvenirs of the pioneers were on display.

In January, 1962, the former women's church groups, the Ladies' Aid, the Women's Auxiliary and the Women's Missionary Society were dissolved and one organization was formed called The United Church Women.

Isabella United Church — update

In the 1981 annual report issued by the Birtle-Miniota Wider Parish you might find some information on the Isabella United Church. You would find that we share the services of a husband and wife team ministry, namely, Bruce Faurichou and Teresa Moysey. There are fifty-one households under their pastoral care in this community and our share of the proposed budget for the coming year is a little more than five thousand dollars. Our mission and service objective is not quite two thousand dollars. We represent thirteen percent of the whole parish.

Our church service begins at eleven o'clock. Please note that the time over the years has varied and is set at the Wider Parish level subject to local approval. If you plan to join in our Sunday worship, it might be wise to check the exact time as we have been known to begin worship as early as nine a.m. The month of July and the first Sunday in August serve as our annual holiday.

Margaret E. Heise with her assistants, Linda Clark and Connie Choptuik, provide our organ music. Previous organist, Beatrice Wright, contributed much to the church music by introducing the congregation to the new red hymn book. Donna Johnson's work with choirs has also been noteworthy. Either Teresa or Bruce will be in the pulpit. There may not be a choir unless Linda Clark and Sheila Pierce have a special song from the junior choir. The item on the folder called, "Time for Children (Isabella)", has grown to be a regular feature of the church service. As if propelled by hidden springs, six or more very young people will hurry to the front centre pew for a talk with the minister. The conversation may range from what they have been doing this week to how a newly opened jar of peanut butter may be likened to a fresh new day. Sometimes the story is told by Thumper and Flower, two well-loved puppets. This is followed by what is sometimes termed, the "Grand Exodus", as children and teachers make their way to Sunday School classes. Don't rush off following the service for it is at this time that a lot of visiting takes place. Georgina Pierce may be practising a solo for some future service, some committee may wish to hold a short meeting, or others will just be talking over last night's hockey game. Of course, if someone who used to live at Isabella or some local young people are home for the weekend, it is good chance to find out how they are getting along.

As in the earlier history of our churches, the past twenty years have seen changes in the pastoral charge. In 1962, when John Sloan was with us, the minister lived in a manse at Miniota. Now the ministers live in Birtle. For some years the Isabella manse was rented to Mr. and Mrs. R. Campbell, then to the Evenson family, and finally it was sold to the Charlie Nichol family. At present it stands vacant. Each spring there is evidence of Mr. Bowman's garden as the fruit trees come into bloom. One oak tree provides children and squirrels with the opportunity to gather acorns.

Arrow River, Beulah, Isabella, and Miniota have shrunk in population as most rural communities watched farms increase in size and populations dwindle. Arrow River church closed. A move by the Birtle Presbytery to enlarge the pastoral charges resulted in the formation of the Birtle, Isabella, Miniota larger parish on April 23, 1969. It was named the Birtle-Miniota Wider Parish and at the end of June of that year it was staffed by Rev. Jim Maxwell and Rev. Bob Kayes. The name was taken from the two municipalities which the parish included. A few years later Beulah church withdrew. Several families from Beulah now attend our church.

The three congregations from Birtle-Miniota Wider Parish share a joint choir service in early December. Each church takes a turn in hosting this service of Christmas music provided by the combined talents of people from all three churches. At other times in the year, speakers, special events, such as farewells for ministers, and study groups have been held jointly with all three points. Five members of our church sit on the Wider Parish Council and two more people act on the Ministry and Personnel committee. For the most part, though, the churches have each retained much of their own autonomy while sharing the same ministers.

We know we have been served by many very fine ministers. Team ministry, lately husband and wife team ministry, and lady ministers have all been new experiences shared as a parish. In 1963 we had our first summer student. The ministers and students listed below have had much to offer our church.

Rev. John Sloan to 1965
 Rev. Ken Murdock 1965-66
 Rev. Jack Nield 1966-69
 Rev. Bob Kayes and Rev. Jim Maxwell, team ministry 1969-72
 Rev. Jim Maxwell and Mrs. Edith Stockton 1972-73
 Rev. Keith Young and Rev. Norm Velnes 1973-74
 Rev. Norm Velnes 1974-76
 Mr. Bill Millar 1977 January to June
 Rev. Lloyd Lovering 1977-79
 Rev. Teresa Moysey and Rev. Bruce Faurschou team ministry 1979-
 Summer Student Interns
 Bill Stuebing 1963
 Bob Rowlands 1974
 Peter Kerliuk 1975
 Linda Nesbitt 1976
 John Patterson 1977
 Marilyn Rushton 1978
 Keith Lewis 1979
 Brenda MacLaughlan and Charlie Casselman 1981

The present elders of our church include John Coxworth, Tom Stewart, John Finkbeiner and Gordon Campbell. Lloyd Irwin and Dave Heise are alternate members. When Linda Clark and Margaret E. Heise are added to this list it becomes the Isabella Worship Committee.

From the minutes of a meeting in 1971 a vote of thanks was given to R. E. Heise for fifty years of service as secretary-treasurer. Art Heise had been assisting him for a short time up to 1971 and has since acted in this capacity.

No church services could be carried on week after week without the services of a caretaker and while the methods of heating and cleaning the building may have changed, the responsibilities remain the same. Many people have been our caretakers over the years and their names are recorded in the Book of Remembrance. David Irwin is our current custodian.

In 1978 a Memorial Fund was established. The next year a committee was named to buy a Book of

Remembrance, in which memorial donations and many other items have been recorded. A house log tells of all the maintenance and repair work done from time to time. The Board has insulated to save fuel consumption; laid carpet in the basement to keep the Sunday School classes warm; and also installed a public address system, which is especially useful when it is necessary to use the basement for extra seating space.

With each fall canvass for funds we are made aware of the wide spread support from our community. We also know that our senior members who now make their homes in neighboring communities still consider Isabella their home church and their support is much appreciated. The sign at the entrance of the church yard says that, "Everyone is welcome", and we sincerely hope we as the congregation of Isabella, echo those words. No one can foretell the future, but for the present at least the Isabella United Church provides a place for family worship.



Blaris Ladies, Back Row: Norma Sunley, Stella Harrison, Alma Hill, Mrs. Day, Mrs. George Sunley, Mabel Harrison, Mrs. W. Miller. Front Row: Mrs. J. D. Harrison, Mrs. E. Torrance, Mrs. D. Hill, Mrs. J. Sunley.



Women's Missionary Society meeting: Mrs. J. T. Finkbeiner, Mrs. H. Finkbeiner, Mrs. H. Reid, Mrs. Ed. Heise, Mrs. George Phillips, Mrs. Mel. Bridge, Mrs. T. Ariss. Second Row: Mrs. T. E. Doran, Mrs. J. Johnson, Mrs. Hanna, Mrs. Peter Heise. Third Row: Mrs. T. Kennedy, Mrs. A. Clubley, Miss Elsie Phillips.



The Epworth League: Reg. Campbell, Ella Duncan, Sam Clark, Mamie Campbell, Bob Clark, Edna Stevenson, Lawrence Hunkin, Will Grey, ?, George Torrance, Katherine Stewart, Reverend Bassum, Mattie Sutherland, Jack Sutherland, William Hill, Herman Hill, Will Ringland, Archie Hill, Louie Torrance, Violet Grey, May Ringland.



Sunday School Group, 1928. Back Row: Allen Sutherland, Geo. Sutherland, Reverend Anderson, Lottie Dotten, Glen McMullen. Front Row: John Finkbeiner, Claude Reid, Lorne Wright, Terry Shurvell, Bill Amy, Ken Warren. Seated: Gordon Kennedy, Wes Shurvell.



Explorers: M. E. Heise, Valerie Clark, Bev Ariss, Nancy Bell, Pat Campbell, Florence Young. Front Row: Cheryl Miller, Janice Norrie, Lorelle Heise, Susan Finkbeiner, Tanis Campbell, Shelley Stewart, Adele Heise, Julie Clark, Carolyn Heise, Arlene Nichol.



Young Adults, 1955. Burton Johnston, Jean Livingstone, Marg Coutts, Doug Heise, Glen Sunley, Art Heise, John Wall, Bob Buchanan, Bev Sunley, Marie Johnston, Shirley Heise, Jean Sutherland.



Cooks at cub camp, Salt Lake, 1962: Phyllis Bell and Minnie Rittaler.



Last Explorer Group, 1971: Merrideth Ashcroft, Denise Norrie, Donna Reid, Diana Doran, Arla Heise.



Allan Heise, Craig Harrison, Eric Irwin, Ron Campbell, Arnold Nichol.



Cub Camp, 1962. Back Row: Don Clark, Harvey Heise, Eddie Ariss. Centre Row: Ron Bell, Allan Rittaler, Garry Young, Walter Nichol. Front Row: Gordon Miller, Tim Nichol, David Wright.



A "bee" to get turkeys ready for the Fowl Supper, 1974.



Turkey carvers at the Fowl Supper, 1981: Glen Still, Bob Stewart, Doug Heise, Ken Clark.



Enjoying the Fowl supper, 1981.

Isabella Sunday School 1905-1962

The first Sunday school was organized shortly after church services began, when the Isabella School was built in 1905.

No Sunday school records can be found until the year 1909, other than items in the church record books, showing the amount of money paid for Sunday school supplies.

Officers for the year 1909 were: Superintendent Mr. W. Iverach, Assistant Mr. E. Ariss, Sec. and Organist Margretta Kelly, Treasurer, Mr. W. S. Palmer, Librarian, Marion Kelly. Teachers were: Mr. W. S. Palmer, Mr. S. P. Heise, Mrs. D. Kelly, Mr. D. Wright and Miss Mary Heise.

There were nineteen members enrolled in the three younger classes twenty in the Jr. adult class, and thirty-one in the adult class.

For many years, Sunday School was held at ten-thirty A.M., with the church service following at eleven-twelve A.M.

There was always a good attendance in all classes.

Each year a Sunday school picnic was held. The "Narrows", a nice spot at the southern end of Shoal Lake was the favored place to hold the picnic. As it was some fourteen or so miles away, and horses and

buggies were the only conveyances, an early start had to be made. Usually, all who were going to attend the picnic, gathered at a certain place about nine A.M., and proceeded to the Narrows together. Much like today, travel was not always at the same speed, as some of the more daring ones, indulged in the odd horse race, just to make the travelling a little more interesting. The day passed all too quickly, until it was time to make the journey home to the chores which were always waiting.

An interesting note in the record book of 1912 read. "February 25-th, Held Sunday School for the first time in the new Presbyterian Church which was opened today, Rev. McMillan officiating." Rev. M. J. Leith was the minister at that time, but Rev. McMillan, a former minister, was the special speaker for the day. A. C. Heise, Secretary.

A short time later, the Methodist congregation, who had been holding services in the Presbyterian Church, decided to build a church of their own. Land was purchased, and a basement dug. Finally, after a great deal of discussion, it was decided that there was no need for two churches, one could serve the needs of the community. So the two congregations formed a union of their own in 1917. This proved to be a most satisfactory arrangement, and both church and Sunday school grew and prospered.

Through the years, the Sunday school was especially proud of its large classes of boys. Records in the late thirties and nineteen forty, show a young men's class, with a membership of nineteen, and an intermediate boy's class of fourteen members.

For a time, a number of the members of the young men's class took their turn, serving as Sunday school superintendent.

Before the end of 1940, most of the members of the young men's class had joined the forces, and the younger boys soon followed them.

Some of those boys did not return, and most of those who did, have left the home district to make their homes in other parts of Canada. Music held a special place in the Sunday School, and choirs composed of members of the Sunday School added greatly to the enjoyment of the services.

A boys choir, under the direction of Mr. Wm. Iverach, will ever be remembered for the contribution they made to the home Sunday school and church, and other places in the district.

Sunday school pianists were composed of members of the girls' classes, each one taking their turn, as the years went by.

During the later years, instead of having two separate services, Sunday school was held during the church service, the pupils and teachers going to their classes following the opening exercises.

This has proved quite successful, but there is no longer an adult class. Many of the names appearing on the Sunday School role of today, are grandchildren and great-grandchildren of those who were members of the first Sunday school fifty seven years ago.

The present superintendent, Davidson Heise, is a grandson of the late Mr. J. E. Heise, who was Sunday school superintendent, many years ago.

Mrs. R. E. Heise is secretary and the class teachers are: Mrs. Russell Clark, Mrs. Gordon Campbell, Mrs. Archie Norrie, Mrs. Ken Clark, Mrs. George Sutherland, Mrs. Dave Heise, Mrs. John Dagg, Mrs. Johnnie Finkbeiner, Mrs. Art Heise and Mrs. Anton Rittaler.

Isabella Sunday School

Margaret Irwin

Until 1962 the Sunday School superintendent, secretary-treasurer and teachers had been responsible for finding replacements for retiring teachers and group leaders. In 1959 a movement to have a Christian Education Committee set up in each congregation was begun. This committee was responsible for recruiting Sunday School teachers, youth group leaders and generally supporting the Sunday School and youth groups. Rev. Mr. C. Geddes introduced the idea to the Isabella congregation. A Christian Education Committee was set up in 1962. This committee was made up of one representative from each of the following: the Sunday School, the congregation, and each youth group.

Over the years there have been several changes made in curriculum materials. The Westminster series had been used from about 1956-1964. In 1964 The United Church curriculum department decided to go ahead with its new materials, which had been in the making for several years. The Sunday School teachers were enthusiastic. Rev. Mr. J. G. Sloan introduced the new Core curriculum to the Isabella-Miniota Pastoral charge by having meetings in each of the churches for Sunday School teachers and workers.

It was decided to replace the Westminster lessons with the new United Church Core curriculum the first Sunday in October, 1964. Each pupil had a text book and the teachers had guide books corresponding to these texts. The books and guides used were repeated every three years. The books from the Westminster series were sold at a United Church Women's sale. Two of each were kept for the Sunday School library. At this time fifty-one children were enrolled.

In 1976 the United Church began a new church school curriculum series called "Discovering the

Bible with Children". It was also known as the J.E.D. (Joint Educational Development) series. The course was for children under twelve years of age. It was a two-year cycle for kindergarten and a three-year cycle for primary and junior classes. The emphasis was to help to acquaint children with Bible content and to help them apply the teachings to their lives. In 1977 the Isabella teachers decided to change from the Core curriculum to the J.E.D. series except for the intermediate class for which this series did not apply. This class used the Core curriculum plus a great deal of supplementary material chosen by their teacher.

Another new curriculum was also introduced in 1976 by the United Church called, the "Joy" series. At first this series was only available from kindergarten to junior. In 1981 it became available to junior and senior high pupils. This series teaches the good news of God's love and brings to life Christ's command to love one another. In 1980-1981 the kindergarten and junior classes used this series. In 1981-1982 kindergarten through junior used the "Joy" series.

Since 1962 a few changes besides curriculum have taken place. The Explorers disbanded because of too few members. They had been the group which had collected for U.N.I.C.E.F. at Hallowe'en time. Following their disbanding the Sunday School classes took on this project. The Sunday School also takes charge of the White Gift Service each year. The gifts are sent to the Children's Aid Society in Brandon. A highlight since 1962 was the celebration of the two hundredth anniversary of Sunday School begun by Robert Raikes in England in 1780. The Isabella Sunday School children and teachers conducted a special and moving service June 6, 1980 to celebrate. Everyone was treated to birthday cake at the close of this service.

Mrs. R. E. Heise resigned as secretary-treasurer in 1976 after fifteen years continuous service. Mrs. L. Irwin was asked to take over the position and she accepted.

At present there is a nursery for infants to three years of age, a kindergarten, primary, junior and intermediate class. Each class has two teachers. The enrollment is twenty-two.

History of Blaris Women's Missionary Society. 1894.

50 years — 1894-1944.

It was during the summer of 1883, that the first occasional church services were held in what is now the Blaris neighborhood. The minister was a Methodist, who came down from Birtle on horseback. He

was Irish, but his name is not remembered by those who attended those first services which were held at the home of Mr. John Torrance.

It was not until 1884, that the first organized and regular Methodist Church services were held with Reverend J. Rawson as the minister.

In 1885 the Blaris school was built, and services were then held in the school.

In the year 1903 the Methodist congregation at Blaris, proceeded with the building of the church. They were generously assisted by the Presbyterian members of the congregation, and held services on alternate Sundays, Methodist and Presbyterian. This Church was destroyed by fire in 1911. The present church was built the following year, as a Union church, still holding services, alternately, until the time of local Church union in 1923.

It was during the period of time that services were being held at Blaris School that the Woman's Missionary Society was organized. At an organization meeting called by Reverend J. G. Huntsman at the home of Mrs. J. D. Harrison on October 4, 1894, an auxiliary of the Blaris Woman's Missionary society was formed with the following officers:

- President: Miss Ella Lynch of Miniota.
- 1st. Vice-president; Mrs. J. D. Harrison.
- 2nd. Vice-president; Mrs. Lyons of Beulah.
- 3rd. Vice-president; Mrs. J. R. Lynch of Arrow River.
- 4th. Vice-president; Mrs. J. Irvine of Arrowton.
- 5th. Vice-president; Miss Webb of Crandall.
- Corresponding secretary; Miss Ida Lynch of Arrow River.
- Recording secretary; Mrs. William Rowles of Blaris.
- Treasurer; Mrs. David Hill of Blaris.

Out of the twenty-five Charter members there are only two living to-day: Mrs. James Elliot (Ida Lynch) of Arrow River, and Mrs. William Rowles now of Vancouver, British Columbia.

In looking over our Secretary books we see that from 1895-1897 meetings were held at the homes of: Mrs. J. W. Sparling, Beulah; Mrs. R. Hanna, Mrs. Will Stewart, Arrowton; Mrs. A. S. Lynch, Miniota; Mrs. J. R. Lynch, Arrow River; Mrs. J. Johnson, Mrs. D. Hanna, Mrs. Cox, Mrs. Doupe, and Mrs. Fleming all of Carlingville; and at Mrs. Rowles, Mrs. J. D. Harrison, Mrs. Thos. Gray, Mrs. Tom Irwin, Mrs. John Sunley, Mrs. Henry Wilson, Mrs. Torrance, Mrs. Dave. Hill, Mrs. Jim Young, all of Blaris.

Open meetings were held quarterly.

An interesting item found in the first recording secretary's book is that on August 11th 1897, a chair was presented to Miss. Ella Lynch at the time of her

marriage to Reverend Huntsman, the presentation was made at the home of Mrs. J. D. Harrison.

At the June meeting Mrs. (Rev.) Hughes had been elected president for the remainder of the year as Miss Lynch was moving away.

Some of our members were lost in 1900, when Arrow River W.M.S. Society was organized; and all Carlingville members, when Crandall W.M.S. was organized on June 25th, 1902.

We have no record of the organizing of Miniota, Beulah, Isabella or Decker auxiliaries, but because these were formed and were active, we lost many of our members.

In 1904 the Presbyterian Home Missionary Society was formed with Mrs. Thos. Stevenson as president.

On April 18th, 1907, the Presbyterian Foreign Missionary Society was organized with Mrs. Bruce Wallace as president. Mrs. John Bell was chosen as president of the Mission Band.

The first record of a Methodist Mission Band was April 17th, 1896. We read that on August 19th of the same year, at an open meeting of the auxiliary, "they gave excellent music", as also the Arrow River choir, so they must have been well organized by then.

Another item of interest was a social and tea, held July 18th, 1904, at the home of the Methodist W.M.S. president, Mrs. Wm. Rowles, when Mrs. Thos. Grey was presented with two hymn books, (a Presbyterian and a Methodist) as a slight token of appreciation for her services. She had been an active worker for the Methodist W.M.S. until the Presbyterians organized their own auxiliary.

The two Presbyterian societies— The Home and Foreign Mission auxiliaries were carried on until at a meeting held January 21st, 1914, it was decided that they would unite with only one set of officers. The fees for each society and all monies except Mission Band would be equally divided.

At this meeting, Mrs. William Hill was elected president and Miss Violet Grey president of the Mission Band.

On August 20th, 1924 the members of the Presbyterian and Methodist auxiliaries met in the church and organized a union society. The president Mrs. J. D. Harrison; vice-president Mrs. R. L. Stevenson. It was moved and carried that the money be equally divided, excepting the thank-offering and the fees until organized Union took place.

In 1925, while Mrs. John Bell was president, organized Union took place.

Wednesday evening, October 4th, 1944 the 50th Anniversary of Blaris W.M.S. was held in Blaris United Church. President at this time was Miss Laura Miller. Mrs. Reg. Campbell was vice-president. At

this meeting, we had two of our charter members—Mrs. William Rowles who was our recording secretary for two years and president for fifteen years.

She went to Empress Alberta, and organized an auxiliary, and was their president for twenty-nine years. Mrs. J. Elliot of Arrow River, charter-member was our first corresponding secretary. In later years, she was Presbyterian president for nine years and since that time has been honorary president.

We also had Mrs. Thos. Borland of Crandall, our oldest member, leaving to join Crandall W.M.S. in 1902, as their corresponding secretary.

Other notable guests that evening were—Mrs. A. L. Decker,— Presbyterian 1st. vice president; Mrs. John Stowe, Miniota, Presbyterian Missionary Monthly secretary; Mrs. (Rev.) Egilsson, Miniota, president Young Peoples' Society; Mrs. Russell Pascoe, whose father, Reverend Huntsman was really the founder of our W.M.S., her Mother was our first president; Mrs. John Bell who was a charter member of the Presbyterian auxiliary. Mrs. Bell read the address of welcome. At this time, our chartered members Mrs. Rowles, Mrs. Elliot, Mrs. J. Sunley and Mrs. Borland were presented with a spray of flowers and a "Royal Albert" cup and saucer. Mrs. M. J. Mitchell of Brandon, who was also an early member, replied to the address of welcome.

Our Minister, Reverend H. I. Bowman gave the Benediction.

We were especially proud of the fact that one of our earlier members—Muriel Harrison, daughter of Mr. John Harrison, had volunteered for Missionary work, and had gone to Battambang, Cambodia, French-Indo China with her husband, Reverend D. W. Ellison in September, 1923.

History of Isabella W.M.S. compiled by Mrs. T. Kennedy

The early records of the Presbyterian W.M.S. have been lost, so no definite date of its organization can be recorded. The only item to be found, is a donation for a Life Membership for Miss Mary Heise, thought to be the earliest Life Membership in the Presbyterian W.M.S. It was given in 1911.

The Methodist W.M.S. was organized in March 1911 at the home of Mrs. D. Kelly. Mrs. Wm. Rowles, and Mrs. Rev. Huntsman came for this meeting. The first officers were—President Mrs. M. J. Bridge, 1st Vice Mrs. J. E. Heise, Cor. Sec. Mrs. R. Warren, Rec. Sec. Mrs. T. J. Kennedy, Treas. Mrs. T. Ariss.

The first year's enrolment was 12. The last meeting of the Methodist W.M.S. was held in June 1917 at the home of Mrs. H. Finkbeiner.

At a joint meeting of the two societies it was decided to form a United Society. This was moved by Mrs. R. Warren and seconded by Mrs. J. E. Heise. First Officers were, Pres. Mrs. Rev. Ross, First Vice Mrs. M. Bridge, 2nd Vice Mrs. T. Stevenson, Sec. Mrs. J. Iverach, Treas. Mrs. W. H. Miller, Strangers Sec. Mrs. R. Warren, Home Helpers Sec. Mrs. S. P. Heise, Sec. of Christian Stewardship Mrs. J. E. Heise. Mission Band Leader Mrs. R. T. Clark. Twenty seven members joined at this time, and there were seven Home Helpers. The meeting decided that all funds raised be divided equally between the Presbyterian and Methodist Provincial societies. This plan carried on until the real Church Union took place in 1925, when there was only one Treasurer of the United Church. When our President, Mrs. Ross moved in 1918, Mrs. J. E. Heise took her office and was still President in 1925. Other Officers of this new Society were, 1-st Vice Mrs. Wm. Iverach, Second Vice Mrs. M. Bridge, Sec. Mrs. R. Warren, Treas. Mrs. T. Kennedy, Pianist Miss Gertrude Heise, Home Helpers Mrs. A. Brad, Strangers Sec. Mrs. Rev. Anderson, Watch Tower Mrs. T. Stevenson. Presidents through the following years were, Mrs. D. Wright 1928-1930, Mrs. F. Reid 1930-1931. Mrs. F. Amy 1932. Mrs. Wright 1933-1934. Mrs. R. Clark 1935-1939. Mrs. J. Astle 1940; Mrs. R. Clark 1941-1942. Mrs. Bowman 1943-44. Mrs. A. Adams 1945-46. Mrs. J. Johnston 1947-48. Mrs. H. Brisbin 1949-50. Mrs. Levi Miller 1951-52. Mrs. Steve Bell 1953-54. Mrs. J. T. Finkbeiner 1955-57. Mrs. Al. Clark 1958-61.

At the close of 1961 the W.M.S. was disbanded, and a new Organization, The United Church Women of Canada, took its place. In the new Organization there is an afternoon and an evening unit. The Officers are, President Mrs. Dave Heise, 1st-Vice Mrs. J. T. Finkbeiner, Secretary Mrs. A. Adams, Treas. Mrs. G. Still.

It was during the December meeting of 1934, that Mrs. R. Clark outlined a plan to finance our society with the envelope system. It was decided to try it, and it has been in use ever since, with fine results. Only once a year has a sale of any kind been held to help with other expenses.

During the years, we did our best to carry on our Missionary work both at home and abroad. We gathered many bales of clothing, as well as endeavoring to raise our yearly allocation. Many Missionary subjects have been studied and reports brought back from Presbyterials. We hope and pray that we have accomplished something in this important cause.

Secretaries during the years were, Mrs. R. Warren, Anna Iverach, Mrs. R. T. Clark, Mrs. J. A. Robertson, Mrs. A. Watt, Mrs. C. Seales, Mrs. H.

Bowman, Mrs. H. Brisbin, Mrs. H. Harrison and Mrs. H. Levins, who is the present Secretary of the Afternoon Unit of the U.C. Women. Treasurers were, Mrs. A. E. Brad, Mrs. J. Astle, a Mrs. T. J. Kennedy, and Mrs. John Dagg who is the present treasurer of the afternoon Unit of The U.C. Women.

Many of our early members have passed on or moved away and new ones have taken their places, but the work still carries on.

Isabella Ladies' Aid

compiled by Mrs. J. T. Finkbeiner June 1962

When the church was built in 1911, the first Ladies' Aid was organized with Mrs. W. Iverach the president. It is not certain, who the first secretary was, but was thought to be Mrs. Bob Scott.

There was no membership fee, and every woman in the district automatically became a member.

The Ladies Aid was a purely local organization, whose purpose was to assist in any way that was necessary in the work of the church.

Regular meetings were seldom held, but whenever necessary, a special meeting was called.

The first project undertaken by the Ladies' Aid, was a fowl supper, which was held on the Monday following the opening of the Church in February 1912. This supper could have had disastrous results, as a faulty oil stove exploded while the supper was in progress. Fortunately the fire was smothered before it had made much progress. It was not so fortunate for one of the members of the Ladies' Aid, who had just come to the district as a bride, as her coat was ruined as it was used to help smother the fire.

Through the years, the fowl supper was an annual event, and was the main social gathering of the year, looked forward to by young and old. The Ladies' Aid was responsible for the furnishing of the Manse, as well as being responsible for many things required in the Church. In 1918, they purchased a piano to replace the organ which was almost worn out.

During the early years they provided cocoa matting for the church aisle replacing it later, with rubber matting. They paid the expenses for having the platform enlarged, and bought the railing curtains.

They were responsible for the church decorating when it was necessary to have it done, and paid much of the cost of the exterior painting.

Many times they gave a large donation to the secretary of the church to assist with the church commitments. They paid for the wiring of the church when the Hydro came to the District in 1936 and have paid the Hydro bill since that time. In these and many other ways the Ladies' Aid has proved itself an indispensable organization of the church.

In 1927 Mrs. W. H. Miller was appointed secre-

tary, which office she held until 1942 when Mrs. D. Wright was appointed until 1944.

Mrs. J. T. Finkbeiner was president from 1927 to 1944. Later presidents were Mrs. Astle and Mrs. Joe Johnston. Mrs. R. T. Clark was appointed president in 1950 which office she held until 1961, when the new United Church Women's Organization was formed. Mrs. J. T. Finkbeiner was secretary from 1944 to 1948. Mrs. J. E. Finkbeiner was secretary for 1949. Mrs. J. T. Finkbeiner was again appointed secretary in 1950 which position she also held until the forming of the new organization at the closing of the year 1961.

United Church Women Report

by Joyce Wierer

In 1962, following National Church policy, the Isabella United Church Women was formed. At this time the organization had an Afternoon and Evening Unit each of which met monthly, with both groups meeting together two or three times a year. As of now, Isabella U.C.W. has one Unit which is divided into four smaller groups. Each group works independently on small undertakings, with all groups working together on larger projects.

Over the years this has been an active organization. Each year it has met its allocation of funds to the Mission and Service Division of the church. It has also sent funds to support organizations such as Prairie Christian Training Centre, Winnipeg Student Christian Movement, Camp Wasaga, Church Home for Girls, James Evans Museum, 2-way Radio Project for the north, Children's Aid, Bible Society, Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Refugees from Asia (Boat People), and has sent a gift of money to the student minister as thanks for his or her services during the summer.

Each year members have sent layettes, quilts, new and used clothing to northern Canadian communities as well as to missionaries in foreign lands. In 1970 the U.C.W. set up a second hand clothing depot in Mr. Ulley's store in Beulah which proved helpful to many. Collection of used nylons, stamps and cards has also been an ongoing activity.

Members, working through their U.C.W., have made many contributions to their local community. Through their efforts money was available for dishes, chairs and tables for the hall, carpet for the church, new hymn books, church lighting, the Community Christmas Party, a Benevolent Fund administered by the local health nurse for people with special needs, and a subscription to the United Church Observer for each family in the community. Time and effort was also apparent as members cleaned the church each year, conducted church services in the absence of the

minister, catered to weddings and banquets, served lunch after funerals, painted figurines for the Nativity Scene set up in the church for Christmas, entertained Senior Citizens at Birtle, Miniota, Hamiota and Shoal Lake, co-ordinated the printing of an Isabella Cookbook, decorated the church for special occasions, arranged teas and bake sales, and organized study groups.

An important event for the U.C.W. each year has been the Turkey Supper held each fall. This has required a great deal of time and effort from each member and would not be possible without the co-operation of the men and the young people in our community who work along with us to make it a success.

Members have also given their time and talents to other areas of church work. They have served on the Manse Committee, Board of Stewards, Wider Parish Council, and Executive of Birtle Presbyterial.

Perhaps their greatest contribution is the hand of friendship they extend to fellow members as they visit the sick and the elderly, send cards and take baking to the bereaved, welcome new babies to the community and show care and concern for one another.

Through the U.C.W. the women of Isabella have been able to express their devotion for Jesus Christ through Christian Witness, Study, Fellowship and Service.

Youth Groups in Isabella United Church

Accompanying the growth of our church in the Isabella community, was the development of youth groups from time to time. This movement did not develop in any set pattern but the children and teenagers of these classes have many pleasant memories of the fellowship and wholesome instruction they received.

Although all the records are not available to tell the complete story, we have gleaned as many facts as possible of the various groups, from the memories of the participants and from what records are at hand.

We are told that the "Epworth League" of the Methodist church was the beginning of mid-week groups.

The first group of Boy Scouts was formed in 1918 under the leadership of Mr. Paul Beveridge. It is believed that this group was active for only a short while but they acquired uniforms and was a very enthusiastic group of boys.

The first C.G.I.T. group was organized about 1920 with Miss Elizabeth Stevenson as leader. The meetings were held after school hours in the school. Of the first group we have the following names:

Frances and Florence Brown, Florence Miller, Mildred Warren, Edna Iverach, Edna Clark, Merle Kennedy and Anna Iverach. A little later Ruby Finkbeiner, Edna Kelly, Rose Wright, Doris Maguire and Florence Bardwell joined. The first group put on a variety concert in the church in the evening of Fair Day and realized the sum of fifty dollars which was the beginning of the "hall fund" and much later was used to help build the Isabella Community Centre. In the late 1920's, the C.G.I.T. was carried on with Miss Nora Corke as leader. Some of the names recalled are: Marion Wright, Marjorie Bardwell, Sarah Stevenson, Eileen Bridge, Margaret Iverach, Jean Preston, Margaret Marshall, Winnie Seales, Olive Kennedy, Iola Amy, Merle Bardwell, Roberta Clark, Lilian Ariss, Hannah Marshall, Margaret Stevenson and Jean Chapman.

About this time, Mrs. Warren, who was always interested in the youth of the community, led various groups of both boys and girls in spiritual guidance and good fun.

During the 1920's, we are told there was a large Young People's Union which was very active and helped in the growth of the church in every way. Family Camps were held at "The Narrows" on Shoal Lake, when all members of the family were given the opportunity to participate in camp life for a week. This provided religious instruction, swimming lessons, and a good holiday in the days when people didn't travel far from home. Rev. J. Dunnit of Beulah and Rev. Dixon of Shoal Lake were the ministers in charge, ably assisted by senior members of the Sunday School and Young People's Group.

Under the direction of Rev. and Mrs. H. I. Bowman, several groups were formed which carried on an extensive program from 1927-1947. There were Trail Rangers, under the leadership of Miss Lottie Dotten. There was a Junior C.G.I.T. group — "The Sunshine Group" — with Mrs. H. Brisbin as leader. We recall the following names: Emma Clark, Doreen Shurvell, Carol Clark, Flora Scarth, Leslie Bowman, Isobel Scorgie and Alice Brad. This group was small but very enthusiastic with the result that they compiled and published "A Handy Book of Recipes" in 1937. These were favorite recipes gathered from the homes of the community. Many of these cook books are still in some of our kitchens and are indeed favourites.

At the same time Anna Iverach was leader of a Senior C.G.I.T. group. Of this group we recall: June Finkbeiner, Anne Clark, Thelma Phillips, Mabel Clark and Beatrice Robinson. After Anna married and moved away, Mrs. Bowman carried on as leader of this group.

In 1945, Mrs. Brisbin was leader again with Jean

and Hazel Ingram, Joyce Warren, Elsie and Merle Phillips, Jean Harrison and Bernice Doran.

Those who were young people at this time, will recall the good fellowship and guidance offered by Mr. Bowman and also the many happy times this group enjoyed in the Young People's Union.

Through the dark days of World War II, when the membership of this group became badly depleted by the constant "joining up" of the members, a few carried on with Mr. Bowman as leader until he left us in 1947. Mr. Royle carried on with much the same program.

In 1950, with the arrival of S. Walmsley, then a student minister, groups for the younger children were organized. Miss Audrey Sanderson assisted Mr. Walmsley in the formation of an Explorers group for both boys and girls. At the same time, Miss Margaret Small assisted by Mr. Walmsley, led a group of teenagers. Instead of the Young Peoples Union, a similar group was organized under the name of Young Adults of the Isabella and Blaris United Church. This group was led by Miss Margaret Doupe and Mr. Walmsley. All of these classes were very active. The Young Adult Group with George Sutherland as president and Lloyd Irwin as secretary sponsored a Carnival Fair in June of 1952. It opened with a parade of decorated cars, bicycles, etc. A number of citizens were in costume. There was keen competition in various classes: dairy produce, domestic products, needlework, children's work (baking, sewing, schoolwork), horticulture and a pet show. There were foot races and ball games for all ages. Lunches were served from a covered wagon. This was a very successful day which was enjoyed by all who attended.

This Young Adult class kept up quite an active program through the ministry of Rev. K. Moffatt and Rev. A. M. Watts.

Rev. and Mrs. K. Moffatt held a two-week camp at Murphy's Lake south of Arrow River for two summers. Children over ten years of age from all over the Miniota-Isabella charge attended. The good times experienced there will never be forgotten and many learned how to swim that would not have had a chance otherwise.

In the fall of 1961, a Boy Scouts' group was organized by Rev. C. Geddes with R. Apperley and C. Nichol as Scoutmasters. A. Heise and C. Norrie were leaders for a newly formed Cub Pack. For the girls, a C.G.I.T. came to life with Mrs. G. Campbell and Mrs. L. Gilchrist as leaders and an Explorers group was formed with Mrs. D. Heise and Mrs. L. Wright as leaders. All four groups carried on a very enthusiastic first year program and have every indication of continuing in the coming year under the guidance of our new minister, Rev. J. Sloan.

Youth Groups Update

by Linda (Reid) Clark

Isabella-Beulah Boy Scout Troop

The Isabella-Beulah Boy Scout Troop was formed in the fall of 1961 under the guidance of Rev. C. Geddes. Scout leaders were Charlie Nichol and Rudy Apperley. Rudy left after one year and Donald MacInnes filled in as Scout leader. The scouts camped at Hooper's Lake in 1962. They were active for only two years with approximately 18 members.

Cubs also were organized in 1961. Leaders were Art Heise and Cyril Norrie. Cubs attended Oak River District Camp at Salt Lake in 1962, took part in the Jamboree and went to an air show at Rivers. There were ten cubs. The Scouts also participated in these main events. Seven Cubs camped at Salt Lake in 1963, nine Cubs camped at Birtle in 1964, fourteen Cubs camped at Birtle in 1965. At this time the group disbanded.

Original Scout members were: Eddy Young, Allan Stewart, Bob Harrison, Ron Clark, Bob Sterling, Don Gies, Dale Gies, Larry Gies, Don Hawes, Brian Clark, Murray Sutherland, Ron Lawn, Jim Lawn, Wayne Miller, Ken Miller, Neil Stewart, Fred Apperley, and Cory Ackerman.

Original Cub members were: Walter Nichol, Garry Young, Gordon Miller, Eddy Ariss, Harvey Heise, David Wright, Ron Bell, Tim Nichol, Allan Ritaller, and Don Clark.

Later members were: Harold Reid, Allan Heise, Craig Harrison, Eric Irwin, Arnold Nichol, Angus Norrie, Chris Norrie, Barry Clark, and Ron Campbell.

Isabella Baby Band

The first Baby Band was organized in 1930, with Mrs. John Sunley as leader.

Mite boxes were distributed to the members, and a yearly tea was held when the babies and their mothers, and members of the W.M.S. were invited. The tea was usually held in November, so the proceeds of the tea, and the collections from the boxes could be included in the year's Missionary givings. Children up to school age, were Baby Band members.

Mrs. Sunley, with Mrs. J. A. Robertson assisting, carried on until 1943, when Mrs. Sunley was no longer able to continue, then Mrs. G. Ariss was appointed leader. Later leaders included Mrs. R. Attwood, Mrs. C. Wall, Mrs. Frank Reid, and Mrs. Russel Clark. Mrs. Murray Bell was appointed leader in 1954 which office she held until the close of 1962, when the new organization of United Church Women was formed.

Isabella Mission Band

The Isabella Mission Band was organized late in 1907, and for the years 1908-09 the first Officers were: Pres. Miss Mary Heise, Vice Pres. Marion Kelly, Secretary Laura Heise, Treas. Willie Iverach, Organist Retta Kelly.

The Band was named the Pansy Mission Band and had twelve members the first year. Miss Mary Heise continued as leader of the Band, until the end of 1914. Other Officers during that time were: Vice Presidents Marian Kelly, Mrs. D. Iverach, Mrs. Leith and Mrs. Scott. Secretaries: Laura Heise, Edith Kelly, Vera Heise. Treasurers: Willie Iverach, Marian Kelly, Retta Kelly, Jessie Iverach. Organists: Retta Kelly and Jessie Iverach.

By 1914 the membership had increased to 21, when Mrs. T. Stevenson took over the Band and continued to be leader until 1917, when the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches were united. Other officers were Vice President Miss L. Heise, Secretaries: Charlie Iverach, Hector Calder, Cecil Kelly. Treasurers not recorded.

In August 1917 after union of the two congregations, Mrs. R. Clark became leader with Mrs. L. Stevenson Vice Pres. Sec. Keith Palmer, Treas. Ethel Bridge, Organist Anna Iverach. The new Band was named the "Beacon Light", and had now forty-one members. By the year 1921 the members had increased to sixty. In 1921 the Band was divided. The older called "The Canadian Boys in Training" and the "Canadian Girls in Training" Mrs. M. Bridge was appointed President and Mrs. J. Maguire Leader of the Jr. Band.

In 1923-24 Mrs. J. Whenham was Leader, with Miss F. Davidson Assistant.

From 1924 to 30, a number of ladies were leaders for a short time. These included Anna Iverach, Mrs. H. Brisbin, Edna Iverach, Mildred Warren, Mrs. R. E. Heise, and Mrs. R. Clark.

From 1930 to '39, the Mission Band was in the capable hands of Mrs. H. I. Bowman and covered a great many subjects of Missionary work. Presidents during those years were; Jim Clark, Lorne Finkbeiner, Isobel Scorgie, Conrad Hall, Kay Coxworth, Robert Marshall, Evelyn Brad, Alva Brad.

Secretaries: Tom Stevenson, Emma Clark, Frank Stevenson, Doris Goodeve, Alice Brad, Betty Lawn, Verna Calder, Harvey Still.

Treasurers: Doreen Shurvell, Edmund Hall, William Scorgie, Ivor Kupperts, Muriel Robinson, Evelyn Hickman, Mabel Cuffe. From 1939 to 1948 leaders were; Roberta Clark, Beatrice Robinson, Mrs. H. Brisbin, Mrs. A. Warren, Mrs. C. Seales, Mrs. Brad, Mrs. R. Phillips, Mrs. W. Ingram, Mrs. B. Johnston, Mrs. Ted Miller.

Presidents; Evelyn Brad, Shirley Scarth, Audrey Martin, Jean Coxworth, Jim Harrison, Ray Still, John Wall, Bernice Doran, Claire Johnston.

Secretaries; Hazel Irwin, Yvonne Cuffe, Glen Still, Elsie Phillips, Joyce Warren, Ted Phillips, Bernice Doran.

Treasurers: Yvonne Cuffe, Shirley Cuffe, Barry Scarth, Elsie Phillips, Ted Phillips, Jack Heise.

From 1948 to 1955 others took over the band including Mrs. R. Attwood, Mrs. Levi Miller, and Mrs. B. Johnston. Only officers recorded were Claire Johnston and Bernice Doran as Secretaries. In 1954 Judy Gilchrist was Secretary and Jan Finkbeiner Treasurer.

Mrs. Lloyd Irwin took over the leadership of the Band in 1955 with Mrs. R. E. Heise as assistant. Secretaries from that time until 1959 were Sylvia Matiation, Marilyn Reid, Wallace Peel, Linda Reid, David Gardham. Treasurers; Brenda Irwin, Allan Stewart, Greg Johnson, Wayne Miller.

At the close of 1961 the Mission Band, like all the other Church organizations, was disbanded, and is now the Messengers, with Mrs. Ken Clark Leader, Harvey Heise President and Diane Harrison Secretary.

The following are the names of Mission Band Members from 1917 to 19.

Mrs. R. Clark, Leader	Blanch Irvine
Elizabeth Stevenson	Roy Irvine
Jessie Iverach	Hazel Doran
Janet Iverach	Russel Doran
Anna Iverach	Edna Kelly
Emily Calder	Donald Iverach
Jack Iverach	Robert Hard
Keith Palmer	Mabel Hard
Gordon Heise	Irma Allingham
Charlie Iverach	Florence Wallace
Hector Calder	Marie Scott
Edna Iverach	Earl Wallace
Annabel Palmer	Stanley Wallace
George Ariss	Allan Sutherland
Charlie Ariss	John Craig
Joe Zacharias	Florence Miller
Cecil Kelly	Harry Miller
Freda Seales	Mildred Warren
Austin Warren	Earl Warren
Morris Clubley	Ruby Finkbeiner
Jessie Pittendreigh	Sydney Finkbeiner
Ella Pittendreigh	Merle Kennedy
Enid Locke	Ethel Bridge
Cissy Brown	Mervyn Bridge
Florence Brown	Willie Iverach
Edna Clark	Casper Doran
Katie Craig	Ena Still
Maggie Craig	Jean Doran
Iris Locke	Barbara Wallace
Rose Wright	Thomas Wolfe
Mary Wallace	
Mattie Wallace	
Pearl Irvine	

The Treasurer's Report for 1919 was \$101.53 raised, \$50 going to the Presbyterian Society, \$50 to the Methodist.

Isabella Mission Band and Messengers by June Clark

Mrs. Ken Clark became leader of the newly formed Messengers when Mrs. Lloyd Irwin resigned from the Mission Band in 1961. She was later assisted by Mrs. Bob Stewart.

The Messengers made money from the sale of greeting cards, and bazaars. Most of the money was forwarded to the treasurer of Birtle Presbyterial. At Christmas time hampers of treats were made up and delivered to the elderly shut-ins in the Isabella district. Parcels of used Sunday School papers and the World Friends magazine were sent to other countries to help the missionaries in their work. We also sent parcels of school supplies to Korea.

The Messengers held one meeting a month. The meetings were made up of stories of other countries, crafts and a worship service. The Messengers disbanded when the school was closed in 1968.

Explorers

Explorers began in November 1961 under the leadership of Mrs. Beatrice Wright and Mrs. Margaret E. Heise. Activities included worship, studying different countries, crafts, games and singsongs. Two big events each year were the Star Awards Ceremony and camping.

1961-1968 leaders were Mrs. Beatrice Wright and Mrs. Margaret E. Heise.

1968-1969 leaders were Mrs. M. E. Heise and Mrs. Jean Norrie.

1969-1971 leaders were Mrs. Jean Norrie and Mrs. Hannah Reid.

Members of Explorers were: Linda Reid, Lorna Wright, Wanda Clark, Sharon Attwood, Loretta Irvine, Geraldine Apperley, Elva Young, Roberta Evenson, Diane Harrison, Sandra Heise, Irene Clark, Glenda Heise, Sandra Evenson, Joanne Norrie, Pat Campbell, Nancy Bell, Florence Young, Valerie Clark, Beverley Ariss, Dorothy Whyman, Shelley Stewart, Julie Clark, Susan Finkbeiner, Arlene Nichol, Janice Norrie, Carolyn Heise, Cheryl Miller, Tanis Campbell, Adele Heise, Lori Heise, Ann Sunley, Merideth Ashcroft, Donna Reid, Diana Doran, Denise Norrie, and Arla Heise.

Canadian Girls in Training

C.G.I.T. was organized in November 1961 under the leadership of Mrs. Vivian Campbell. It was a

program of 12-18 year old girls. The program consisted of religious and mission studies, crafts and courses such as babysitting. Highlights of each year were the Christmas Vesper service, caroling, Mother and Daughter Banquet and camping.

Mrs. Campbell acted as head leader from the beginning of C.G.I.T. until it was terminated in 1971. Special mention must be made of her fine, dedicated work with the C.G.I.T. as she became a friend of these teenage girls. These friendships were lasting ones, as Mrs. Campbell still has a listening and concerned ear for 'her' girls in times of their troubles and needs.

Assistant leaders were Mrs. Donaleen Gilchrist, Mrs. Merle Dagg, Mrs. Eileen Clark and Mrs. Phyllis Bell.

Tyros

Tyros was organized under the leadership of Mr. Glen Sunley in 1966 for boys ten-twelve years old. Projects and studies were aimed at helping the boys to become good citizens and Christians. Crafts were a main activity related to topics under study, such as birds and citizenship. Dave Heise and Lloyd Irwin helped with woodworking projects. The Tyros camped with the other youth groups.

Tyro boys decorated their bikes and rode as a group in the 1967 Centennial parade.

Tyros members were: Ron Campbell, Eric Irwin, Allan Heise, Craig Harrison, Barry Clark, Angus Norrie, and Chris Norrie.

Sigma-C

Sigma-C was organized in 1966-1967 under the leadership of Doug Heise and Murray Bell. This was for boys in their early teens. Some of their crafts included woodworking and plaster of Paris moulding.

Members were Harold Reid, Don Clark, Allan Rittaler, Tim Nichol, Harvey Heise, David Wright, Eddy Ariss, Ron Bell, Walter Nichol, and Garry Young.

I feel that special mention should be made of the fine leadership given to our young people through these youth groups. Time, dedication, patience, guidance and love was given freely by each of the leaders, and as these youths move through life, these qualities have become a part of their upbringing. It may be readily noted that as our young people return to the district for a visit, whether it be a fowl supper, the rink, our local store or church, they always have time for a 'hello' and a friendly chat and visit with an endeared youth leader, a sign that special friendships were formed in years past.

Schools

The Blaris School

written by Mr. R. L. Stevenson

The first settlers who were to form the community of "Blaris" arrived in 1880 and in a very few years, all the land in that district was taken up.

By 1884, there were several settlers in the district with school age children. So it became necessary to form a school district. A petition was presented to the council and the following by-law passed.

By-law no. 11

"Whereas it is expedient to establish Blaris School District to be composed of the following sections and parts of sections.

East halves of sections 2 and 11

All of sections 1 and 12 in township 15 range 26
Sections 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 35, 36

East halves of 27 and 34 in township 14 range 26
Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, in township 15 range 25

Sections 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 28, 29, 30,
31, 32, 33

West halves of 27, and 34 township 14 range 25

Be it therefore enacted that the sections recited be, and are, hereby organized into a school District to be called Blaris School District and the clerk give the necessary notice for the first meeting of the ratepayers to be held Monday, 30th day of June, 1884 for the selection of a school site and other business at the house of Wm. Bell sec. 24-14-26 at 10 o'clock A.M.

Passed at Beulah this 5th day of June, 1884.

Clerk A. B. Harris, Reeve. J. T. Dinsmore"

In 1885 the school was built on the south east corner of section 25-14-26-W1 on land donated by Mr. Wm. Simpson (who at that time owned all of section 25 as well as the N.E. ¼ of section 26.) on condition that the school be called "Blaris" after his family's estate in Ireland.

The school was built by Mr. Joseph Bradley of the Beulah district.

The first Board of Trustees were: Wm. Bell, Wm. Simpson and David Hill. Mr. Simpson was also the first secretary.

The first pupils to attend were: John Bell, Will and Annie Palmer, John, James, and Minnie Armstrong, Florence, Ada, Bertha, Maud and Herman Hill, and Wesley Pocket.

The first teacher was Mr. Lye, followed by Mr. Thos Stevenson, Mr. Bell, Mr. Yeo, Miss Hayward, Miss McLeod, Miss S. Lynch, Miss A. Duncan, Miss A. Davidson, Miss M. Davidson, Mr. A. Bedford, Mr. W. J. Robinson, Miss A. Evans, Miss M. Sutherland, Mr. Gordon McLaren, Miss M. E. Ireton (1906-12) Miss J. Woodman (1912-17) and Miss V. Durden (1917-19).

At this time 1919 the Miniota Municipal School District was formed and Blaris School became a part of it. The Blaris school was closed and the pupils transported to Omar school three miles to the west. However, it was soon reversed and the Omar school was closed and the pupils brought to Blaris. Miss E. Craig was the teacher at Omar and she was transferred to Blaris. The next teacher was Miss G. Mitchell, then Miss Taylor, Miss Durden, Miss V. Johnson, Miss E. Spence 1929, Miss J. Vincent 1930, 31, 32, Miss M. Luce 1933, Miss G. Taylor 1934-37, Miss M. Wright 1937-41, Miss Slater 1941, Miss Houston 1942, Miss B. Emerson 1943, Miss B. Lawn 1944, Miss M. Page 1945, Miss B. Lawn 1946-7, Mr. Ross Robertson 1948 and Miss Joan Dixon 1949, who was the last teacher as the school was finally closed and sold in March 1955 to Mr. E. L. Sunley, who moved it and it is now one of his farm buildings.

This is only a very small part of the story of this building which for so many years had such a large part in the educational, social and spiritual life of the community.

Educationally 225 pupils have attended this school and each one received a good foundation for whatever they chose to do in life. A great many went on to be teachers. One Miss Muriel Harrison later Mrs. Rev. D.W. Ellison went as a missionary to French Indo China. Another C. W. Stewart homesteaded in Saskatchewan, was elected to Parliament

and for a time was leader of the Progressive Party, but whatever their vocation, they each got a good sound basic education.

Spiritually, this school was used as a place of worship from the time it was built until a church was erected in 1903 and later when the church was destroyed by fire it was again used until a new church was built.

Socially, especially in the early years when the people had to provide their own entertainment, it was the hub of the community, everything of interest centered from the school. In the winter, every Friday night there was a programme of songs, recitations, music, etc. and there would be a period for debates on a chosen subject, or a spelling match or a discussion of political affairs or anything of interest that might be suggested.

Blaris School is already almost a memory but to prevent it from being entirely forgotten, we submit this record.



Laura Heise, 1915 at the door of a one room school.



Blaris School 1907: Frank Harrison, Pearl Torrance, Jimmy Clark, Miss Ireton, Hazel Duncan, Myrtle Sunley, Allan Clark, Harry Harrison. Chrissy Rowles, Jessie Bell, Maggie Hill, Ernie Sunley, Dave Bell, Gordon Grey, Ellery Sunley, Tom Rowles. Eddie Rowles, Will Bell, Frank Wilson, Muriel Harrison, Mary Craig, Roy Bell, Frank Duncan. Susan Hill, Mary Wilson, Maggie Craig, Grace Harrison, Agnes Craig, Annie Duncan, Elizabeth Stevenson, Maggie Clark.



Blaris school, built 1885, closed 1950.



Omar School, 1916-17.



First school in Isabella, 1905.

Shamrock School

written by Jim Hawes, Beulah

The very first Shamrock School was held in a lean-to on the east side of the house on the Charlie Evans farm. The furnishings consisted of a long table and benches with no backs. The next school was established in the Adam Boyce home three miles west of Isabella. Then a new school was built in the year 1896 on the west side of 13-15-26, approximately one half mile north of the Beulah Telephone Office, where it served the educational needs of the surrounding district for a number of years. Two of the first teachers were: Miss Pearl Torrance and Miss Paynter (later Mrs. E. Forrester of Beulah).

Sunday school service was held in the school and it was also the centre for social events in the area.

The school was later closed and the building was moved to Beulah where it became part of Beulah School.

For many years the Shamrock district was rather inactive, as an organized community. Then in the 1930's, the residents of the area decided there was a need for a hall in the district, as there were a large number of young people growing up who had no place to hold dances or any other social activities.

As a result, meetings were held, a committee appointed, and plans were made to build a hall. This building was situated on the south east corner of 27-15-26, the farm occupied at that time by W. B. Hawes. The building was constructed almost entirely by volunteer labour, and was opened in the fall of 1934 with a Sunday school service conducted by the late Mr. James Thompson, a former Sunday school teacher in Shamrock School. Shamrock hall immediately became the centre for all social activity in the area. Dances were held winter and summer, with an occasional concert for a change.

Sunday church services were held for a number of years, at first, under the direction of Rev. H. I. Bowman and later under student ministers, Mr. Freeman and Mr. Rupp.

Gradually, however, as the young people of the district grew up and moved away, and a number of farms were vacated, it became increasingly difficult to keep the Hall Club active as an organization. Finally, in 1961, a meeting was called of the few remaining members and it was decided that the hall should be disposed of. It was advertised for sale and bought by Mr. Don Green, who moved it to his farm to be remodelled and used as a dwelling place.

Isabella School

The Isabella School District was formed February 8, 1905. Parts of each of the following older districts were taken in to form the new one — Arrowton, Blaris, Shamrock and on March 17th part of Ethel School District was also included.

The first teacher was Miss Rose Cole. She is now Mrs. Wes. Shaw, widow, living at New Westminster B.C., close to her two children and her grandchildren. This information was received from her niece, Mrs. Dewart Harrison, Isabella.

In 1906 the teacher was Miss Mary Frazer. She had eleven pupils. In Grade 1 were Cliff and Willie Drummond, Mabel Kelly, Robert Lothian, Willie Iverach; in Grade 3 — Edith Kelly and Fred Bran; in Grade 4 — Minnie and Roy Dunn, and Marion Kelly; in Grade 5 — Retta Kelly. The average attendance was 7.15.

Mary Frazer boarded with Don Iverachs, who lived on a farm S.E. 16-15-25 and spent weekends with her cousin Mrs. J. Frazer. Her sister Bess taught at Omar and they were daughters of Rev. Jim Frazer probably preaching at Shoal Lake. Miss Frazer lives now in Saskatoon and six years ago was still substituting there. She is the last of her family. This information was given by her cousin Mrs. J. Frazer, Beulah.

With the beginning of the fall term in 1907, Miss Maggie Elliott of Arrow River came to teach and remained for eight years.

Each child who attended school during that eight year period was fortunate indeed. Miss Elliott, now Mrs. T. B. Shelley, Abbotsford, B.C., was not only an exceptional teacher but remains a wonderful friend to this day to many of her pupils.

Her pony "Muffie" and the cart were a welcome and familiar sight to children and parents. Later when she built her little house and moved to the town to live, anyone was assured a warm welcome. Choir practice at Miss Elliott's was an occasion not to be missed.

When she had an opportunity to take a trip to Europe, she brought back gifts for her pupils and shared her experiences through many a history and geography lesson.

By 1912 the little one-room school was overcrowded and there were students ready for high school. A second room was built but was not quite ready for occupation for the opening of the fall term. The church basement was divided with a curtain and Miss Elliott taught high school on the south side while Miss Laura Heise taught the primary grades on the north side. Each high school student had a place at the long table for his or her own books.

In 1920 a third room was built and once again school was held in the church basement until the new school was ready.

In 1919 the Miniota Municipality voted to adopt the principle of a Municipal Board with twelve trustees — two from each ward. The first trustees for our ward were: Mr. R. D. L. Warren, and Wm. Iverach.

Strong opposition to the new system grew because of increasing costs and rising taxes but a second vote in three years time returned the municipal system.

In 1921, a committee from the Manitoba School Trustees Association and the Department of Education was sent out to make a survey. A report on this survey appeared in the Free Press of May 6, 1922, from which I quote, "The Provincial percentage of passes in Grades 9, 10, and 11 was 75%, in the Miniota System it was 86%. In Grade 10, top and second marks in the Province were secured by students in the Miniota System Schools and in Grade 9, out of thirty-three honor students in the Province five were from these schools.

In 1923 the school was again extended, to four rooms. A school no longer used was bought and moved in. The high school and Gr. 3, 4 and 5 rooms were under one roof; the newly purchased building, located some few hundred yards to the east, was for Gr. 6, 7 and 8; and the primary building, another separate building was again a little farther east.

More land had been purchased and more trees planted around the perimeter to make a very fine play ground.

For some years there were four rooms, then the school population began to dwindle from its high enrolment of 102 pupils in 1930, to enough for only two rooms by 1943. In 1950 we were again three rooms and the present enrolment is seventy students in three rooms.

In 1954 the old school buildings were torn down and a new modern school was built. This was not however, the end of usefulness for the old buildings. One school was rebuilt into a home for Mr. and Mrs.

H. Levins in Isabella, the double room was rebuilt into a home in Foxwarren, Man. for Mr. and Mrs. R. Gilmour and the little primary room was moved as it stood, to the Reg. Bryant farm south of Miniota.

The public schools still operate under the Municipal Board but in 1959, a vote carried in favor of dividing the province into divisions for high school administration, so at present Isabella High School operates under the board of the Birdtail School Division.

Through the years there have been some things that stand out in one's memory. There were the school gardens, in the old days, when each child had his own plot of vegetables and flowers, planted and cared for under the supervision of the teacher. There was the ceremony of the planting of a basswood tree to commemorate the Coronation of King George VI in 1939, and a fine tree it is in 1962. Medals and certificates were given to all the school children and again at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth.

Many children, now grown, remember "The Wedding of the Painted Doll", a colorful operetta put on by the students of the two elementary rooms, under the direction of Miss Olive Thompson and Miss Genevieve Hills.

Victoria Day, 1944 was celebrated in a unique way at the school when a bell was hung. Early in the season, Mr. Archie Stewart had noticed an item in his home town paper, from Stouffville, Ontario, to the effect that a bell on a factory which was being torn down, was being offered free to any school asking for it. Mr. Stewart got permission from the trustees to ask for the bell and Mr. Atkinson of Stouffville crated the bell and sent it to Isabella. Dr. Iverach, with help from others, built and set up a cupola on the school and following a short program of songs and recitations from Miss Rowan's room, speeches from the chairman of the Municipal Board, Dr. R. K. Chalmers, Mr. John Spalding, secretary treasurer, Mr. John Finkbeiner local trustee, the bell was duly installed and messages of appreciation sent to Mr. Stewart and Mr. Atkinson.

Through the years, there have been many fine teachers, a number have married and remained in our community and we gratefully acknowledge their continuing help. Some have had special musical ability. Shields and trophies from Hamiota Musical Festival have come back to this school, to testify to the training in song.

Training in sports resulted in notable achievement in the various events at the annual municipal field days when the shield for total points won came many times to Isabella.

The schools could not have operated efficiently

without the fine conscientious work of the trustees:

Mr. William Iverach	Mr. R. E. Heise
Mr. R. D. L. Warren	Mr. John Coxworth
Mr. William Palmer	Mr. Robert Scarth
Mr. J. E. Heise	Mr. Morgan Johnson
Mr. William Miller	Mr. Lorne Wright
Mr. Robert Clark	Mr. Douglas Heise
Mr. John Finkbeiner	Mr. Lloyd Irwin

Caretakers added their contribution to the welfare of the school population. In the early days much of the caretaking was done voluntarily but the names of Charlie Seales, Ralph Phillips and Austin Adams will always be closely associated with the school.

On September 27, 1962 Peter Robinson drilled a one hundred forty foot well and secured a good supply of water at Isabella school.

Isabella pupils are making a contribution in every Province of Canada and many reflect back credit to the local school.

School update

The school year 1962-63 was the last year in which pupils received their high school education at Isabella. Pupils of this age group then attended school at Birtle, Hamiota, or Miniota. Russell Clark was trustee on the Secondary Division Board from January 1966 to December 1967. Miniota Municipality was in ward 5 at that time. The Division Board had come into being in April 1959.

The Isabella School continued as a two-roomed school until the year 1967-1968, when Grade VIII pupils attended classes in one of the larger schools. There were three teachers; Miss Freida Sawatsky, Mrs. Hazel Bailey, and Miss Joyce Kamantz, who taught that year. The total enrolment was forty-four. After sixty-three years of schooling in our community it was a sad event for many as our school building was moved to Birtle to be used as a classroom there. But students have said that they appreciated the wider choice of courses and activities offered in the larger schools.

Following changes in wards, elections were held in January; and, on February 1, 1968, the new Birdtail River School Division, number 38, was formed with a newly elected slate of trustees. This larger division program was initiated throughout Manitoba. We were a part of the Birdtail River School Division which included schools at St. Lazare, Foxwarren, Birtle, Miniota, Shoal Lake, Strathclair, Hamiota, Crandall and Kenton. The changes meant adjustments for many people. Generally parents chose to send their children to the school nearest them. In the years that followed we have seen our young people adjust to the new schools and the parents become adept in finding time to drive the greater distances to help their children take part in after-hours school activities.

Connie Choptuik became a trustee of ward 2 in 1973 and has been ever since. She had the distinction of being the first woman trustee on the board and has spent many hours on our behalf.

We the people of Isabella have tried to keep our community alive and we believe that we have been successful in doing that. A school is a unifying force but apparently not the only one. On July 5, 1980, a seventy-fifth anniversary school reunion was held at which time a natural field stone cairn was unveiled. The inscription reads "Isabella School 1905-1968". This marker stands on the approximate site of the first Isabella School.

No previous mention has been made of the many people who provided a home away from home as they boarded the teachers. It was no small task to "take care" of the teachers as these wonderful people did. Our present younger generation may just not understand but there are many teachers who once taught at our schools who hold fond memories of the boarding places.

Most schools had a favourite school yell in days gone by. At the anniversary some people, no longer exactly teen-agers, gave us a demonstration of the Isabella yells.

Isabella school yells of the late 20's and early 30's.

Hicky- hacky, micky- macky,

Hola gala zoo.

Rip saw, buck saw,

Yaka taka too,

Knuckle to it, you can do it

Bravest in the fray.

Isabella, Isabella,

Hip- hip-hurrah!

We've got the go, the grit, the get,

We've got the gang that's got the pep;

The pep, the go, the grit, the get

We'll do our bit to-day, you bet.

Ye-ah ISABELLA.

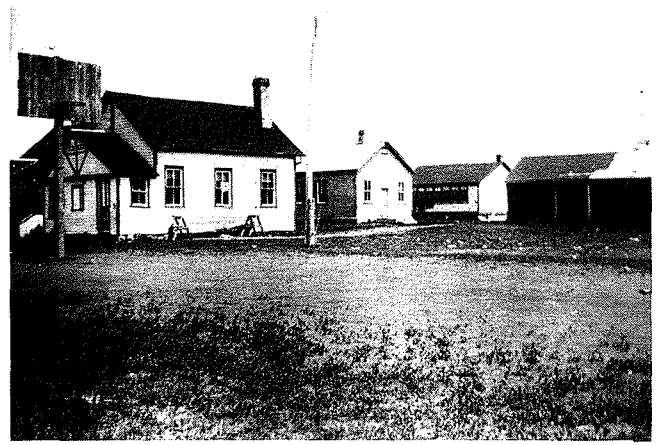
Isabella School Teachers

note . . . from 1905 to 1913 the school year followed the calendar year.

1905	Grades I-VIII	Miss Rose Cole (Mrs. W. Shaw)
1906	Grades I-V	Miss Mary I. Frazer
1907	Grades I-VII	Miss Mary I. Frazer first three months. Miss Margaret M. Elliott (Mrs. J. B. Shelley) completed the year
1908, 1909	Grades I-VII	Miss Margaret M. Elliott records missing
1910		Miss Margaret M. Elliott
1911	Grades I-IX	L. Smith one month Miss Laura Heise (Mrs. R. Clark) completed the year
1912	Grades I-VI	Miss Margaret M. Elliott
1913	Grades I-IX	Miss Laura Heise, Grades V-X
1913-1914	Grades I-IV	Miss Elliott

1914-1915	Grades I-IV	Miss Laura Heise, Grades V-X Miss Elliott			Grades VII-VIII Mr. Ross Vasey
1915-1916	Grades I-IV	Miss Vera Heise (Mrs. A. Clark)	1933-1934		Grades IX-XI Mr. George Pickard
	Grades V-XI	Miss Ann Slattery			Grades I-III Miss Gwen Thompson
1916-1917	Grades I-V	Miss E. B. Fisher (Mrs. C. Menzies)	1934-1935		Grades IV-VI Miss Hills
	Grades VI-XI	William Robinson			Grades VII-VIII Mr. William Blight
1917-1918	Grades I-V	Miss Fisher			Grades IX-XI R. Vasey
	Grades VI-X	Miss Agnes Davidson			Grades I-III Miss G. Thompson
1918-1919	Grades I-V	Miss Thirza Smith (Mrs. R. E. Heise)	1935-1936		Grades IV-V Miss G. Hills
	Grades VI-XI	Miss Agnes Davidson			Grades VI-VIII W. Blight
1919-1920	Grades I-IV	Miss Thirza Smith			Grades IX-XI R. Vasey
	Grades V-XI	Miss Davidson	1936-1937		Grades I-III Miss M. Stalker
1920-1921	Grades I-IV	Miss T. Smith records missing			Grades IV-VI Miss G. Hills
1921-1922	Grades I-III	Miss E. V. Stevenson (Mrs. S. Frazer)	1937-1938		Grades VII-VIII W. Blight
	Grades IV-VIII	Miss H. B. Corbett			Grades IX-XI R. Vasey
	Grades IX-XI	Mr. P. A. Murphy			Grades I-IV Miss M. Stalker
1922-1923	Grades I & II	Miss Stevenson	1938-1939		Grades V-VIII Miss Annie Laurie Hills
	Grade III	missing			Grades IX-XI R. Vasey
	Grades IV-VIII	Miss Corbett			Grades I-IV Miss M. Stalker
	Grades IX-XI	Mr. H. M. Anderson	1939-1940		Grades V-VIII Miss A. L. Hills
1923-1924	Grades I-IV	missing			Grades IX-XI Mr. Ronald S. Broadfoot
	Grades V-VIII	Miss Corbett			Grades I-IV Miss A. L. Hills
	Grades IX-XI	Mr. James C. Whenham	1940-1941		Grades V-VIII Mr. Keith Calverley
1924-1925	Grades I-II	Miss E. V. Stevenson			Grades IX-XI R. Broadfoot
	Grades III-IV	missing			Grades I-IV Miss A. L. Hills
	Grades V-VIII	Miss Jean Doig	1941-1942		Grades V-VIII K. Calverley
	Grades IX-XI	Mr. Carl Gow			Grades IX-XI R. Broadfoot
1925-1926	Grades I-II	shared by Miss Stevenson, Mrs. T. Heise and Miss O. Thompson (Mrs. G. Dibblee)			Grades I-IV Miss Marion Wright
	Grades III-V	missing	1942-1943		Grades V-VIII Miss Mavis Hanlin (Mrs. W. Vanbuskirk) and Christina Fraser
	Grades VI-VIII	Miss Doig			Grades IX-XI Mr. Hugh A. Johnson
	Grades IX-XI	Mr. George Dibblee			Grades I-IV Miss M. Wright
1926-1927	Grades I-III	Miss O. Thompson			Grades V-VIII Miss Dorothy Stowe (Mrs. John Finkbeiner)
	Grades IV-V	Miss Lottie Dotten	1943-1944		Grades IX-XI H. A. Johnson
	Grades VI-VIII	Miss Lottie Clarke (Mrs. Haight)			Grades I-VIII Miss Margaret Rowan (Mrs. Jack Frazer)
	Grades IX-XI	G. Dibblee			Grades IX-XI Mr. J. O. Buhr. From February on Grades I-VI and Grades VII-XI teacher loads.
1927-1928	Grades I-III	Miss Thompson	1944-1947		Grades I-VI Miss M. Rowan
	Grades IV-V	Miss Dotten			Grades VII-XI Mr. William Ingram
	Grades VI-VIII	Mr. William Harvey	1947-1948		Grades I-VI Miss Eileen Ebell (Mrs. Russell Clark)
	Grades IX-XI	G. Dibblee			Grades VII-XI W. Ingram
1928-1929	Grades I-III	Miss Thompson			Grades I-VIII Miss Nora Edney and Miss Alix Wood
	Grades IV-V	Miss Dotten			Grades IX-XI W. Ingram
	Grades VI-VIII	Miss Nora Corke (Mrs. E. Warren)	1948-1949		Grades I-VI Miss Margaret Kopetsky
	Grades IX-XI	G. Dibblee			Grades VII-XI W. Ingram
1929-1930	Grades I-II	Miss Thompson	1950-1951		Grades I-IV Miss Audrey Sanderson (Mrs. Colin Campbell)
	Grades III-V	Miss Corke			Grades V-VIII Miss Margaret Small (Mrs. Lloyd Irwin)
	Grades VI-VIII	Miss Janet Rorke			Grades IX-XI Miss Margaret Doupe (Mrs. Dave Heise)
	Grades IX-XI	G. Dibblee			Grades I-IV Miss A. Sanderson
1930-1931	Grades I-III	Miss Thompson	1951-1952		Grades V-VIII Miss Margaret Coutts (Mrs. Art Heise)
	Grades III-VI	Miss Genevieve Hills (Mrs. S. Finkbeiner)			Grades IX-XI Mrs Margaret Heise
	Grades VII-VIII	Miss Naomi Kenner (Mrs. Jasper)			Grades I-IV Miss A. Sanderson
	Grades IX-XI	G. Dibblee	1952-1953		Grades V-VIII Miss M. Coutts
1931-1932	Grades I-III	Miss Thompson			Grades IX-XI Miss Jean Livingstone (Mrs. Lyall Johnston)
	Grades IV-VI	Miss Hills			
	Grades VII-VIII	Miss Effie Schmidt			
	Grades IX-XI	G. Dibblee			
1932-1933	Grades I-III	Miss Thompson			
	Grades IV-VI	Miss Hills			

1953-1954	Grades I-IV	Miss Donna Douglas (Mrs. Stuart Johnson)
	Grades V-VIII	Miss M. Coutts
	Grades IX-XI	Miss J. Livingstone
1954-1955	Grades I-IV	Mrs. D. Johnson
	Grades V-VIII	Miss M. Coutts
	Grades IX-XI	Miss J. Livingstone
1955-1956	Grades I-IV	Mrs. D. Johnson
	Grades V-VIII	Mrs. C. Shewfelt
	Grades IX-XI	Miss J. Livingstone
1956-1957	Grades I-IV	Mrs. D. Johnson
	Grades V-VIII	Miss Fern Kellett (Mrs. Hugh McPherson)
	Grades IX-XI	Miss J. Livingstone
1957—1958	Grades I-IV	Mrs. D. Johnson
	Grades V-VIII	Miss Pat Davison (Mrs. R. Tole)
	Grades IX-XI	Mr. Mike Kiedyk
1958-1959	Grades I-IV	Mrs. D. Johnson
	Grades V-VIII	Miss Orma McCartney (Mrs. R. Baker)
	Grades IX-XI	Mr. A. Rittaler
1960-1961	Grades I-IV	Mrs. D. Johnson
	Grades V-VIII	Miss Donnaleen McLachlan (Mrs. Larry Gilchrist)
	Grades IX-XI	A. Rittaler
1961-1962	Grades I-IV	Mrs. D. Johnson
	Grades V-VIII	Mrs. D. Gilchrist
	Grades IX-XI	A. Rittaler
1962-1963	Grades I-IV	Mrs. D. Johnson
	Grades V-VIII	Miss Judy Bayko first term Mr. Larry Moldowan second term
	Grades IX-XI	A. Rittaler
1963-1964	Grades I-IV	Mrs. D. Johnson
	Grades V-VIII	Mrs. Ruth Teasdale (Mrs. Stan Teasdale)
1964-1965	Grades I-IV	Mrs. D. Johnson
	Grades V-VIII	Mrs. R. Teasdale
1965-1966	Grades I-IV	Mrs. D. Johnson
	Grades V-VIII	Mr. Hugh Fraser
1966-1967	Grades I-IV	Miss Freida Sawatsky (Mrs. Ernesto Cariello)
	Grades V-VIII	H. Fraser
1967-1968	Grades I-III	Miss F. Sawatsky
	Grades IV-V	Mrs. Hazel Bailey
	Grades VI-VII	Miss Joyce Kamantz (Mrs. Ackerschott)



Isabella Schools and van sheds.



Blaris Mission Band: Leader Florence Grey, teacher Betty Emerson Miller. Back Row: Glen Sunley, Marie Sunley, Harvey Hill. Middle Row: Margaret Attwood, Jim Gardham, Bev Sunley, Billy Bell, Joe Gardham. Front: Janet Bell, Joe Harrison.



Primary school 1942-3. Standing: Lawrence Heise, Jim Harrison, Ray Still, John Wall, Ted Phillips, Murray Stewart. Seated: Theresa Peacock, Joyce Warren, Elsie Phillips.



Blaris School at Arrow River on Field Day: Bob Bell, Ken Harrison, Barry Miller, Rodney Campbell, Bill Bell, Jack Bell, Florence Harrison, Margaret Attwood, Joe Harrison, Janet Bell, Bob Attwood, Spence Bell, Norman Harrison. Teacher: Joan Challis.



School 1953. Back Row: Joe Harrison, Elgin Bonner, Margaret Attwood, Irene Webb, Margaret Doran, Janet Bell, Margaret Scarth, Bert Webb, Jack Bell. Second Row: Rodney Campbell, Jim Gardham, Barry Miller, Ken Harrison, Betty Ross, Joyce Adams, Florence Harrison, Mary Attwood, Bob Attwood, Jack Heise, Bob Ross, Dale Still, Larry Gilchrist, Miss Jean Livingstone, Miss Margaret Coutts, Miss Audrey Sanderson. Third Row: Norman Harrison, Murray Matiation, Charlotte Ariss, Roberta Young, Brenda Irwin, Sylvia Matiation, Marjorie Peel, Louise Wall, Jeanette Wright, Margaret Ariss, Noreen Adams, Judy Gilchrist, Patricia Attwood, Sheila Attwood, Marjorie Young, Spence Bell. Fourth Row: Ken Stewart, Brian Johnson, Murray Gardham, Lawrence Dushnicky, Jerry Teasdale, Clare Clark, Jim Ariss, Ernest Dushnicky, Bill Clark, Cliff Clark, Eugene Dushnicky, Clark Stewart, Eugene Matiation.



School, 1968. Bottom Row: Lionel White, Keith Irwin, Adele Heise, Marlene Whyman, Arla Heise, Martin Heise, Ann Sunley, Donna Reid, Denise Norrie, Dale Sunley, Adrienne White, Bobby Clark, Tanis Campbell. Second Row: Miss Joyce Komentz, Miss Freida Sawatsky, Chris Norrie, Cameron Harrison, Susan Finkbeiner, Dorothy Whyman, Bev Ariss, Lori Heise, Carolyn Heise, Shelley Stewart, Angus Norrie, Doug Sutherland, Mrs. Hazel Bailey. Third Row: Arnold Nichol, Barry Clark, Arlene Nichol, Janice Norrie, Valerie Clark, Eric Irwin, Nancy Bell, Pat Campbell, Florence Young, Allan Heise, Craig Harrison, Leonard Dushnicky. Missing: Diana Doran, Tim Wierer, David Irwin, Rusty Still, Rick Still, Robert Still, Cheryl Miller, Ron Campbell, Julie Clark.



School, 1961, Grades V-VIII. Back Row: Fred Apperley, Ken Miller, Bob Harrison, Eddie Young, Lawrence Dushnicky, Murray Sutherland, Ron Rittaler. Second Row: Jean Tkachuk, Jan Finkbeiner, Kathy Clark, Marilyn Reid, Gail Clark, Doreen Sutherland, Renee Stewart, Miss Donnaleen McLachlan. Third Row: Jim Lawn, Neil Stewart, Linda Reid, Jeanette Dushnicky, Elaine Attwood, Brian Clark, Ron Lawn.



Isabella school moved to Birtle, 1968.

Manitoba Pioneers in Education

Dr. William Iverach of Isabella, Manitoba, was born in Caithness, Scotland, in 1865. His father worked a 250-acre farm on the estate of the grandfather of the present Sir Archibald Sinclair. Upon the decease of his father, although only seventeen years of age and possessed of only a Grade VIII education, he undertook the management of the farm and the business responsibilities associated therewith. Thus, he was cradled in the rural atmosphere, nurtured in scientific farming, and cultured in the ways of rural aristocracy, all of which were to plan a part in a career of devotion to rural education.

He came to Canada in 1884, and after four years in the lumber woods of Michigan and Western Canada, homesteaded in the area between Hamiota and Miniota. He was elected to the trustee board of a one-room rural district in 1893; to the executive of the Manitoba Trustees Association at its first organization meeting in Brandon in 1907. He served as a member of that Executive for almost twenty-five years, and was both Vice-president and president of the Association. He was also President of the Dominion Trustees Association, and visited six of the nine provinces in the interests of rural schools. He was a member of the Advisory Board of the Department of Education from 1911-1924, and of the Board of Governors of the University of Manitoba from 1917 to 1922.

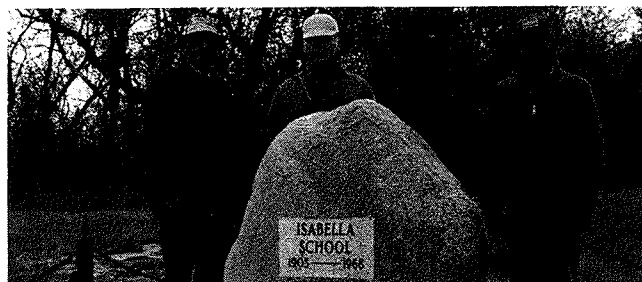
During the organization meeting of the Provincial Trustees Association in Brandon in 1907, the larger school unit of rural school administration was first discussed. In 1919 Mr. Iverach, along with local leaders was successful in organizing the Miniota Municipal School Board. His name will ever be associated with that undertaking. Of kindly disposition, blessed with a smile which disarmed hostility, at the same moment, a vigorous fervid exponent of any cause which he espoused, he retained the many friendships. A striking statement, interpretive of the character of the man, was made by one who had known him intimately. "Who is William Iverach? Oh

yes, that man who says what he believes — even if it doesn't win him votes".

At the annual Convocation of the University of Manitoba in 1942, he was made a Doctor, Honoris Causa, in recognition of his services to Manitoba Education.

REF: The Manitoba School Journal. December 1942.

School Reunion — 75 years



Putting a fence around the Cairn, 1981: Tom Stewart, Dave Heise, Glen Still.



Field stone cairn unveiled, July 5, 1980. 75th anniversary of first school, 1905. Rev. Teresa Moysey — dedication, Thirza Heise — Poem to the pioneers, Unveiling by Vera Clark and Edna Kelly Miller.



Former teachers at the 75th Anniversary of Isabella School: Vera Clark, Larry Moldowan, Margaret L. Heise, Thirza Heise, Margaret Irwin, Jean Johnston, Donna Johnson, Dorothy Finkbeiner, Marion Wright.

Town Buildings and Businesses



Mr. and Mrs. Robert Scott, Mip and Marie (Storekeeper).



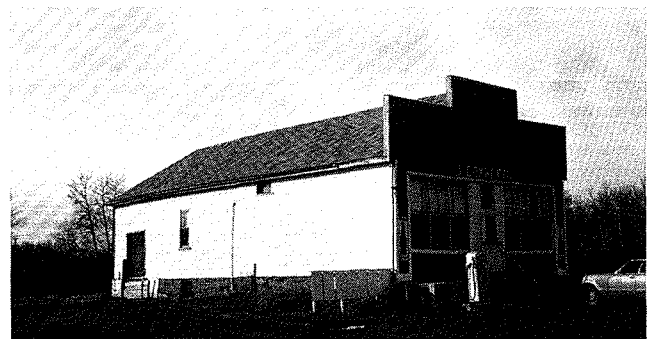
Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Brad (Storekeeper).



Sioux Benn in Isabella Store with earphones listening to the radio.



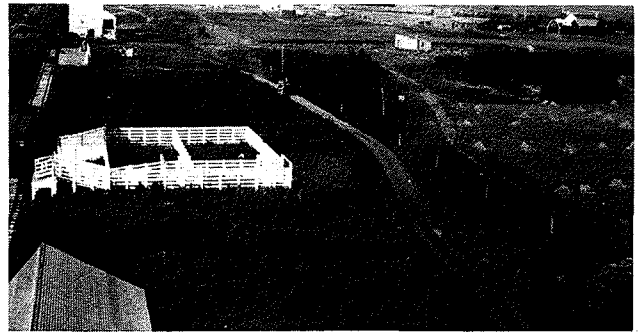
John and Margaret Coxworth in their general store, just previous to retirement.



Still's General Store, 1982.



Tom Kennedy in front of blacksmith shop, 1912.



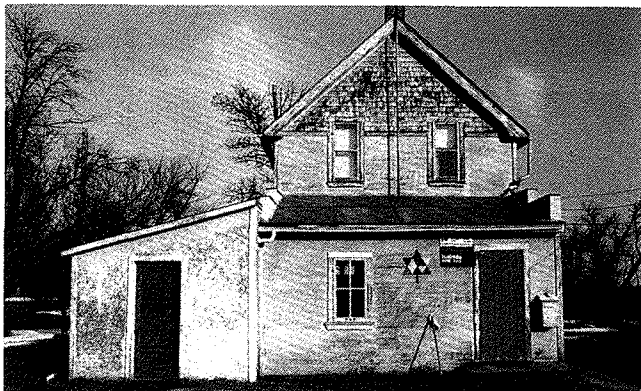
Looking west from United Grain Growers Elevator.



Anna Adams handing over the Post Office keys to Bernice Still, January 9, 1970.



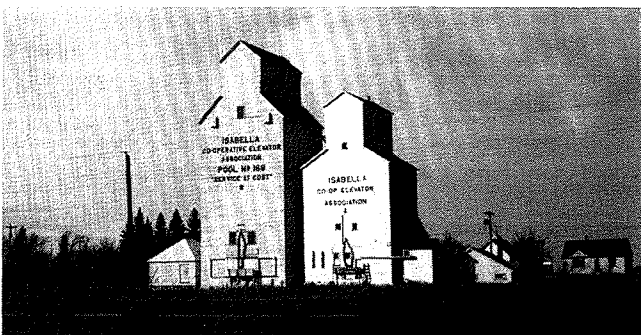
Building Robert Scott house, 1912.



Isabella Post Office until October, 1981.



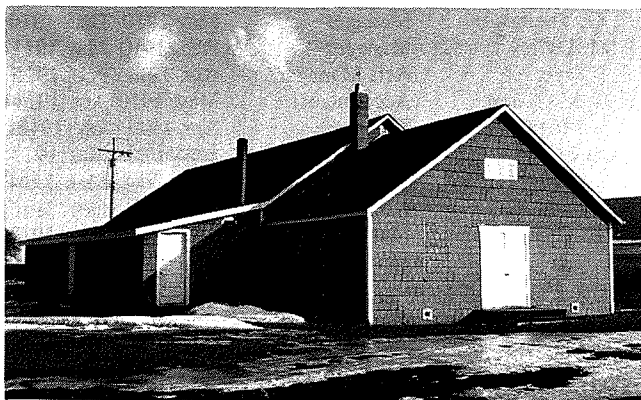
Reg Attwood, Maurice Koppers, Jack Brisbin, Norman Ball. Drill sold to Rob. Clark, in front of Ball's garage.



Isabella Pool Elevators "A" and "B", 1981.



Isabella Church and Manse.



Isabella Community Centre, 1982.



Rink and Community Centre, 1981.

The Blacksmith Shop

The Blacksmith Shop was built in March 1910, by Mr. T. J. Kennedy, and was situated just near the store north of the track. In April of that year, Mr. Kennedy built a small house near where the Ariss home now stands.

In the spring of 1912, the shop was moved to the town site south of the track, and was situated just across the street from the store. The Kennedy house was moved to its present location at the same time.

Mr. Kennedy carried on the Blacksmithing business until the year 1955, when he was forced to retire owing to ill health.

In October 1955, the shop and its contents were sold, and the building was later bought by Elmer Clark and moved out of town.

As there was no well in the town in the early days, a search for water had to be made. Mr. Kennedy noticed sand and gravel around a post hole of the C.N.R. fence, a short distance from where the present well is situated.

He, with the help of Mr. Dillon and Mr. St. George (two bankers, who were boarding at the Kennedy home at the time) began to haul up the dirt, and soon had a good well, with plenty of water. Mr. Kennedy cribbed the well, which served the town for many years.

The General Store

The first store was built in 1910 by Mr. P. Heddesheimer and was situated near what is now the Manse property. It was moved to the present site in early 1912. The moving was done by Mr. Jim Thompson with a steam tractor. Mr. Heddesheimer sold the store to Mr. Bob Scott of Dominion City, in 1912 and Mr. A. E. Brad, also of the Dominion City came to clerk in the store.

On Christmas night 1917 the store was burned to the ground. Mr. Scott immediately set up a temporary store in a room in the hardware store.

During the summer of 1919 George and Wilbert Irwin replaced the store on the same site and rented it to Mr. Scott when it was completed.

Some years later, Mr. Scott moved to Strasbourg Sask., and Mr. Brad took over the business.

In 1928 Mr. Brad sold the business to Mr. Clare Cornish of Miniota, when he bought a store in Melita. In 1929 Mr. Brad bought the business back and Mr. Cornish took over the store in Melita. During the year Mr. Cornish owned the business, he and Mr. W. H. Cumberland his clerk, lived in a room at the back of the store. Mr. Cumberland was Mr. Brad's clerk until the spring of 1930, when he purchased a store in Decker.

During the years, Mr. Brad purchased the building from the Irwin brothers. In 1949 he sold the store to Mr. John Coxworth, the present owner, who carries on a thriving general store and hardware.

The Isabella General Store 1949-1982 by John Coxworth

A general store, in a country town, in 1949, endeavored to supply the needs of the people of the community with groceries, fruit, meat, hardware, work clothing, and dress goods by the yard for home sewing. Flannelette by the yard was bought for nightwear and for diapers as Pampers were not on the market at that time.

Customers waited while their orders were filled from shelves that went to the ceiling. Sugar, raisins, dates and rice had to be weighed and bagged. Candies and cookies displayed in open boxes, were sold by the pound, and bagged as the customer chose them. All these items are pre-packed now at the factory.

Hardware and clothing were displayed on tables; nails and fencing staples came in wooden kegs. Wooden kegs, scales, spool cabinets and regulator clocks are all collector's items now.

In 1950, hydro was brought into the homes of the community. This changed the lifestyle. Meat, fruit and vegetables were frozen instead of being canned in gem jars. Ice cream became a favorite dessert.

About 1960 the store changed over to self-serve, with new shelves and counters, which seemed satisfactory to everyone.

The general store was always a meeting place, a place to visit with your neighbors and friends, pay utility bills, and donate to showers, farewells and memorial funds. Also it was a place to display sale bills and posters of coming events. The store was sold to Ray and Bernice Still in October, 1981. The post office was added to one corner of the store. We hope it will continue to serve the community for many years to come. My wife, Margaret, and I have enjoyed the friendly relations at the general store.

The Royal Crown Bank

The bank first set up business for a short time in a tent, which was pitched on the land near where the Pool Elevator house now stands. When the hardware store was completed in 1910, the bank was moved to rooms provided there, where they carried on until the bank on the corner was built in 1920. This building was built by Mr. John Clark, under bank specifications, and was rented to the bank. The bank first started as a Royal Crown Bank, but later all Royal Crown banks were taken over by the Royal Bank.

The first banker was Mr. Dillon also Mr. St. George, followed by Mr. Dyer, Mr. Champion and Mr. Harrower. Mr. Harrower remained until the bank was closed.

Following the removal of the bank, the building was used as a meeting place, for dances and other gatherings. A sewing class with its Achievement night was also held there. Terry Shurvell had a store there for a time; Claude Reid had a Barber shop; O. Young had a Barber shop; Mrs. O. Young had a lunch counter; and a Dental Clinic was also held there.

It has been used as a residence for many years. Those residing there during the years, included, Mr. and Mrs. J. Whenham, Mrs. D. Kelly, Mr. and Mrs. O. Young, Mr. S. P. Heise, Mr. and Mrs. T. Shurvell, Mr. and Mrs. W. Blight, Mr. and Mrs. A. Brad, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Reid, Mr. and Mrs. Russel Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Al. Clark and Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Clark. Mrs. R. T. Clark, the owner still resides there.

Information was received from Head Office of Royal Bank in Winnipeg.

Isabella branch of the Northern Crown Bank was opened May 13, 1910 and appears to have closed December 1, 1915. On January 26, 1919 a branch of the Royal Bank opened there but closed October 31, 1921, the business being transferred to Crandall, Man.

The undernoted were attached to the Northern Crown branch during the years it was in operation.

C. G. Thompson	Manager	May 1910	Dec. 1910
F. M. Dillon	Manager	Dec. 1910	May 1911
E. F. Dyer	Act. Manager	Apr. 1911	Feb. 1915
P. F. St. George	Accountant	May. 1910	Apr. 1911
H. J. Magnac	Tlr. Acct.	Apr. 1911	Jan. 1912
Cyril Bundy	Junior	Dec. 1911	Mar. 1913
J. T. Baril	Accountant	Mar. 1913	Mar. 1914
A. E. Doidge	Accountant	Mar. 1914	Dec. 1915
H. E. Champion	Manager	Feb. 1915	Dec. 1915

The Post Office

The first mail for this community was brought to Beulah by stage from Elkhorn. Anyone who happened to be going to Beulah to shop, brought all the mail and left it at the William Taylor farm. Sometimes it waited there for days before the owners picked it up.

There was a post office at the Narrows at Shoal Lake prior to 1883. Mr. Scouting was postmaster there. In 1883 mail was carried from that point to the home of Mr. Tom Orr, where Mrs. Bailey Sr. was postmistress for a short time. Mr. Jock Shoemaker now lives on that farm.

From Orr's, the office moved to the Alexander home for a year or two, then it moved to Jack Norton's, close to the site of Orrwold church. Mr. T. Bailey drove the mail from Norton's to Decker town for about six years. Then mail came in on the train. Among the early subscribers to this post office were the names Brownridge, Frazer, Decker, Iverach.

In 1906, after much letter writing and petitioning, permission was granted to have a post office at Isabella and it was started in the home of William Iverach, sec. 16-15-25. An old home-made cupboard in the corner of the kitchen held all the mail. This cupboard came from Ontario with the Heise family. (Mrs. William Iverach was Miss Priscilla Heise.) The upper section of the cupboard was open shelves divided into sections with well made little railings. Into these open compartments the community mail was sorted. The lower part was closed, and here behind the doors, the stamps, order forms and money were kept. I cannot remember any lock or key but I can well remember being warned to stay away from "The post office" when we were playing.

The mail was delivered to Isabella every Friday, by Mr. William Tennant of Arrow River, with a team of horses hitched to a buggy in summer and to a cutter in winter. After a little time the delivery was made twice weekly. He called at Lucas, which was the Blaris Post Office in the home of Mr. R. Campbell, at Arrowton, then to Orrwold, and lastly to Isabella. This was a trip of 36 miles and to his credit be it said, the mail was late less often than when it came in by train.

About 1910 the Iverach Brothers' Hardware business was started in the town and the post office was

moved into the store. The mail came by train three times weekly in the evenings and Mrs. Iverach used to go down to help sort the mail. The office was open for business as long as anyone remained in town. At the back of the hardware store there was a little stable to house the horses used to go back and forth. One night the hired man went to town with Mr. and Mrs. Iverach. About closing time the man was sent to hitch up the horse. For some reason Mrs. Iverach was not quite ready and the men got in the cutter and started off for home. Part way out of town the man said, "Oh, we forgot the Missus", and back they went to get her.

For some years Mr. and Mrs. Don Iverach had farmed in this district, then left and moved to Calgary. They returned about 1916, built a house in Isabella and took over the post office. In 1928 they sold this house to Mr. John Sunley and built a little place on the main street beside the store. There they kept the post office until Mrs. Iverach died in 1933. Mr. Iverach carried on with the assistance of his niece Mrs. A. Adams. When his health did not permit him to live alone any longer, he, with the post office moved into the Adams' house. He died in May 1941 and Mrs. Adams became postmistress.

Carrying the mail was also one of the duties of the postmaster when it started to come in by train. Mr. James Iverach, Mr. Don Iverach, and Mr. Austin Adams could all tell stories of carrying mail in carts, hand drawn sleds and in the car. The train came in about 8 p.m. in the evening, went on to Beulah and spent the night, returning about 5 a.m. next morning. Early mornings in the summer were no hardship but in winter 40° below, or with a blizzard howling was another matter.

For some years a rural delivery to homes in the Blaris community was driven by Mr. Norman Ball, Mr. S. P. Heise and the last driver was Mr. A. Adams. This service was discontinued about 15 years ago.

The train carried the mail for some years, then it was taken off the local train and came in on the main line trains to be delivered to the various offices by drivers. Mr. Reg Attwood drove for some years. In 1961 the mail was taken off the trains and now comes in trucks to all local points.

Update by Bernice Still

Mail is delivered at 8:30 a.m. and picked up at 4:30 p.m. daily except Sunday. Mrs. Adams carried on as postmistress until 1970. Anna received a pin for twenty-five years of service. When Bernice Still took over, it was the end of sixty-four years of service by the Iverach family. Bernice continued with the Post Office in the Adams' house until October, 1981 when she and Ray purchased the general store from J. Coxworth. They moved the Post Office to the north-

east corner of the store. About fifty families receive mail at the Isabella Post Office. The lock boxes in use are the original ones, the same kind can be seen in the National Post Office Museum.

Post-Script to Isabella Post Office History

****Postal History at Arrow River**

In 1881 or '82 mail came from Portage la Prairie by stage to Birtle. Mr. Tom Elliot had the contract to carry the mail from Birtle to Arrow River via Beulah. About 1884 the mail was brought from Elkhorn (main line of the C.P.R.), then by stage to Parkissimo (D. Rowan was Postmaster at that point). From Parkissimo, Mr. Rowan carried the mail to Arrow River, to Lucas (Blaris), to Arrowton, to Orrwold. There was another mail route from Parkissimo to Beulah, on to Birtle by stage coach.

The Arrow River Post office was in Mr. James Elliot Sr.'s home opened about 1883. The Lucas Post Office was in Mr. Frank Campbell's home. Arrowton post office was in Wm. Haney's and Orrwold at the John Norton's home. As I remember, the above Post Offices got mail bi-weekly. The mail carriers after Mr. D. Rowan were Paul Bryant and J. T. Stubbins. Then when the C.P.R. Miniota branch was extended from Hamiota about 1898, Lucas, Arrowton and Orrwold were served from Arrow River. Mr. Wm. Tennant Sr. was carrier to Lucas, Arrowton and Orrwold from about 1900 to 1910 or as soon as the C.N.R. railway was extended from Hallboro Junction to Beulah, and later Arrow River was served by the C.N.R. main line from Quadra. There was a change in mail service in the spring of 1962 from Rapid City by daily mail truck.

Canadian National Railway

The line was constructed from Hallboro to Isabella in 1909. For one year, it was called the Canadian Northern, owned and operated by McKenzie-Mann Construction Co. The construction work was done by gangs of men who drove mules, instead of horses, and the residents of the district were interested spectators as the work progressed. It was a red letter day when the first train arrived in Isabella. For a time there was a "Y" just west of the town, as the line was not extended to Beulah until 1910.

The station was completed, and the first agent Mr. T. H. Stone, began his duties on October 5, 1910. For many years, the line was a busy place, with its shipments, of grain, stock, freight and passengers.

Every other week a carload of stock, and sometimes two, were shipped to Winnipeg. Much freight was carried, and many passengers travelled up and down the line. Train service was varied through the years. For many years there was a tri-weekly service; for a time there was a daily train, and later there were

only two trains a week. In 1962 there is only one train, which arrives each Monday. The old familiar steam engine has gone, and a diesel electric has taken its place.

Early in 1953, word was received that the station would be closed. A meeting was called with railroad officials in attendance. Many briefs were presented, asking that the closing of the station be reconsidered; but all requests were useless, and on Feb. 13th 1953, the agent was removed and the station closed. Following the closing of the station, Mr. H. Levins was engaged by the C.N.R. to look after the freight. When the section house was moved from Beulah to Isabella, the job was taken over by the section foreman, who now resides in the station. In 1960 word was received that the railroad line was to be taken up. Residents up and down the line, joined forces, and prepared briefs, which were presented at hearings in Brandon. Results of the hearings were anxiously awaited. Finally, word was received that the line was to be left intact, for a number of years at least.

Update of the Canadian National Railway

The joy of 1909, when the first train came to this community, was changed to sorrow in 1978, when the line was officially closed.

The representatives from the CNR, at the Hearing of the Hall Commission at Hamiota, left no doubt that the company would not continue to repair or upgrade branch lines.

Service diminished gradually. In winter, trains could not travel the Beulah-Hallboro line, because snowbanks blocked the line and no snow plow was dispatched to clear it. In spring, the roadbed was soft, through lack of care, so crews considered it unsafe to take a train up the line. In summer, there was a shortage of cars, so no grain could be hauled. The elevator was full, and loaded cars waited to be taken to the Lakehead. Farmers were frustrated and angry over the deliberate lack of service. To meet their financial obligations they had to sell their grain somewhere else.

After phoning several elevator managers (mostly through long distance) they were allowed to haul grain. Often when the farmer reached the elevator, he found a long line-up of farm trucks. The elevator was soon filled, and the local people resented outsiders coming in and filling "their" space.

The Canadian National had the upper hand. It was stated that if farmers had hauled grain to an alternate facility once, they could continue to do so. Of course the farmers would absorb the increased hauling costs. Petitions and briefs were to no avail, and on December 31, 1978, the branch line was officially closed. In the summer of 1979 the rails and ties were lifted.

Farmers from this area hauled grain to existing elevators at Crandall, Miniota, Solsgirth, Shoal Lake and Oakner. A new Pool facility at Quadra, on the main CNR line, was completed in 1981, which made more space available to this area. Farmers travel a distance of 15-20 miles to deliver grain. With the sharp rise in fuel and machinery costs this has put an added burden on the economy of grain producers. The Brandon-Miniota CPR line was later abandoned, thus Crandall, Hamiota, and Miniota elevators were closed. As a result of increased trucking, road maintenance costs have risen.

Another bone of contention is the "Crow Rate". This agreement was established in 1897 to assist farmers that had very high freight charges because of excessive distances to overseas shipping terminals. From 1925 to the present these rates have not changed. Now the Federal Government proposes to change the Statutory rate. At the time of writing this article, this issue on the "Crow Rate" has not been settled.

Elevators

Western Canada, later Manitoba Pool Elevator

Before the coming of the railroad in 1909, the farmers hauled their grain to Birtle, Hamiota, Miniota, or Arrow River, the distance being about 18 miles to each place. Prices at this time were 18¢ a bushel for wheat and 6¢ per bushel for oats.

In 1909 a crew of men and about 60 teams of horses and mules came into the district to build the grade for the rails. The men who laid the rails had pads on their shoulders on which they carried the rails. The camps were moved every few miles, the first being east of the present cemetery site, the second in Calder's bluff and the third on the present Peel farm. The horses and mules were tethered to long chains fastened to posts. It was quite a sight to see sixty teams lined up eating oats from boxes and hay and sheaves off the ground. They were watered at William Iverach's farm. This construction was done by McKenzie and Mann, and then sold to the Government.

In 1909 Mr. Will Palmer borrowed a horse-power elevating loader from Mr. J. L. Thompson and loaded five cars of grain. The farmers loaded their own cars by hand which was a back-breaking task. The cars were consigned to Western Canada Flour Mills in Winnipeg.

In 1910, the Western Canada Company built the first elevator in Isabella having taken it down in Crandall and re-building it in Isabella. Mr. Palmer was the first agent and received \$60.00 per month. He resigned in March 1911.

In 1912, Mr. McMullen became the agent and

worked here until 1928 when he moved to Calgary. Mr. Ramsey and Mr. Warren were agents for a time and in 1929 Herb Shurvell came and served until 1945.

In 1939 the Western Canada sold their Elevator to Manitoba Pool Elevator Association. The first board was appointed August 15, 1940 with the following slate of officers: president — Bill Bardwell, 1st vice — J. F. M. Johnston, secretary — Dave Bell, the other directors were: Wes. Stewart, Ernie Sunley, Harry Harrison, Lorne Wright and Harry Sawyer.

In 1941 the annex was built on the north side of the elevator.

In July 1941 the salary of the agent was raised to \$100.00 per month, since then it has tripled itself. In June 1941 wheat sold for 70¢ per bushel.

Harry Levins was the next buyer. He bought grain until his retirement in 1953. He then built a house, and retired in Isabella.

The next buyer was Charlie Nichol. He is still the buyer as this book goes to press. The local association bought the Verne Sunley house just north of the elevator, as an agent's house. In 1955 a new larger elevator was built just west of the old elevator. The board at present is as follows: president — Russell Clark, secretary — Tom Stewart, with the other directors as follows: Archie Norrie, Gordon Campbell, Glen Still, Tom Webb, Bill Gilchrist, and Ray Still. In the year 1940, the quota system was introduced and is still in force.

Later the unit system came into being. This method entitled each member to deliver one hundred units (ie, three hundred bushels of wheat, five hundred bushels of barley or one thousand bushels of oats). The balance is delivered on the quota system as space becomes available.

Varieties of grain grown in this region from the earlier years to the present.

Wheat	Oats	Barley	Rye
Red Fife	Vanguard	Plush	Antelope
Preston	Ajax	Gartons	Prolific
Marquis	Exeter	Vantage	
Ruby	Vicker	Trebi	
Ceres	Banner	Synalta	Flax
Kitchener	Garry	Husky	Red Wing
Red Bobs	Rodney	O.A.C. 21	Red Wood
Garnet	Victory	Montcalm	Cheyenne
Reward		Parkland	Raja
Thatcher			Norland
Apex			Marine
Regent			
Redman			
Saunders			
Lee			
Selkirk			
Pembina			
Renown			

Durham varieties Mindum Stewart

Forage crops, consisting of Sweet Clover, Alfalfa, Brome and Meadow Fescue, have been grown to a greater extent during recent years.

Isabella Elevators 1962-1981

by Glen Still

In 1970, a new elevator office was built, with the scales in the office, which was a great improvement for the buyer. In 1973, the annex, the "C" elevator (the old UGG), and equipment were sold. In 1974 the Pool residence was sold to Neil Stewart as the buyer C. Nichol owned his own home. In 1976, C. Nichol moved to Gladstone, after being the buyer for 23 years.

Due to rationalization of the rail system by the government, the Rapid City sub-division was abandoned in 1979, forcing the closure of the elevator. In the spring of 1981, the "A" and "B" elevators were sold to three area farmers: Harold Doran, Ron Huberdeau and Dale Still. These elevators remained where they were to be used for storage.

A new elevator has been built at Quadra on the CNR main line and the grain from this area moves south to this elevator or north to Solsgirth on the CPR line.

In 1978, Bill Whyman dismantled the old UGG elevator.

The elevator association is now in the process of being dissolved. The last board of directors to serve were as follows: president — Harold Doran, vice president — Art Heise, secretary — Glen Still. Other directors were: Cyril Norrie, Donald Martin, Gordon Campbell, Ray Still and Lloyd Irwin.

At a meeting on July 21, 1981 the Isabella Co-op Elevator Association was dissolved. The funds were turned over to a board of trustees consisting of: Harold Doran, Lloyd Irwin, Art Heise, Dave Heise and Tom Stewart.

As a point of interest Tom Stewart stated that he attended the meeting forty-one years ago when the association was formed. He was also in attendance when it was dissolved. Tom Stewart served as secretary from 1953 until 1968 and has been on the board from 1946 to 1968.

The United Grain Growers Elevator

The Grain Growers Grain Company was a farmer owned and operated group, who approached Mr. Will Palmer in 1912, and asked him if he would purchase a grain loader and load cars of grain for them. Mr. Palmer loaded seventy six cars of grain and shipped them to the Grain Growers Grain Company in Win-

nipeg. He received 1¢ per bushel for loading and 1¢ from the Company. This laid the foundation for another elevator in Isabella. In 1913 the Grain Growers Grain Co. built their second elevator. The first one was built in Lavinia. Mr. Palmer was the first agent. He remained here until 1918, when he became superintendent for the Company.

In 1917, the Grain Growers Grain Co. and the Alberta Farmers Elevator united and became known as the United Grain Growers Limited. Mr. Palmer can recall a carload of wheat at the beginning of World War I in 1914 selling for \$3.65 per bushel. The Government then set a price at \$2.21 per bushel.

In 1918, Mr. R. D. L. Warren was agent from August until October. Mr. Harry Brisbin arrived in June 1919. He stayed until March 1921. When Mr. Brisbin left, Mr. Warren became agent again. He bought land on the east side of town and lived there. This time he was agent for two years, leaving in 1923. From April of that year until May (1923) Mr. Joe Chisholm was agent. Mr. Brisbin returned in May 1923 and was agent here until August, 1954, when he retired. He remained in Isabella and bought the former Sunley house. Mr. Rudy Apperley came in August 1954. In August 1962 this elevator was sold to the Manitoba Pool Elevator Company, and Rudy became agent of a U.G.G. elevator at Westbourne, Man.

In the early days, the elevator agents sold barrels of apples. Now they handle coal and livestock feeds.

The first local board of the United Grain Growers was W. S. Miller, Chairman, Charlie Craig, Walter Ware, Ed Little and R. D. L. Warren as secretary. Mr. Warren was secretary for ten years. Mr. Bridge held this position for thirteen years. In 1941-1942 Charlie Ariss became secretary.

Mr. W. H. Miller was chairman for the first three years; Mr. Ed. Heise then held this position for eighteen years. Other members serving long terms were; D. Wright, J. Clark, M. Little, T. Ariss, R. Calder, D. J. Harrison, G. T. Ariss, R. Scarth, J. Ross, R. E. Heise, E. D. Heise, and F. Reid.

The Lumber and Hardware Store

The Lumber and Hardware store was built in 1910 by Iverach Brothers. Some years later Mr. P. J. Beveridge went into partnership with Mr. James Iverach. From then, it went under the name of Iverach and Beveridge until the store was closed in 1941. Mr. A. E. Brad took over the hardware stock and added it to his general store. Johnnie Reid took over the building for a time, but it was burned shortly after.

Following his return from the war, Mr. Vern Sunley built a machine shop on the same site. He has since moved to Brandon and the building is vacant.

The Hardware Store provided space for the bank from the year 1910 until the present bank was built in 1920. It provided space for the first Barber Shop, with Mr. Bill Doran in charge, and for almost a year, following the burning of the store in 1917, the owners found room for Mr. Scott to carry on business until such time as the new store was ready for use.

It was also the home of the first Post Office, when it was moved to town from the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Iverach.

Dressmaking and Millinery

Miss Lily Argyle was the first dressmaker in the district. She later became Mrs. Tom Ariss. Her home was in England. Later Miss Tillie Stewart who came from Ontario to live with her brother Wes, did some dressmaking. She later became Mrs. Harry Reid. Miss May Kelly, whose home was in the district, learned the trade and carried on a dressmaking business for a time. Miss May Kelly, later became Mrs. Archie Stewart. There are many good sewers in the district, and there has never been any great need of a special dressmaker.

Many years ago, a Home Economist from the Extension Service, gave a series of lessons on Millinery. The classes were held in the church basement and were especially well attended. The ladies sported many fine hats, following this course, but of course they were not all appreciated by the husbands. Times have not changed so much during the years.

John Deere Plow Co. Machine Shed

In 1912, Mr. W. S. Palmer built a large implement shed in the space just south of the Apperley house. He had the agency for John Deere Plow Co. goods, International Harvester and Case Machinery. He also sold McLaughlin buggies. He continued in the business for six years, then he gave it up, and also quit the elevator.

Norman Ball rented the building for a time, but when he left the district the building was closed. It was later torn down.

Massey Harris Implements

In 1911 Mr. Wm. Budd of Crandall built the first implement shed, near where Mrs. R. T. Clark's garage is now situated, and started the Massey Harris business.

When the building was completed, the business was turned over to Mr. T. J. Kennedy, who carried on until the beginning of the second world war, when the Massey Harris Company closed a lot of the smaller warehouses.

The building was finally sold and moved away.

The Isabella Shipping Association

As there are no records available, this information has been gathered from the memories of some of the charter members of the Isabella Shipping Association.

In the very early days, some of the farmers with more livestock, shipped their own stock in carload lots along the C.N.R. line to Winnipeg. Sometimes they would club together in order to fill a car. When Mr. Clubleby was butcher here, he bought cattle and shipped them on his own to Winnipeg and even Montreal.

It is believed that about the mid 1920's, as the livestock number increased, the demand grew for a community service. A group of farmers from here attended a meeting of the Decker Association and from the knowledge gathered there, an Association was formed at Isabella.

For the first few years, Cliff. Drummond consented to be "shipper". Anyone having cattle, hogs, etc. ready to market, contacted him, and when he had sufficient numbers to fill a railroad car, he would ship. Everyone brought their livestock to town on "train day" so that they could be loaded in time to catch the train going east from Beulah the following morning. We must not forget the many extremely cold days or the unbearably hot days the shippers endured at the stockyards, waiting for the farmers to come in with their cattle, pigs, horses, etc. Sometimes a beast would get away in the process and after circling the town a few times, would run home, only to await his fate next shipping day. There were times when the cars had to be loaded in the morning before train time which was around 5:45 A.M. Usually one of the farmers who had stock in the shipment, would accompany the car, to tend to the animals en route and to see them sold. This they did at a reduced fare.

Cliff. Drummond shipped for a few years, then was followed by Peter Still. Mr. Wm. Bardwell took over these duties, and carried on for about twenty years. In 1946, when Mr. Bardwell left the farm, Bill Gilchrist was named to fill the position. He carried on until about 1953, when shipping by truck became popular and shipping by rail became extinct.

We are told that one and sometimes two carloads of stock were shipped from this point every two weeks on the average the year round. This shows to what extent livestock was raised in these districts.

For the first years, the Association consigned their shipments to Burns Bros. of Winnipeg, but later changed to Manitoba Co-operatives.

Now, in 1962, our livestock is trucked to Brandon and Winnipeg but the quantity is comparable to that of the past. Where it took the stock all day to reach

market by rail in the past, they can now reach that same destination in a matter of five hours by truck.

Although the Isabella Shipping Association is no longer active, it served a real need in its day.

Barber Shops Through the Years

The first barber shop which was opened many years ago, was set up in a room in the hardware store. Mr. Wm. Doran was the barber, but being a farmer, he could only work in the evenings. At that time, the stores were open for at least four nights a week, so Mr. Doran had plenty of night customers.

After Mr. Doran left the district, Mr. Ollie Young had a barber chair set up in the bank, when he and his family lived there for a time.

Later, Claude Reid had a barber shop in the bank. For two or three years in the early forties, Mr. Joe Astle had a barber shop in the back of the store. His term as a barber ended suddenly. One evening while some of his customers were still waiting, he complained of not feeling well, and was not able to continue with his work. He went home, and passed away a few hours later.

There was no barber in town until 1945, when Mr. H. Levins took over the agency of the Pool Elevator. A short time afterwards, Mr. Levins set up his barber chair in the elevator office, where he carried on until he retired from the elevator. In the winter of 1957-58 he set up his shop in the kitchen of the Pool Elevator house, which was vacant at that time. When the house was sold Mr. Levins built a small shop just north of the store. In 1961 he moved the shop to his own property south of the school, where he still carried on, health permitting.

Isabella Credit Union

The Isabella Credit Union was first discussed in the fall of 1944 and several meetings were held in the School House.

It was organized in January, 1945, with Mr. Ernie Sunley as President and Mrs. R. T. Clark secretary treasurer.

The membership grew to thirty-six. Regular meetings were held but the organization did not grow, and in 1950 it was decided to close.

At this time there was a total of \$1530.19 on hand in depositors names.

Interest on loans had amounted to \$100.45, accrued from \$2400.00 of loan business. But the members felt there was such a limited need for a Credit Union that it was not in their interest to carry on so it was closed.

Cafe

Mrs. O. Young served evening lunches in the bank during the time they were living there, and an Ice Cream parlor did a thriving business in the back of the store for a time.

Later, Mr. and Mrs. Levi Miller built a house just north of the black smith shop, and ran a cafe. When Mr. and Mrs. Miller moved to B.C. the house was sold and moved out of town.

Isabella Rink

In January 1920, the Women's Institute met for their monthly meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Harrower. (Incidentally, this was the home the Brisbins occupied for so many years). During the business session, Mrs. J. E. Heise brought up the question of building a rink at Isabella. She outlined the great need of some recreational centre at home. At that time, most of our children were quite young, so had not felt this need.

However, the idea was discussed, even if we did not think it could be accomplished. A committee, with Mr. P. J. Beveridge as chairman was appointed to visit several rinks in the district, to get ideas regarding size, plan and price. This committee went to work immediately, and came back with the recommendation that Kenton Rink was their idea of a good sound building.

Lumber was quite cheap at that time, and the committee decided the rink could be built for \$4,000, provided the men of the community were willing to do most of the work.

The Institute called another meeting, and divided the district into four quarters, with the school corner as the centre. Four ladies were appointed to canvass those quarters. They did a lot of travelling over all kinds of roads and reported back with their results. The men's committee decided they could not attempt a building of that size with the amount of money promised, so the ladies travelled all that territory over again. This time they had promises for all that was required, except \$700.00, so the work was begun. Mr. T. Ariss offered to loan the last \$700.00 to the committee, and that note is still in existence. The Women's Institute took the note over from the committee.

Men's groups were organized to do the work, and each day, a goodly number turned out to do their share toward the erection of the rink. Mrs. T. Stevenson, who was president of the W.I. at that time, organized groups of W.I. members to serve dinner and lunch to the workers each day. This was done in a vacant house in town. By December, 1920, the rink was ready for use. On opening night, a huge banquet was held in the basement of the church. Following

the banquet, the crowd went to the rink, where a member of parliament cut the ribbon and declared the rink open.

The women worked hard to reduce that note and when it was down to \$400.00 Mr. Wm. Miller took it over. Finally, at a meeting at the home of Mrs. M. J. Bridge, it was reported that the last dollar had been raised. Mrs. T. J. Kennedy was treasurer of the W.I. during the years it took to pay that note.

About 1932, it was felt that the rink needed an addition, as Isabella boasted a flourishing Hockey team at that time and more room was needed.

Meetings were held to discuss plans, financing etc. Mr. Wm. Miller again offered to lend the money for the addition.

It was built at the west end, and consisted of a waiting room, boys' dressing room, engine room, and a gallery above. The work was done again by members of the community, and the hockey team earned the money through their tournament wins to pay Mr. Miller's note.

In 1936 electric lights were installed, which was a great improvement to the old style of lighting.

The one sheet of curling ice, produced many good curlers through the years and at bonspiel time, the skating ice was flooded for curling, thus making four good sheets of ice.

For a short time during the war, the rink was not opened, but for most of the forty two years since it was built, it has provided much good wholesome sport for young and old.

In the winter of 1954, while the bonspiel was in progress, some one returning home late on Saturday night, noticed smoke and flames, inside the rink. An alarm was given and the whole community turned out to fight the fire. It was finally put out, but not before quite a little damage had been done to the south wall and roof. Willing hands soon repaired the damage, and the old rink was back in circulation again.

Isabella Rink Update

Since the writing of Rural Reflections in 1962, many renovations and repairs have been made to the rink. The building was jacked-up, straightened and a new concrete foundation was poured. New siding, paint and asphalt shingles were put on the exterior. The waiting room has been insulated and paneled, and kitchen cupboards and a new counter have been added. An airtight furnace room had to be built to meet fire insurance standards. The former balcony area has been closed in and is a comfortable room from which one can watch activities on the ice. This room is also used as a draw room. At bonspiel time a portable, carpeted walk-way is placed on the west end of the ice to help keep the ice clean. A new booth

has been built on the east end of the rink adjoining the sports grounds. This is used for sportsdays. These improvements were the result of government grants, local donations and a fine community spirit.

Wood bees continued until 1968 when a new oil furnace was installed in the area that had been a dressing room. At this time electrically heated water tanks were purchased, water was hauled by truck, eliminating the ice bees as well.

In the past number of years, all caretaking has been done by organized volunteer groups. This has cut down expenses greatly, and has proved quite satisfactory.

There is no longer any organized hockey or figure-skating here, but throughout the season we have a good number of skaters, especially on Friday nights, when, for the past few years, lunch has been provided.

We still have annual mixed and ladies' bonspiels. 1981 was the only year they had to be cancelled completely due to mild weather. This led to the first annual two-day broomball tournament. Another fund raising event is the annual fastball tournament held in July. This event is shared with the hall board.

A playground has been built south of the rink with expenses being shared by the rink board and the hall board.

Members serving on the board since 1962 have been: Bob Stewart, Lorne Wright, Charlie Nichol, George Lawn, Gordon Campbell, John Coxworth, George Sutherland, Ken Clark, Murray Bell, Archie Norrie, Stan Teasdale, Ray Still, Art Heise, John Wall, Bob Ross, Lloyd Irwin, Ed Doran, Craig Harrison, Harold Doran, Gerry Hanlin, Ron Huberdeau, Edgar Higgins, Don Martin, Larry Gompf, Bill Clark, Murray Sutherland, David Irwin, Glen Still, Robert Still, and Neil Stewart.

The Community Hall

At a ratepayers meeting, held in Isabella School on Thursday Oct-6, 1947, President J. Coxworth introduced the question of a Community Hall.

The suggestion had come from the Women's Institute, but as there was no one from that organization to speak to the question, Mr. Coxworth asked for a discussion from the meeting.

The conclusion of the meeting was, that more information was needed and it was suggested that committees be appointed to find out from neighboring districts, the costs and problems connected with running a hall.

A cost finding committee was nominated as follows: J. Ross, T. Miller, and F. Gardham, to get what information they could, and report back to a later meeting.

Following the receiving of this report, a committee, composed of G. Sutherland, F. Gardham, W. Gilchrist, J. Ross and R. Clark was appointed to obtain a rough estimate of donations toward a hall.

At a hall meeting held on Dec. 6, 1949, the committee reported that \$2050.00 had been pledged for a new hall, and the canvass had not been completed.

After some discussion, the meeting unanimously agreed that a hall should be built. It was then decided that a committee of five men and two W.I. women be appointed to proceed with beforehand preparations.

The committee appointed included: Jim Ross, Frank Gardham, Frank Reid, Wm. Gilchrist and Burton Johnston, Mrs. L. Wright and Mrs. Al Clark were later appointed to represent the Women's Institute. Burton Johnston was appointed as the first secretary.

This committee was also given authority to choose the location of the building. The lots finally chosen were directly north of the Community Rink.

Beside personal donations, a Christmas cake, shell craft pictures and a quilt were donated to be raffled. There was also a donation from the local Pool Elevator Association, and one from the Women's Institute. Later, a dressed pig was donated to be raffled, also a portable radio.

The amounts received from the raffles amounted to \$236.00. The elevator donation was \$100.00 and the W.I. first a loan, then a donation, amounted to \$425.00.

Work began on the hall in the spring of 1951, and plans were made to have the opening on August 24.th. The inside of the hall was not completed at that time, and hydro was not installed till a short time later. Donations were received from local residents to cover much of the cost of installing hydro.

The opening was attended by a huge crowd. Many former residents came to renew acquaintances and enjoy the dance, to music by Ernie Kirk's Orchestra from Marchwell Sask.

Most successful dances were held for some time, on alternate Friday nights.

The district was divided into quarters, and the ladies from each quarter took turns in donating cakes, and making sandwiches for the dances.

In 1954 the interior of the hall was finished, and a stage was completed.

In 1955, a new hard-wood floor was laid. In 1958, a kitchen and porch were built at the west end of the hall. The roof was painted, the outside walls were done in grey insul-brick, and the door and window frames were outlined in white, making it a most attractive building.

Inside improvements included red velvet curtains

for the stage, cupboards and a stove for the kitchen. The kitchen is equipped with enough dishes, cutlery, table linen etc. to serve 120 people. Stacking chairs have been purchased, also a piano.

The work of building the hall from its beginning to its completion was done almost entirely by voluntary labor.

The hall is a real asset to the community. Besides being used for dances, it is an ideal place for catering for wedding receptions, showers, fowl suppers, plays, bazaars, farewells, etc. and for the annual school Christmas concert it is packed to the doors.

Members on the board at the present time are, Dave Heise, Russell Doran, Johnnie Finkbeiner, Rudy Apperly, Sec. Treas Tony Rittaler, chairman Tom Stewart.

Isabella Community Hall

The Isabella Hall has continued to be an asset to the community. Many capable board members and volunteers can be credited with the up-keep of the hall with on-going repairs and improvements.

In 1963 the kitchen floor was repaired.

In 1964 the roof was repaired and painted.

In 1965 a stoker was added to the furnace (for \$125) which heated the building until 1971 when it was replaced with an oil furnace (for \$600).

1967 and 1968 saw Austin Adams put in stair railings and replace the entrance doors.

The years 1974 on saw a new face to the hall interior. The ceiling was tiled and in 1975 with the help of a government grant of \$2500, an 8 x 12 furnace room, 24 x 12 kitchen and 28 x 12 more hall space were added on the north side of the building. The basement was filled in, the old stage removed, the entrance moved from the south to centre west end of the hall with wash rooms placed on the north and a cloak room to the south of the entrance.

In 1976 kitchen cupboards were built and in 1977 crash hardware and fire extinguishers were placed in the building.

After the many additions it was decided in 1978 to refinish the floor, so with five days of hard work the floor was sanded, covered with four coats of varnish, and waxed. That year a number of new tables were built for the dine and dance evenings.

In 1980 the walls were insulated and covered with hardboard panelling; a telephone and showcase installed.

New metal doors have given a finishing touch in 1981.

Fund raising is a must to keep a community hall viable. During this period of time many new ideas have been tried, as well as the usual rentals and dances, to procure funds.

In 1963, a turkey shoot was held in the rink which provided much fun and some profit.

Sunday sportsdays were going well, so in 1972 the hall board took over the day. This was very helpful and, later, as the hall became more self-sufficient, the hall and rink boards split the proceeds and work load.

The government came to our aid as a recreational grant was received in 1975. This was applied for in 1974. This \$2500 was used for a major expansion to the hall, previously described.

In 1976 funds were derived from: a turkey bingo, rummage and bake sale, a Christmas cake and turkey raffle.

A number of years prior to 1977 dances became non-profitable, so they were dropped. The hall board decided to swing to the new concept of dine and dance. This has been quite successful.

In 1978 a hospitality bar was conceived to complement the annual bonspiel. It is a joint venture between the hall and rink boards.

Many groups and individuals have contributed to the betterment of the hall. The U.C.W. is one such group. In the past fifteen years the group has supplied the hall with over \$700 worth of dishes and cutlery. Table cloths were also purchased in 1968 and 1977. The ladies also donated tables in 1966 and 1977, and stacking chairs in 1974 and 1977.

The former Agricultural Society gave fifty-five stacking chairs to the hall in 1964.

The sum of \$100 was turned over to the hall by an Isabella youth group in 1974.

Another ladies' group, the W.I., supported the hall with a lot of hard work as well as financial assistance. The W.I. supplied varnish and applied it, they supplied money for an electric stove in 1970 and they donated one table and ten chairs in 1976.

The 4H Seed Club, no longer operating, donated \$164 to the hall for improvements.

In 1978, "Youth Canada", a student group, came in and painted the hall trim and all of the rink.

While the local volunteers were remodelling in 1975, there was some digging to be done. Mr. Al Hirst came in with his back-hoe and did the work free of charge.

As it seemed more difficult to find people to serve on boards and committees, it was decided to try a "two-year revolving" committee. This idea seems to work well, as no one gets stuck for life.

Some of the people of the community that did serve a ten year or more term are: R. Doran, J. Finkbeiner, T. Stewart, Dave Heise and C. Norrie. The hall board and community really appreciates the service of caretakers in the past and present. Some

are Reg and Mildred Attwood, Russell and Ina Doran and now Ray and Bernice Still.

The hard work of improving, repairing and fund raising throughout the years has a purpose, — that being the fun of the many enjoyable events held in and around the hall.

In 1967 Canada's Centennial was celebrated with ball games, a weiner roast and horse shoes, etc.

1968 introduced an annual Christmas Party with supper and entertainment followed with Santa and gifts for the children.

In 1970, on Manitoba Centennial Day, we were thankful for the hall as it was a rainy day. Supper was enjoyed indoors and a great visit by all.

1978 saw a change of events. With rising cost of orchestras, we changed our annual New Year's Eve Dance to a Holiday Dance.

1980 was another hi-lite with the 75th School Anniversary and Reunion, — supper taking place in the rink, followed by a family dance in the hall.

These are a few of the hi-lites in the past years along with many of the regular activities, such as: the fowl suppers, smorgasbords, craftshows, showers, wedding receptions, anniversary suppers and dances, plus the occasional farewells, political meetings, educational programs, benefit dances, family reunions, teacher-trustee, Legion and Hospital Aid banquets.

Miscellaneous

Shamrock Hall — 1934

by Mrs. J. Chapman

During the Depression, most of the young people were at home because there was no work for them elsewhere. A few girls did housework at five dollars a month. Some men worked on farms for the same, fifteen dollars in the summer. The only thing to do was to make our own entertainment, so we held house parties. The ladies took lunch and we had local music.

Then we had a dance at Wm. Pierce's barn. The men paid twenty-five cents each. Later, we had a big dance at Ed Doran's new barn and one at Harry Sawyer's new barn. Then we rented Beulah Hall and had a dance there. Ladies got in for a cake. By that time we had some money towards building our own hall.

Mr. Abel Hawes donated the land, Mr. Harry Wakefield was president. Trustees were Fred Shurvell, Wm. Pierce and Harry Sawyer. Committee for building was, J. Chapman, H. Sawyer and Bert Hawes. Secretary — F. Bowman, treasurer — L. W. Berwick, and music committee was Wm. Hickman and J. Chapman. Others helping were Harry Beattie, Ed, Russell, and Casper Doran, Charlie Graham, Oscar Hamberg, George Wierer, John Coxworth, J. Blackhall, J. Satterthwaite, Bill Muldoon, W. T. Preston, Jim Smith and Jim Hawes. Fred King was hired to take charge and all other work was donated.

A shelter made of poles covered with straw was built for the horses. The hall was 26x40 feet and had a large kitchen, a dressing room, also a woodshed. All wood was donated. The lumber cost nineteen dollars a thousand delivered by a saw mill. We got a good piano at St. Lazare for eighty dollars. Mr. John Sunley of Isabella made a pulpit for us for nine dollars.

The hall was opened for Church services by Rev. H. I. Bowman on October 29, 1934. Mr. Jas. Thompson had the honor of opening the Sunday School. The superintendent was Harry Sawyer, secretary was Jean Preston Nettle. Teachers were Mrs. J. Chapman,

Mrs. H. Sawyer and Merle Wakefield McCutcheon. Caretaker was L. W. Berwick. Music for church was supplied by Mrs. H. Bowman, Dorothy Hawes Hamberg and Mrs. C. Doran; music for Sunday School was provided by Helen and Phyllis Chapman.

The first dance was held November 2. There was not much more than standing room. We had made fifty loaves of bread into sandwiches. Each member of our ladies' aid took two cakes, butter and cream. There was lunch for all. From then on we had a dance every two weeks. There was no drinking or disagreements. The tickets for the opening dance were thirty five cents, which included lunch and a draw for a steer, a pig, a sheep, a turkey and six pigeons which were all donated. The orchestra for the first year only charged ten dollars; later they got seventy-five at other places.

Mrs. A. Hawes was president of our ladies' aid, Mrs. J. Chapman was secretary treasurer. Others at the first meeting were Mrs. Ed. Doran, Mrs. H. Wakefield, Mrs. L. W. Berwick, Mrs. H. Sawyer, Mrs. H. Beattie, Mrs. Peter Still, Mrs. R. Doran, Mrs. Cuffe, Mrs. Cooper and Mrs. Wm. Hickman. Later on there were Mrs. J. Coxworth, Mrs. W. T. Preston, Mrs. Bert Hawes, Verna Sawyer, Mary Wierer, Mrs. Blackhall, Mrs. Jim Hawes, Mrs. C. Doran, Evelyn Hickman and Edith Sawyer.

The lunch committee was Mrs. A. Hawes, Mrs. W. T. Preston and Mrs. Chapman. Our fowl suppers were famous. We also had bazaars, teas, showers and concerts. Altogether we made \$238.53 selling lunches at auction sales. From teas and bazaars we cleared \$162.31. The money from dances and concerts went to the hall fund. The rest went to the Church and Red Cross.

Rev. Bowman was paid four dollars a Sunday. In the summer we paid student ministers without assistance.

We bought material for quilts and made forty-five for the Red Cross. We also donated \$107.00 in cash. At one quilting we had extra ladies come and had a chicken dinner at noon and lunch at four o'clock. At

showers or social evenings we sometimes had whist drives, but generally had a dance too.

For local music we had Mrs. Ed Doran, Dorothy Hamberg, J. Chapman, Casper Doran, Dave Moir, Jack Butler and others. Sometimes the young people got Johnnie to take his violin so they could have a little dance after choir practice. The hall served its purpose well and we have happy memories of it.

A number passed away, several families moved to other places, young people grew up, married, and moved away, so it was decided in 1961 to sell the hall and give the proceeds to charity. Part of the money was used to have a turkey banquet for all charter members and their families. It was catered to by the Isabella ladies and was held in their hall. About one hundred attended. A couple of hours dancing followed and it was goodbye to Shamrock, but not to the memory of happy times.

Who Did That?

It seems that in the early days, this district could boast of many fair young damsels. On a certain Sunday, no less than four suitors with handsome steeds hitched to shiny buggies, arrived at the home of one of these ladies. At the same time, there was a group of young lads who always had an eye for any mischief that might be in the offing, and had watched the congregation of suitors. At dusk, when everyone was indoors, they hauled the shiny buggies to the top of a high knoll about half a mile away, took all the wheels off the buggies, and let them roll down the hill, ending in conglomeration! We are told that the wheel-less buggies were still on the knoll the next morning.

About the same time, a young bachelor who had just purchased a new top buggy, called on a lady friend to take her for a ride. About dusk, he passed by a farmyard where some young boys stood watching and wondering whose new buggy that could be. Very soon curiosity became too much for the boys and they bridled their horses and rode out to find out who it was. They galloped along at a good clip in pursuit. All of a sudden there was a shriek and a tearing sound. One of the horse's heads had gone through the back of the new buggy top. Not waiting to find who the occupants were, the boys headed for home as fast as they had come. At church the next day there was a new buggy at church with a hole in the top as big as a horse's head. No comments were made and neither were there any questions asked.

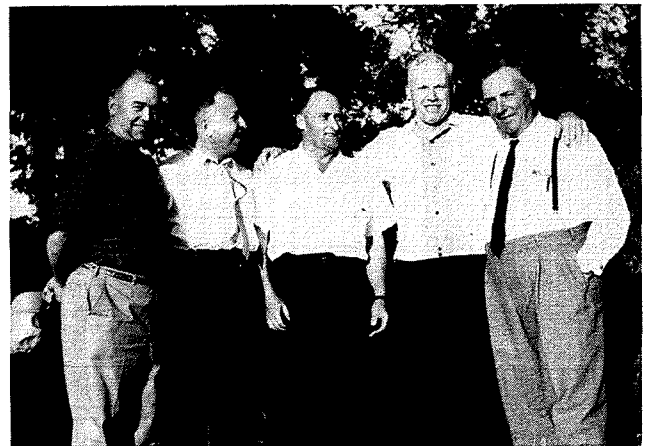
When one of our senior citizens was a boy, he was made share his bed with the hired man. Like all young boys, his feet were inclined to be a little dirty at bedtime. The feet may have been a little worse than usual, for this one night the hired man refused to

sleep in the same bed and sent the boy to the kitchen to wash them. As he washed and scrubbed, the boy became more and more infuriated and tried to think up some mode of revenge. He went to the sheep pen and gathered a handful of sheep-ticks which he took to bed with him. He wasn't caring how many bites he received himself as long as he got his revenge and we understand he did!

A boy who attended Shamrock School, has told us how he detested a teacher they had there. They used to play "shinny" in their play time, with sticks shaped like hockey sticks, taken from the nearby bluffs. One day this boy was being punished by staying in and doing his school work at recess while all his playmates went outside to play shinny. In a few minutes, one of his chums came running in asking for the loan of his friend's stick, as he had broken his own. The boy said he would lend the stick under one condition — that the borrower would give the teacher a good whack on the shins for him. In a few minutes the teacher came hobbling in with a hurt foot. The boy returned to his work with a satisfied smile on his face.

The story is told about a lady whose husband's name was Will, who ran the boarding house here in the early days. She was a very ambitious lady who always rose very early Monday morning and had her washing on the line before her neighbors were even up. One of her rooms was occupied by a young couple and the young wife was always amazed when she arose to see that washing out on the line, so early every Monday morning. When she went downstairs, she commented to her landlady that it must take a lot of "will" to carry out such an achievement. The reply was that she had a whole lot of "Will" but she could never get him up to help her to do the washing.

When the town well was being dug and they struck water, some of the men who had spent many



Nelson Doran, Gordon Kennedy, Lorne Wright, Rae Reid, John Finkbeiner.

hours at the task, had gone to the local store to discuss their good fortune and share their joy with whoever happened to be there at the time. While they were away, some younger mischievous fellows, thought they would play a joke on the older men, and poured a little coal oil down the well — just enough to show on the surface of the water. When the men returned, they looked down the well to see the oil on top of the water. One of the men hollered, "I knew it! I always knew it! I knew we'd strike oil!"



The Merry Men of Isabella: Lorne Miller, Hec Calder, Earle Miller, Al Clark, R. L. Stevenson.



1967 Centennial Celebration. Finkbeiner float in the parade: Mary, Bob, Grace and Bobby Buchanan.



Farewell for Lorne and Beatrice Wright, 1972. Dorothy Finkbeiner, Gordon Campbell, Blanche Lawn, Phyllis Bell, Art Heise, Jeannine Harrison, June Clark.



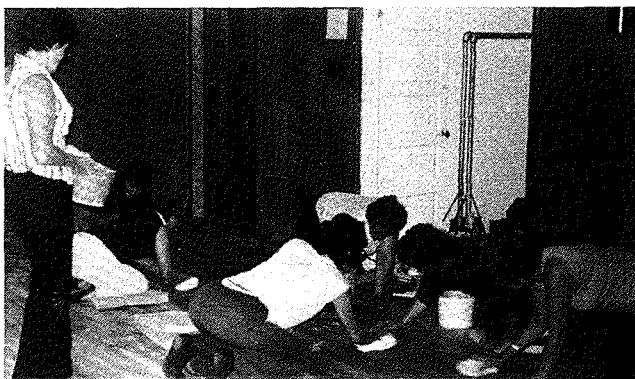
Entertainers at Jan Finkbeiner's shower, 1968: Margaret Coxworth, Margaret Stewart, Phyllis Bell, Shirley Heise, Beatrice Wright, Jeannine Harrison, Hazel Wall, Ina Doran.



Appreciation night for John and Margaret Coxworth, 1981: Frank Stevenson, Margaret and John Coxworth, Jean Stevenson, Francis Peel.



Hallowe'en Dance, 1981.



Scrubbing and waxing the hall floor.

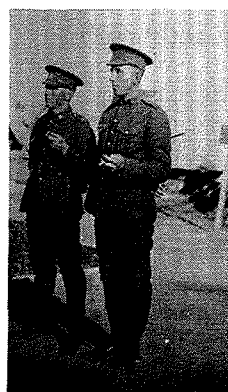
Honor Roll

Service Men on the World War I Honor Roll



Servicemen on the World War I Honor Roll: Ernie Bedford, Percy Argyle, Vere Little, *Evelyn Little, Bill Iverach.

Bill Hickman, *George Still, Jim Still, Harry Harrison, Dewart Harrison, Will Bell, Bert Haney.



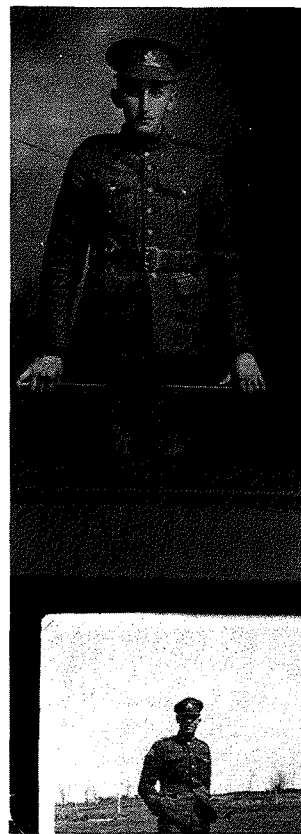
John Norrie, Ellery Sunley, Roy Bell, Joe Johnston, Cecil Wall, Cyril Bundy.



*Percy Phillips, Fred Jordan, Ralph Phillips, *Theron Phillips.



Bob Kirk.



Gordon Grey, Ivan Sparks, Fred Hickman.

Other men who are on the World War I Honor Roll, but whose picture was not received are:

J. Allen.	H. Levins.
G. Bain.	M. G. Little.
*F. Bedford.	E. J. Martin.
D. Brown.	U. Massey.
N. Christianson.	W. McBurney.
W. Drummond.	D. Myles.
*J. Forsyth.	J. Myles.
L. Hall.	R. Scarth.
Rev. H. I. Bowman.	G. Scorgie.
E. Harrison.	*E. Sisney.
R. E. Heise.	R. Stewart.
W. Hooper.	M. Torrance.
H. King.	T. Trice.
E. W. Kirk.	*F. Trickett.

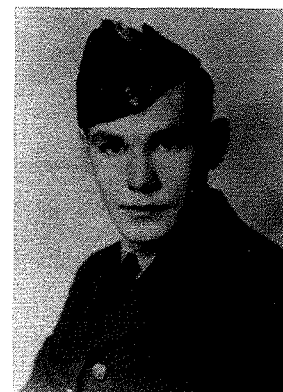
Composite pictures of those who served in World War II



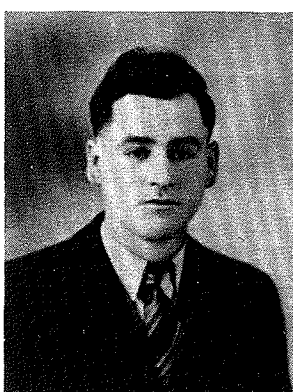
Composite pictures of those who served in World War II. Top L.-R.: Gordon Ball, Bill Bardwell, Bob Bell, Harry Beveridge. Bottom: Orvy Bowman, Buster Brad, Harold Brad, Jack Brisbin.



Frank Campbell, Phyllis Chapman, Carol Clark, Clarence Clark, James Clark, Mabel Clark, Russell Clark, George Flynn.



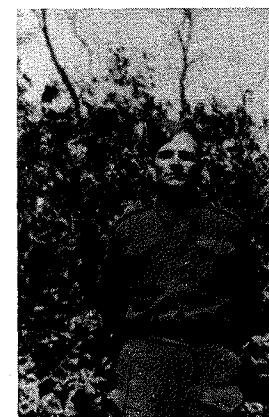
Clarence Finkbeiner, Ted Finkbeiner, (Bud) Gerald Flynn, Frank Gardham, Conrad Hall, Edmund Hall, Charlie Harrison, Dave Heise.



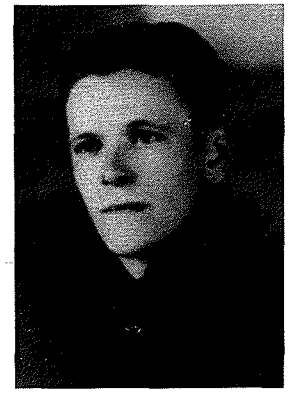
William Hickman, Evelyn Hickman, Fred Hickman, Charlie Hill, Glen Hunkin, Henry Irvine, Kitch Irvine, Roy Irvine.



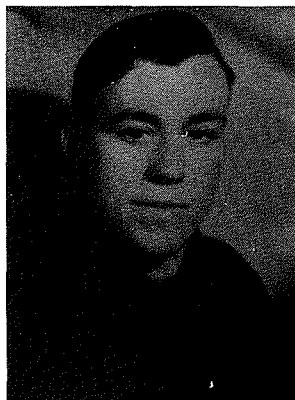
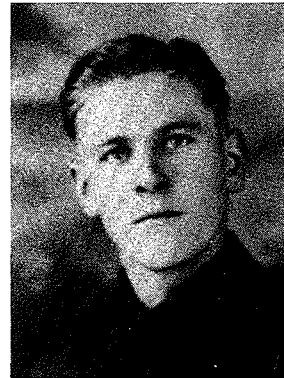
Bill Iverach, Don Iverach, Hugh Iverach, Jack Iverach, Jim Iverach, Burton Johnston, Morg Johnson, Gordon Kennedy.



Alex Kuppers, Maurice Kuppers, Donald Martin, Vincent Martin, Harry Miller, Levi Miller, Lorne Miller, Ted Miller.



Leonard Moir, Jack Morrow, George Phillips, Hilton Phillips, Thelma Phillips, Flora Scarth, William Scorgie, Art Shurvell.



Cliff Shurvell, Murray Shurvell, Wes Shurvell, Tom Stevenson, Garth Stewart, Don Still, Vern Sunley, Allan Sutherland.



Rae Reid, Sid Riches, Garnet Robertson, Eric Robinson, Stan Wallace, Edgie Warren, Ken Warren, George Wierer.

Servicemen since WWII



Servicemen since World War II. Ted Phillips, Wallace Peel, Claire Johnston, Leonard Wall.

Agriculture, 4H and Extension Courses

Isabella Agricultural Society

A meeting was held in the Isabella school December 26th, 1919, with Mr. Wm. Iverach as president of the Community Club in the chair. "S. P. Heise — W. E. Iverach — that an Agricultural Society be formed at Isabella. (Carried)" Mr. C. Craig was elected president and Mr. R. L. Stevenson, Vice-President. The directors for the first year were: J. T. Finkbeiner, T. E. Doran, W. E. Iverach, W. Ware, Mrs. R. T. Clark, F. Harrison, H. Reid, Mrs. W. Iverach, S. P. Heise and M. G. Little. F. C. Harrison was appointed Secretary-Treasurer by the directors. Competitions held in 1920 were: summer fallow, standing crop competition (wheat only), ploughing match, good farming competition, seed fair and dressed poultry show, baby clinic with Dr. Ellen Douglas (score cards denoted health check of each child). A dance was held at T. E. Doran's.

1921 — Officers were: C. Craig (Honorary President), R. L. Stevenson (Pres.) M. G. Little (Vice-Pres.), A. C. Heise (Sec. Treas.). A successful fair was held in addition to the other competitions of 1920.

1922 — Same activities, but the seed fair and dressed poultry show were held at Decker.

1923 — Officers and activities the same as in 1922. Barn dance held at L. Hunkin's.

1924 — Sec.-Treas. R. E. Heise. A successful summer fair and seed fair. The Society bought land from the Canadian Town Site Company for \$600.00 in six equal annual payments with interest of 7%. Barn dance held at J. H. Finkbeiner's.

1925 — Officers — Pres. R. L. Stevenson, Vice-Pres. — J. T. Finkbeiner, Sec.-Treas. — R. E. Heise. Summer fair and seed fair held. Ploughing match and corn competition — frost (no judging)

1926 — No ploughing match due to wet weather. Successful summer fair.

1927 — Summer fair — horse shoe throwing contest, weight judging contest, motor driving contest. Seed fair and dressed poultry show at Decker. Barn dance at J. G. Sutherland's.

1928 — President, J. T. Finkbeiner; Vice-Pres. — R. T. Clark. Summer fair and Seed Fair. A barn dance was held at G. T. Ariss's on Sept. 30th.

1929 — President, J. T. Finkbeiner; Vice-Pres. — T. E. Doran. Summer Fair. Shipping Pool organized and part of a car of poultry loaded on the C.N.R. at Decker. Field Day held at Birtle Demonstration Farm.

1930 — President, J. T. Finkbeiner; Vice-Pres. — R. L. Stevenson; Sec.-Treas. — R. E. Heise. A successful summer fair was held. Seed Fair and Poultry show.

1931 — President — T. E. Doran; Vice-Pres. — R. L. Stevenson. Owing to the withdrawal of grants, no fairs were held.

"In honor of three members, who won honors at various fairs recently, The Isabella Agricultural Society held a banquet last week at which Hon. D. G. MacKenzie, Minister of Agriculture, J.W. Pratt, M.L.A. for Birtle, John Killoh of Hamiota, W. B. Martin of Shoal Lake, John Spalding of Miniota, and Isaac Cormack of Kenton were speakers. The guests of honor were: J. Robertson, who has been showing his hackneys all over the country, having already won with them, eighty first prizes, forty seconds, six championships and one cup; also Alex. Ross who has been a very successful breeder and exhibitor of Clyde horses, having raised and trained the lead horse in Shea's famous six horse team, as well as another team sold to MacLean's of Winnipeg; and John T. Finkbeiner who several times was the winner in the Good Farming competition, and once or twice got the highest marks in the Province for baby beef." The above quotation was taken from a newspaper clipping of November, 1934.

Directors of the Agricultural Society:

Dec. 7th, 1920 — Mrs. Wm. Iverach, Mrs. J. T. Finkbeiner, Mrs. R. T. Clark, T. E. Doran, R. D. L. Warren, H. Reid, W. E. Iverach, L. M. Hunkin, F. C. Harrison and J. T. Finkbeiner.

Nov. 11th, 1921 — Mrs. John Bell, Mrs. R. T. Clark, Mrs. J. T. Finkbeiner, T. E. Doran, J. T.

Finkbeiner, L. M. Hunkin, W. E. Iverach, H. Lints, J. Myles, H. Reid.

Dec. 6th, 1922 — Mrs. J. T. Finkbeiner, Mrs. D. Kelly, Mrs. R. Clark, W. E. Iverach, R. T. Clark, J. Myles, R. E. Heise, J. T. Finkbeiner, B. Wyatt, A. Ross.

Dec. 5th, 1923 — Mrs. R. T. Clark, Mrs. D. Kelly, Mrs. J. T. Finkbeiner, J. Myles, W. E. Iverach, A. Ross, T. E. Doran, H. Finkbeiner, R. T. Clark and R. E. Heise.

Dec. 12th, 1924 — G. C. Monroe, T. E. Doran, J. H. Finkbeiner, G. T. Ariss, W. E. Iverach, H. Lints, J. Myles, R. T. Clark, Mrs. J. T. Finkbeiner, Mrs. D. Kelly, Mrs. R. T. Clark and Mrs. T. Stevenson.

Dec. 11th, 1925 — Mrs. J. T. Finkbeiner, Mrs. R. T. Clark, Mrs. D. Kelly, Mrs. T. Stevenson, W. E. Iverach, J. T. Finkbeiner, R. T. Clark, H. Lints, G. T. Ariss, T. E. Doran, R. Scarth and A. Ross.

Dec. 10th, 1926 — Same as 1925, with J. E. Sunley, F. Amy and N. Lawson added.

Dec. 10th, 1927 — Mrs. J. H. Finkbeiner, Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. R. T. Clark, Mrs. J. T. Finkbeiner, J. E. Sunley, F. Amy, A. Ross, R. Scarth, L. Hall, C. Drummond, R. L. Stevenson, H. Lints, G. T. Ariss, D. Whyte, H. Reid, G. L. Woods, E. L. Sunley, T. E. Doran, J. H. Finkbeiner, H. Calder and R. E. Heise.

Dec. 8th, 1928 — Directors re-elected.

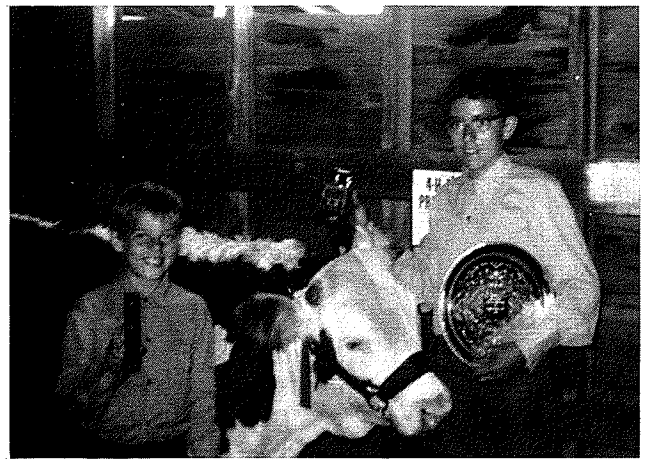
Dec. 7th, 1929 — Directors re-elected with J. Ross added.

Nov. 29th, 1930 — Directors re-elected with J. T. Finkbeiner added.

Dec. 14th, 1931 — Directors re-elected with Mr. J. W. Pratt as Honorary Pres.



McConnell Fat Stock Show, 1973. Championship in Commercial Class, Bill Clark.



Bob and Barrie Clark with trophies for showing cattle. Miniota, 1971.



John Norrie's threshing outfit.



Sawing wood at the J. E. Heise farm.



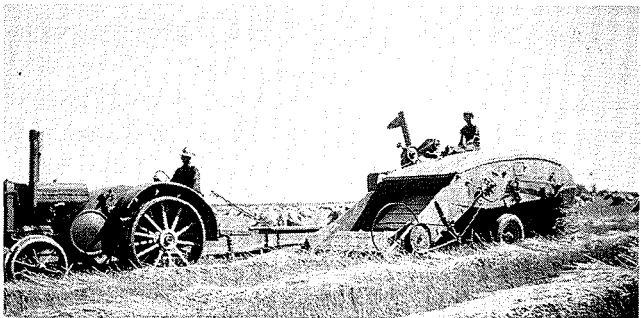
Five horse team on road grader.



Cecil Wall and Cliff Shurvell pitching sheaves.



Cyril Norrie putting hay into the loft.



Cecil and Leonard Wall with tractor and combine.



Seed Club display at Brandon Fair, 1957.



Glen Still on a load of bales.

Isabella Colt Club

During the summer following the cancelling of the summer agricultural fair, a colt club, sponsored by the Extension Service was organized and was a thriving club for a few years. No records were kept, but there were classes for all ages of colts, also for the light as well as the heavier breeds. Good prizes were offered and the competition was keen. A fair was held each summer on the agricultural grounds in conjunction with the colt club show.

The Crop Improvement Club

The Crop Improvement Club was organized on February 21, 1955, under the chairmanship of Mr. E. L. Sunley, chairman of the local Pool Elevator Association.

Mr. Jack Hudson, Pool Elevator Fieldman, explained the organization of a Club, and on a motion of Morgan Johnson and Lyall Johnston, a club was formed.

The first officers were: President — Gordon Campbell, vice president, R. H. Calder, secretary-treasurer — Burton Johnston.

The club has continued since that date. Grains planted included, barley, first generation Selkirk wheat, and sometimes grain of the members own choice.

Some of the members receiving high scores for their test plots were Harvey Hill, Lloyd Irwin, Earl Miller, Glen Still, and Johnnie Finkbeiner.

Various speakers have given talks and shown films, J. Hudson, Pool Elevator Fieldman, Cameron Brown, Supervisor Pool Elevators, Fred Weir, Manitoba Department of Agriculture, C. Bailley and Morris Deveson, Agricultural Representatives, Doctor Hodge, local veterinarian, Bob Kaplik and Vic Fulton on Marketing of livestock.

The officers at present are: president — Davidson Heise, vice president George Sutherland, secretary-treasurer Donald MacInnis.

Swine Club

No records are available for information regarding the work of interested persons in the field of Agricultural Clubs.

Council minutes show that grants of \$25.00 were given each Boys' and Girls' Club about 1917, and grants of \$300.00 were given to Miniota and Isabella Agricultural Societies in 1921 and 1923.

From 1925 to 1931, Mr. Henry Lints of Decker and Mr. J. T. Finkbeiner of Isabella were leaders of the Isabella-Decker Swine Club. The shows were held alternately at each place. During these years the Club received several awards that brought honor to the Club.

Sydney Finkbeiner was awarded a trip to Winnipeg on November 5, 1925 when a dinner was given to all swine club members by the Manitoba Free Press Company Limited. The menu is kept as a souvenir. Also on hand is a dinner menu and photo of the award winners of the Manitoba Swine Clubs for Thursday, November 8, 1928, when Ruby Finkbeiner and Pearl Hodgson attended a dinner given by the Free Press. The programme following the dinner sounded intriguing, "T. Van Russell in Magic, Mystery and Manipulation". Syd Barnes in Mirthful Musical Monologist. John Foley in a "Feat, Featuring Feet".

Ruby Finkbeiner and Pearl won a judging competition in Winnipeg and continued on to Toronto, but lost out there. This competition was part of the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto.

In 1929 or 1930, Claude Reid and Johnny Finkbeiner went to Winnipeg and competed in swine judging, and in 1931, Lorne Wright and Johnny Finkbeiner went to the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto as Manitoba finalists. Very little is known of the swine clubs between 1931 and 1935, but Dave Heise remembers having pigs in a swine club when he was twelve years old, as he used the money to buy a bicycle.

Isabella Seed Club

The Isabella Seed Club was formed in 1946 with Mr. R. Scarth as leader. Mr. Harvey Jones was the agricultural representative in Hamiota at this time, and was very helpful to the club. The members bought registered seed, which was made available to them as seed club members thus they brought new and sometimes better seed grain into the district.

Each member was required to select a plot in a good location, have a border, keep it free of weeds and other grains, keep it free of disease such as smut, and keep birds and insects away. They must also erect a seed-plot sign. Plots were judged on all these fac-

tors, also on uniform stand, evenness of maturity and yield. Each member had to hand-pick a sample of grain to be judged at local fairs, the winning entries going on to further competition. A number of samples have gone to Brandon Winter Fair. In 1949 Barrie Scarth's sample of Montcalm barley was sent to the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto where it placed in the prizes. The members also made displays, these were judged, and a number of times these were sent to Brandon.

Members were also taught how to judge grain themselves. At the rally on July 23, 1949, Dave Heise placed first in grain judging, and the Isabella display took first prize. The members took part in the fastball competitions at the rallies and invariably made a good showing.

In 1949 the general report of the club was as follows: "Plots in this club are exceptionally good. Every plot had a border and signs were attractively mounted. Relatively free of weeds, trace of loose smut in all plots, some lodging but filling well, nevertheless". The winner this year was Jim Gardham with 91 points out of 100. The lowest mark was 75. Members of the club included Leonard and Johnnie Wall, Barrie Scarth, Ted Phillips, Eddie Doran, Ray and Glen Still Joe and Jim Gardham, Dave and Doug Heise, Murray Bell and Burton and Claire Johnston.

From 1949-1952 Burton Johnston became leader, the older members had to drop out because they had reached the age limit. New members; were Glen and Beverley Sunley, Bernice Doran, and Lawrence Heise.

From 1952-1954 Dave Heise was leader. The members were very active and the seed fair was held in Isabella Hall many times.

A 4H Seed Club was formed in 1954 with 23 members enrolled. Dave Heise was chosen as leader. President: Johnnie Wall, vice-president Glen Sunley, secretary — Eddie Doran formed the executive with the membership made up of: Ray Still, Glen Still, Stan Teasdale, Rodney Campbell, Larry Gilchrist, Bob Attwood, Beverly Sunley, Jack and Spence Bell, Jim Gardham, Bob and Betty Ross, Elgin Bonner, Margaret Doran, Louise Wall, Joyce Adams, Marjory Peel, Nelson Bonner, Jeanette Wright, and Jack Heise.

During the year 1955, John Wall was president again, with Elgin Bonner as vice, and Glen Sunley as secretary. There was a membership of 24.

In the year 1956, Jack Heise was president, Dale Still as vice, and Marjorie Peel as secretary. Although the club did not continue for very long, it was very active. Due to the untiring efforts of Johnnie Wall and Glen Sunley and the co-operation of other

club members they took first prize for their display and also were asked to take it to be displayed at Brandon Fair. The club also entered the square dance competition, and were commended as boys and girls danced so well together. Not many clubs could boast so many nice young men in their sets.

Beverly Sunley was responsible for making a white satin banner, with red lettering. This was well done, and was later turned over to the sewing club when they needed a banner.

Isabella Calf Club

In the years from 1936 to 1942, a calf club was active, with Isabella and Decker children taking part. Some of the members were the Scorgie boys, the Clarks, the Scarths, the Adams girls from Decker and others. As no one has records, any names missed is because of lack of information. The club was sponsored by the Extension service, Mr. F. G. Muirhead was the representative at that time. It was dropped for a few years during the war, and formed again in 1945, and was then called the Isabella — Decker Calf Club. Johnnie Finkbeiner was the leader and Harvey Jones the Agricultural representative. The membership for the first few years was good. There were a number of calf shows held in Isabella. The calves were later taken to Hamiota rally to be sold. Later the shows and sales were held at McConnell. Some of the members were: Leonard and Johnnie Wall, Art and Lawrence Heise, Cyril and Gordon Norrie, Jim Harrison, Ray and Glen Still, Eddie and Bernice Doran, Muriel Musgrove, Frank and Jack Rosenberger, Ted Little, Bob and Betty Ross and others. Several of the members won blankets and halters for showmanship awards. In 1952-3 the membership was very low, and a short time later the new 4H Decker-Isabella Calf club was formed.

The Decker Calf Club

The Decker Calf Club was organized for 8 years. The membership consisted of young people from Isabella, Lavinia and Decker. During these years club members have held 4H bonspiels, attended rallies, amateur nights, public speaking contests and various other 4H activities. They attended both Brandon Winter and Summer fairs as a club. The first years the club had its own show. Mr. Clarence Bailey was the agricultural representative at this time. After the first years the club took their calves to the McConnell fat stock show, and sold them there. After Mr. Bailey left Mr. Morris Deveson came to Hamiota as the Agricultural representative. The club was successful in its many endeavors due to the fine leadership and co-operation of the members and their parents.

During these years many members have been awarded trips and other honours. Some winners of the Winnipeg week were: Glen Bridge, Marlene James, Mervyn Cochran. Those who were awarded the right to attend the Week of Brandon Winter Fair were: Glen Bridge, Bill Clark, Clare Clark, Reg Madson, Mervyn Cochran and Jim Park. Members who won the right to attend Showmanship Camp at the Provincial Exhibition were: Gail Clark, Lynda Knight and Velma James. Murray Madson attended Boys' Camp at the Provincial Exhibiton. Frank James went on the Alberta Exchange Trip and Marlene James travelled on the Nebraska Exchange Trip. Mervyn Cochran was on the Iowa Exchange Trip while Glen Bridge went on the Minnesota Exchange Trip. Both Glen Bridge and Marlene James were gold watch winners.

At the 4H rally held in Hamiota in 1962 the club took the championship in marching. Two members took part in the Calf scramble at Brandon Fair. Clifford Clark was fortunate enough to catch a calf. Bill Clark was not so fortunate and was presented with a halter. Cliff received a cheque to purchase a calf to be shown the next year at the fair.

1954-5 Leader, Harvey Lints; president, Keith Sunley; secretary, Claire Shoemaker; treasurer, Claire Shoemaker.

1955-6 Leaders; Harvey Lints, F. A. Shoemaker; president, Leonard Rivers; vice — Keith Sunley; secretary-treasurer, Lyle Sunley.

1956-7 Leaders, Frank James and Arthur Knight; president, Leonard Rivers; vice Mervyn Cochran; sec. Glen Bridge; treas, Marlene James; reporter, Jan Finkbeiner.

1957-8 Leaders, Frank James, Arthur Knight; pres., Marlene James; vice. president, Phyllis Cochrane; sec., Mervyn Cochrane; treas., Marion Rivers; press reporter, Jeanette Wright.

1958-9 Leaders, Frank James, Arthur Knight; pres., Jeanette Wright; vice-pres., Glen Bridge; sec., Clare Clark; treas., Phyllis Cochrane; press reporter, Lynda Knight.

1959-60 Leaders Frank James, Arthur Knight, pres. Glen Bridge; vice-pres., Clare Clark; sec., Marlene James; treas., Lynda Knight; press reporter, Velma James.

1960-1 Leaders Frank James and Arthur Knight; pres., Clare Clark; vice pres., Jan Finkbeiner; sec., Marlene James; treas. Ab. Shoemaker; press reporter, Jim Park.

1961-2 Leaders Frank James, Ken Clark; pres. Jan Finkbeiner; vice. pres., Bill Clark; sec., Gail Clark; treas., Marlene James; press reporter, Sandra James.

Decker Calf Club

by Bill and Linda Clark

In 1962-1963 there were fifteen members in the Decker Calf Club. The leaders were Frank James and Ken Clark. Bill Clark was president with Gail Clark vice-president. Secretary was Jan Finkbeiner, treasurer was Kathy Clark. Velma James was press reporter.

1963-1964 saw the calf club with thirteen members. The leaders were the same as in 62-63, Frank James and Ken Clark. Gail Clark was president and Murray Johns was vice-president. Secretary was Kathy Clark, treasurer was Jan Finkbeiner with Bill Clark acting as press reporter.

The final meeting of the Decker Calf Club took place on March 25, 1967. At this time it was decided to terminate the club due to lack of interest and/or members. The remainder of the club funds was sent to the 4-H Club Council-Camp Development Fund.

Isabella boys and girls took part, first in the Decker Calf Club, and when it was terminated, a few joined the Miniota Calf Club.

In 1968-1971 Bill Clark and Kevin Lelond were leaders. Mrs. Maud Lelond assisted with public speaking. Ken Pierce, Barry Clark and Irene Clark were awarded a 4-H exchange trip to Huron, South Dakota.

The public speaking and demonstrations have proved to be most beneficial in later years for many 4-H members.

4-H Calf Club Update

by Bill Clark

In 1981 interest was again shown in boys' and girls' calf club work. A new club was formed in the fall with nineteen members from the Arrow River, Isabella, and Miniota areas. Because of the age factor, it was decided to divide the group into two sections with the 6-9 year olds in a pee wee section and the 10-14 year olds in a junior section. Leaders for the juniors are Bill Clark and Warren Shewfelt, with Ray Moorehead and David Hanlin leading the pee wees.

Officers chosen for the year are as follows: president, Kevin Clark; vice president, Lori Bryant; secretary, Darlene Clark; treasurer, Richard Tyhy; and news reporter, Nelson Moorehead. Members of the pee wee section are: Sheldon Moorehead, Jennifer Hanlin, Jeff Hanlin, Michael Tyhy, Scott Wiltshire, Julie Clark, and Daryl Clark. Junior members are: Nelson Moorehead, Kevin Clark, Darlene Clark, Brad Thompson, Barrie Stamford, Trevor Shewfelt, Patrick Watters, Richard Tyhy, Dwayne Wiltshire, Dean Bryant, Lori Bryant, and Wayne Bryant.

Pee wee members are working with spring calves because of the age of the members. The club plans to attend the Strathclair inter-club achievement day as well as the district rally day. Members have taken part in regular meetings as well as other club activities.

Isabella Tractor Club

A tractor club was formed and operated one year under the leadership of Burton Johnston. It had an enthusiastic membership, but owing to other club activities, it was disbanded the following year.

Isabella Stitching Bees — 4H Sewing Club

This club was formed in the fall of 1953, due to the efforts of the Isabella Women's Institute. The district home economist, Miss Elaine Barr, organized the club, and Miss Margaret Coutts was chosen as leader. There were 9 girls in the first class — Margaret Ariss, Jeanette Wright, Louise Wall, Marjory Peel, Mary Attwood, Sheila Attwood, Norreen Adams, Margaret Young, and Florence Young.

Meetings were held at school during the noon hour. The club went to Beulah and held their achievement night in conjunction with the Beulah club.

Rally was held at Oak River; Mrs. Lorne Wright and Mrs. Reg. Attwood took the club members so they could see what was expected of them the next year.

In 1954-55 Florence Harrison was president, with Marjory Peel as vice Mary Attwood as secretary and Louise Wall as treasurer. The leaders were: Mrs. Doug Harrison, and Miss Margaret Coutts, with Mrs. Lorne Wright and Mrs. J. E. Finkbeiner as assistants. The Club held their own achievement night in the school basement and attended rally at Birtle. Mrs. L. Wright and Mrs. J. E. Finkbeiner made a banner and the club marched in the parade with white blouses and dark skirts as their costume. Jeanette Wright's book was chosen to go to Brandon, and Mary Attwood attended camp. Miss Kay Laycock was the district home economist.

In 1955-56 another class started in Project 1 — Charlotte Ariss, Roberta Young, Patricia Attwood and Judy Gilchrist. This year Jeanette Wright was president, with Sheila Attwood as vice and Mary Attwood as secretary treasurer. The leaders were: Mrs. Morg Johnson and Mrs. Frank Stevenson. Achievement Night was held in the hall and the club looked very smart in new green criskay skirts. Jeanette Wright was chosen to attend Camp and the display was chosen to go to rally at Miniota on July 9. In the square dance competition the Seed club and the Sewing club combined and came first. Margaret

Ariss received the highest award for her work, — a purple ribbon.

1956-57 Mrs. M. Johnson and Miss Margaret Coutts were leaders. Projects 2 and 4 were taught. Officers were president — Noreen Adams, vice, Margaret Ariss, secretary, Jeanette Wright; treasurer, Judy Gilchrist. Rally was at Elphinstone and Noreen Adams was crowned Queen of the rally. She was also chosen to model at Brandon. Jeanette Wright was chosen to attend Winnipeg Week and Margaret Ariss was chosen to attend camp. The group held a Christmas Party at the L. Wright home, attended amateur night, fowl suppers and two concerts giving musical numbers at each.

1957-8 This year there were 3 projects taught — 1, 3, 5. President was Judy Gilchrist, vice — Margaret Ariss, secretary-treasurer was Sheila Attwood. Achievement was held in Isabella hall. The club attended the rally at Hamiota and won 3 firsts, marching, display and square dancing. Their new uniforms were border print dresses, with a band of flowers on their heads, white gloves and white shoes. Jeanette Wright was a princess at the rally and Judy Gilchrist went to camp. The club attended the provincial exhibition and marched in the parade with clubs from all over Manitoba.

The club entered a play, "The Tenth Word" in the drama festival at Isabella. They received first placing and took the play to McCreary to the provincial drama finals. Jeanette Wright won the award for being the best junior actress. The leader was Mrs. Austin Adams, assisted by Mrs. J. E. Finkbeiner.

1958-9 This year the club organized with 6 projects: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and advanced project. In project 1 — Gail Clark; 2 — Jan Finkbeiner, Marilyn Reid, Doreen Sutherland, Renee Stewart, Cathy Clark; 3 — June Rittaler; 4 — Charlotte Ariss, Patricia Attwood, Roberta Young, Judy Gilchrist; 5 — Mary Rittaler; Advanced — Noreen Adams, Margaret Young, Margaret Ariss and Sheila Attwood. The club attended the rally at Strathclair and took part in judging, marched in the parade and gave a demonstration, Margaret Ariss modelled at Brandon. Leaders were: Mrs. A. Adams, Mrs. J. E. Finkbeiner, Mrs. Ed. Doran, and Mrs. A. Heise.

1959-60 The 4H was organized with three projects — 3, 5, and tailoring. Leaders were: Mrs. G. Sutherland, Mrs. R. Attwood and Mrs. J. E. Finkbeiner. The club, at their annual Christmas party, went carolling to the older people in the district and returned to the J. E. Finkbeiner home for a turkey dinner. In February the club entertained the district home economist at the G. Sutherland home. New white dresses were the costume for the club this year, when they attended the rally at Strathclair on July 11,

1960. Marilyn Reid was interviewed for the gold watch award.

1960-1 Officers for this year were: president, Jan Finkbeiner, vice, Marilyn Reid; secretary, Patricia Attwood; treasurer, Sharon Dagg. The same leaders continued, with the addition of Miss D. McLachlan. The club held a turkey dinner at the Attwood home, after which the members and the parents attended the 4H masquerade dance at Miniota. The club again had the usual carolling and dinner at Christmas time. Special thanks to Mrs. Stuart Johnson who always trained the girls in all their musical endeavors. Roberta Young attended camp.

1961-2 This club was as small as it could be, with only 5 members. Patricia Attwood, Jan Finkbeiner, Doreen Sutherland, Jane Ackermans, and Sharon Attwood. They held their regular monthly meetings in the school, and continued with the same leaders as before. At Christmas time they entertained their parents, and had an exchange of homemade gifts. Doreen Sutherland attended camp.

Mrs. R. Attwood, Mrs. G. Sutherland and Mrs. J. E. Finkbeiner have all received their "Five Year Leadership Awards" for 4H leadership as awarded by the Extension Service.

Isabella Stitching Bees

1962-63 — Mrs. R. Attwood, Mrs. J. E. Finkbeiner, Mrs. Geo Sutherland, and Mrs. A. Adams acted as leaders. Jan Finkbeiner was president, Jane Ackerman was vice-president, Doreen Sutherland was secretary-treasurer, and Diane Harrison was news reporter. Sharon Attwood, Roberta Evenson, Loretta Irvine, and Elva Young were also members.

1963-1964 — Mrs. Doug Harrison was assisted by Mrs. R. Attwood in leading the sewing club. Sharon Attwood was president, Roberta Evenson was vice-president, Elva Young was treasurer, Sandra Heise was secretary, and Diane Harrison was news reporter. At their last meeting it was recorded that two or three chairs for the hall were to be bought with funds on hand. This is the last record we have of a sewing club at Isabella.

Women's Institute sponsored the course.

4H Birtle Home Economics

Courses in sewing, handicraft, nursing and cooking were given. Local girls taking part were:

Carolyn Heise — 1968-69 sewing and handicraft.

Geraldine Flynn — 1971-72 through to 1979-80 (9 years). Geraldine had Unit A,B,C, sewing, Unit B,C handicraft, nursing, and was junior leader for three years in sewing and handicraft.

Ruth Doran — 1972-73 through to 1976-77 (5

years). Ruth had Units A and B in sewing, Units A and B in handicraft and nursing.

Shirley Sutherland — 1974-75 sewing, 1976-77 handicraft.

Lesli Teasdale — 1979-80 handicraft.

Tracie White — 1978-79 Unit A sewing, 1979-80 cooking, 1980-81 handicraft.

Laurie Teasdale — 1979-80 cooking, 1980-81 handicraft.

Terry Still — 1980-81 handicraft.

Dorothy Flynn joined in 1969-70 as a leader and was head leader from 1974 until 1981.

Extension Courses: Tailoring and Sewing

A sewing course for Women's Institute members given by the Extension Service was held in 1948 with Miss Rita Rabe, of Winnipeg as instructress. This was a series of 6 meetings when the members each made a cotton dress.

A tailoring course for Isabella and Arrow River ladies was held in Isabella under the very capable leadership of Mrs. Evelyn Ames of the Extension Service. This was a local leader course and included 5 meetings and an achievement night.

Short afternoon courses have been given on "kitchens" by Elaine Barr, "salads" by Mrs. Mac Watts and "textile painting" by Maxine English.

Extension Courses Update

In 1982 a Wok Cookery course was taught at Isabella. Twenty-four people took part in this four

lesson course instructed by Mrs. Jean Wight. The Women's Institute sponsored the course.

Prices

From the accounts when Isabella rink was built, we quote:

"Total cost of building (less land) \$4156.26

6 — 2x12x16	11.52
6 — 1x8x16 (shiplap)	3.78
2 — 1x8x14 (shiplap)	1.14
15 — 1x6x10 (siding)	6.75
2 kegs of 4" nails	42.80
7 kegs of 2½" nails	74.90
72 bags of cement	97.26

Excerpts from list of sale held at H. A. Wilson Homestead in March, 1912

Black mare	\$306.00	Horse colt	\$ 77.00
Gray cow	70.00	Mare colt	81.00
200 bus. oats	74.00	22 rifle	2.00
Drill	72.00	70 hens	53.20
Harrows	6.00	Black mare	180.00
Grey horse	256.00	Cow	78.00
Black horse	265.00	Brown mare	326.00
Heifer	20.00	Black horse	255.00
Sow	20.00	Gray mare	187.00
Parlor suite	36.50	Black mare	390.00
5 bags of potatoes	5.00	Red cow	44.00
Gobbler and turkey	5.00	Calf	12.00
Bay colt	200.00	Tandem hitch	1.25
Buggy	73.00	15 bus. barley	6.00

J.H. McConnell — Auctioneer

A binder was purchased on November 13th, 1906, from The Manitoba Branch of the Massey Harris Co. for \$170.00. A Dodge car bought in 1920, cost \$2000.00. A W30 International Tractor bought in 1938 cost \$1235.00.

Average Grain Prices for 1927-1939 as kept by R. Searth.

Date	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Rye	Potatoes	Wild	Tame	Flax	Durum	Comment
1927	1.00	.37	.68	.78	.50	5.50	(ton			Rust
1929	1.10	.50	.50	.72	1.00	10.00	15.00			Dry
1930	.55	.14	.12	.16	.50	5.00	8.00			Good Crop
1931	.40	.23	.25	.27	.50	10.00	12.00			Poor Year
1932	.35	.10	.10	.15	.50	5.00	10.00	.50		Good Crop Rotten Pr.
1933	.50	.20	.20		.50	5.00	8.00	1.15		Dry, light cr
1934	.64	.30	.40		.70	10.00	15.00			July frost
1935	.55¼	.12½	.18	.24	.40	2.00	5.00	1.40	.70	Rust, Poor crops.
1936	.90	.34	.79	.60	2.00	5.00	10.00	1.45	.95	Dry, hail.
1937	1.08	.34	.44	.65	.40	5.00	8.00		.70	Dry
1938	.60	.15	.15	.24	.25	2.00			.36	Good crop Poor price
1939	.53	.23	.25		.90	5.00	8.00			Dry.

Items in the Hamiota Herald in 1918.

WANTED:

A Collie pup, a motor cap, a spinning wheel, one turkey egg, one-half bushel potatoes for seed, one broody hen.

The weather also presented some headlines: Rust 1916, 1935. Drought 1930's, Cyclone 1915, Hail 1896, 1898, Frost 1888 Snow, blocked roads October 7th, 1959.

Recreation

Art

Mrs. R. D. L. Warren

Mrs. J. E. Heise was born on a farm near the town of Milton West, Ontario, on February 25, 1860. She was second oldest in a family of eight girls. She completed her education and taught school in Ontario for a number of years. By different remarks she has made to the family, she took painting and pastel lessons at that time, going to live with a married sister in Palatine, Illinois, U.S.A. She taught school in Chicago Illinois, U.S.A. While with her sister she painted a number of pictures in oil for her. After her marriage she gave lessons in oil painting for quite a few years in her own home. Moving to a farm at Isabella, Manitoba, Canada in 1909 she devoted much of her time to church work and was honored by the members of the W.M.S. of the United Church of Canada with a life membership in that organization. In the art class of the Isabella Fair 1923-24 she was put in charge of that section. To create more interest she formed a class of six or more girls to compete together in one section of pastel drawings. Mr. Heise helped out by making most of the frames for these pictures. Mrs. Heise went to Winnipeg, Manitoba and took a few lessons in pastel from a teacher in art as a refresher course before she started giving lessons again. Quite an interest was taken at the fair in this display and quite a number of people did pictures themselves at different times from her at her own home. She was very particular in having all the pictures show the work and thought put on them and they were never taken home until she was satisfied with them.

Mrs. Heise also did some judging of art mainly at the Hamiota Fairs for a number of years.

The paintings on the walls in the Isabella district and elsewhere are a fitting memorial to her and may they be displayed with pride.

Music —

Life's Highway

by Gordon Martin

Just show me a home with some music, and I'll

show you a home that is gay . . . a home that is pleasant and happy, a home where you gladly would stay. Just show me a home with some music, and I'll show you a home that is bright . . . a home with some warmth and some feeling, a home with some sweetness and light. Just show me a home with some music, and I'll show you a home that is good . . . a home full of love and of friend-ship, where no one is misunderstood. Just show me a home with some music, and I'll show you a home that is kind . . . a home with a door that is open, to all that the lonely can find. Just show me a home with some music, and I'll show you a home full of truth . . . a home that is given to keeping, the touch and the joy of its youth. Yes, show me a home with some music, and I gladly will stop there to rest . . . for a home with a melody lasting, is a house that is never distressed.

And from homes like these, our community music developed. Through the years, music has played a very important part, in our Church, Sunday School and School.

In the earlier years, Mr. Wm. Iverach was Director of music in the Sunday School and the training and help he gave to the young pianists and the choir were invaluable. Isabella congregation has long been noted for its knowledge of music. Many of the hymns they became familiar with, was due to the fact, that Mr. Iverach insisted on learning one new hymn each Sunday. He also trained a boys' choir who not only assisted with the music in the home Church, but took part in many special services in other districts. Only two of the members of that choir still reside in the district, but wherever they are, Mr. Iverach's training will not be forgotten.

Special mention must be made of the musical contribution given by Mr. R. M. Cawley, who came as C.N.R. agent in 1924, and remained for two years. He was a gifted singer; was one of the original members of the Winnipeg Male voice choir; and had been bass soloist in two Winnipeg Churches.

Shortly after his arrival, he was appointed leader of the United Church Choir. The marvellous training

he gave, will never be forgotten by those who had the privilege of being a member of that choir.

An Easter Cantata presented by the choir under his leadership, was one of the highlights. It was also presented at a number of other districts.

None of the residents at that time, will forget the choir's rendition of the anthem, "For God so Loved the World" which was sung unaccompanied.

His fine bass voice, could make the most simple hymn, something special. The following article appeared in the Hamiota Echo after the choir had taken part in a special musical concert in Hamiota.

The Studio, Hamiota, Man.
May 11th 1925

To the Editor of the Echo,

Dear Sir, — I should very much like to express through the medium of your paper my very great appreciation of the musical treat we received in Hamiota last Thursday night, when the Isabella choir sang for us. I went to the meeting with the full intention of enjoying Mr. Paton's address, but was unprepared for a further great treat.

I have listened to and belonged to many famous choirs and Choral societies, but I may safely say with the numbers and material at his disposal, Mr. Cawley had a genuine musical success. The evenness of tonal quality, light and shade and general balance were irreproachable, and the piano (or softy sung) passages were a musical achievement. The unaccompanied chorus from Stainers Crucifixion could certainly teach many of us something. It is with genuine pleasure I offer Mr. Cawley my heartiest congratulations on the undoubtedly hard work brought to bear on his efforts to bring about such a great success. I hope soon to have the pleasure of again hearing some of his work.

Thanking you for granting me this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation.

Yours Faithfully,
Dora Rostron

The first Church pianist was Miss Retta Kelly, others included, Miss Elliot, Miss G. Heise, Mr. A. Heise, Miss E. Stevenson, Miss G. Thompson. Later organists included: Mrs. R. Scarth, Merle Kennedy, June Finkbeiner, Flora Scarth, Anne Clark, Beatrice Robinson, Mrs. Dave Heise. The Church choir through the years, added greatly to the enjoyment of the Sunday services. Some times it was large, sometimes it was small, but the very efficient leaders provided most excellent music. The present organist is Mrs. R. Scarth and the Choir conductor is Mrs. S. Johnson. The Choir is composed of a dozen young girls, all who have received their training from Mrs. Johnson from their first years in school, she being their teacher first, and now their Choir leader.

The old original Glee Club, which provided much entertainment many years ago, must not be forgotten. In later years, a Male Quartette which developed from the boys choir, gave a great contribution with their lovely singing. One of their members was a popular soloist for many weddings in the district.

A musical cantata "The Wedding of the Painted Doll" which was presented by the school children under the direction of Miss Olive Thompson, and "Cinderella in Fairy-land" another musical cantata presented by the School children, under the direction of Miss Molly Stalker and Miss Genevieve Hills at separate Christmas concerts were high lights during years gone by. Each of these cantatas were presented again at other gatherings during the year.

Isabella pupils were consistently represented at Hamiota Musical Festival and many shields and awards were won with choruses, trios, duets, solos, choral reading and Piano solos, under the excellent leadership of members of the teaching staff of Isabella Schools.

Another outstanding musical treat was the presentation of special Christmas services by Rev. S. A. Walmsley while he was Pastor on this charge.

They were of his own composition, and it took weeks of practice with Pastor and Choir to produce the lovely services of song and story.

Blaris and Isabella Drama Clubs

Since the early nineteen hundreds, the Blaris district has been keenly interested in the field of drama. Two minstrel shows, complete with burnt cork and costumes, were held prior to 1918, the first in Blaris school and the next one in the church under the direction of Frank Harrison. In 1917, a full dress, hour long pageant of nineteen young ladies was staged in the church, directed by Rev. Reynolds.

The Young People's first effort in comedy drama was in 1927, with the three act play "Path Across the Hill". Blaris then produced nine more three act plays entitled as follows: "The Little Clod Hopper"; "His Best Investment"; "The Girl Who Forgot"; "Jimmy Be Careful"; "Deacon Dubbs"; "Mother Mine"; "The Empty House"; "Wild Flower of the Hills" and "He's My Pal".

Numerous other one act plays and skits were put on for concerts and special occasions.

The common interest in drama has been a chief factor in uniting the two communities of Isabella and Blaris.

Isabella, like Blaris has produced many excellent plays and sketches. During the 1930s a very active drama group under the direction of Mrs. Harry Brisbin produced several three-act plays of a very high

calibre. Outstanding among these were "Arabian Nights" and "It Pays to Advertise". The actors and actresses for these productions were drawn from the local teaching staffs and the young people of the community.

In 1949, Isabella had three plays competing in the Mid-West Drama Festival held at Rivers. They were: "The Bathroom Door": "Early Ohio and Rhode Island Reds" and "Fingerbowls and Araminta".

At the drama festival in Kenton in 1950, Isabella presented "A Bargain's a Bargain" directed by Mrs. H. Brisbin and Blaris had an entry entitled "The Catalogue" directed by Mrs. H. Harrison.

In 1952 the Mid West Drama Festival was held in Miniota with Isabella presenting a three-act play "The Rise of Jericho" under the direction of Rev. S. Walmsley. At this festival Jean Harrison (now Mrs. Archie Norrie) won the best actress award.

The Isabella high school presented the comedy "Quiet Please" at the district festival held at Oak River in May 1954 under the direction of Jean Livingston (now Mrs. Lyle Johnston).

Isabella drama club was again active in the festival at Kenton in 1957 with the comedy "Red Wax" directed by Mrs. R. Heise. In this production Mrs. Hannah Reid received the cup for the best actress.

In 1958 Isabella invited the Mid-West Drama League to hold the district festival there for the first time. Ernie Sunley was president for the next two years and Lloyd Irwin was secretary for the first year and Mrs. J. Ross for the second. There were nine festival plays the first year with Isabella presenting three of them. "The Tenth Word" by the 4H Clothing Club directed by Mrs. A. Adams won first place for High School pupils. The 4H Club then presented their winning play at the Provincial Festival held in McCreary in May 1958 and Jeanette Wright (now Mrs. R. Hyndman) won the trophy for the best high school actress. The other plays presented at Isabella by the local Drama Club were "From Five to Five-Thirty" and "The Bishop's Candlesticks".

Isabella again held the district festival in 1959 with seven plays competing, three of them from the local Drama Club. "The Six Queens of Henry" directed by Mrs. J. E. Finkbeiner and Mrs. A. Adams again had the winning actress in its cast as Mrs. Jean Norrie won the best actress award for the second time.

"Heart Attack" directed by Mrs. R. Heise and "The Old Lady Shows Her Medals" directed by Ernie Sunley were also presented at this time. The latter play won the district shield and was then qualified to enter in the Provincial festival held in Virden in May 1959. To this festival the provincial committee invited the Isabella Drama Club to present

their play "The Six Queens of Henry" as the costuming was very fine and added greatly to the dramatic effect because of its colorful costuming.

Isabella again came up with two plays for the 1960 district festival held in Kenton. They were "Michael" a drama directed by Mrs. J. E. Finkbeiner and Mrs. A. Adams, and "Rise and Shine" a comedy directed by Mrs. L. Wright and Mrs. W. Gilchrist.

In 1961 the Drama Club presented the drama "To What Purpose" at the Kenton district festival directed by Mrs. R. Heise and E. Sunley. Mrs. Doug Harrison won the cup for the best actress and the play won the new shield for the best costuming.

Our local Drama Club was organized in 1958 and in a few short years has achieved some measure of success and satisfaction through the interest and co-operation of the members.

Blaris-Isabella Drama Club

by Lloyd Irwin

1961 was the last year in which Isabella Drama Club was involved in the presentation of plays. Blaris Club had ceased to function many years before that.

The minutes of the Isabella Club show that a meeting on January 5, 1968 was called to dispose of Club funds and try to organize two or more one act plays. At this time, Mr. E. Sunley was president and Mrs. R. E. Heise was secretary-treasurer. The result of the meeting was that Mrs. Archie Norrie became the new secretary-treasurer and the Club retained its funds. Seven years later, on January 31, 1975, the Drama Club met to dispose of its remaining finances. This was done by turning the money over to the Isabella United Church Women, to be used to help buy chairs for the hall. A further motion directed the secretary to contact the secretary of the Mid West Drama Association, asking that that organization call a meeting to dispose of its funds.

In a subsequent meeting of the Mid West Drama Association, a decision was made to donate the remaining funds to the Rollingdale Workshop for the Mentally Retarded at Cardale.

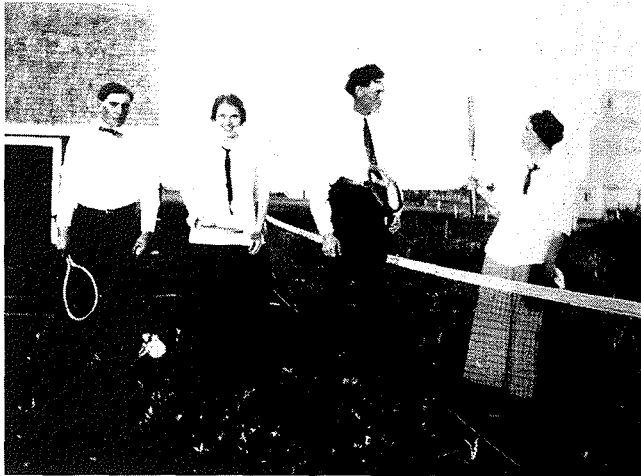
The T. Eaton Co. trophy for best actress is held by Isabella, as is the award for the best costume play. These trophies are in Isabella Community Centre.

Interest in drama at the Highschool level is still maintained through activities in the Birdtail Division Schools.

Tennis

In the years from 1915 to the middle twenties, there was a Tennis Court on the Church grounds. There was also one at the back of the store and one in the fair grounds east of the rink. Some of those who were tennis enthusiasts were; R. T. Clark, Arthur

Heise, Mrs. A. Clark, Russel Heise, Elizabeth Stevenson, Merle Stevenson, Thirza Smith.



Isabella Tennis Court, 1915: Jim Collingwood, Vera Heise, Rob Clark, Laura Heise.



Isabella Hockey team — Murray Bell, coach and manager. Back Row: David Wright, Ed. Ariss, Gerry Asselstine, Walter Nichol, Wilf Kling, Harvey Heise. Front Row: Glen Myron, Ron Bell, Tim Nichol, Jim Flynn. Missing: Murray Bell and Gary Young.



Hockey Team 1933-4, Back Row: Claude Reid, Earl Warren, Rae Reid, Reg Campbell, Jack Iverach, Johnnie Finkbeiner, Art Ross, Austin Warren. Front Row: Ted Finkbeiner, Wes Shurvell, Ken Warren, Cliff Shurvell, Gordon Kennedy.



The last hockey team to play out of Isabella rink, Back Row: Scott Campbell, Ron Still, Randy Still, Rusty Still, Neil Norrie, David Irwin, Jeff Ross. Front Row: Kevin Doran, Kendall Heise, Calvin Harrison, Martin Heise, Darrell Nichol, Ryan Norrie.



Figure skating Club, 1968. Back Row: Nancy Bell, Valerie Clark, Ron Campbell, Janice Norrie, Allan Heise, Bev Ariss, Craig Harrison, Shelley Stewart, Gail Irvine, Arlene Nichol, Doreen Norrie, Florence Young. Front Row: Susan Finkbeiner, Angus Norrie, Lori Heise, Chris. Norrie, Bonnie Stevenson, Tim Wierer, Tanis Campbell, Keith Irwin, Rick Still, Adele Heise.



Hockey team 1953, Back Row: Norman Harrison, Ken Powell, Eugene Matiation, Ken Stewart, Murray Matiation, Ronald Johnston, Bob Bryant. Front Row: Barry Leary, Bob Stevenson, Spence Bell, Bob Bell, Clark Stewart. Coach was Bill Rowan, Manager Tom Stewart. This team won the first Tom Thumb Tournament at Decker.



Runners-up in Senior Ladies' Provincial Playdowns, Flin Flon, 1975: Margaret Ross, lead, Dorothy Finkbeiner, second, June Nichol, third, Margaret Coxworth, Skip.



Ladies Curling Fun Day, Back Row: Linda Clark, Alice Harrison, Lillian Derlago, Doreen Clark, Phyllis Bell, Margaret Coxworth, Pat Koroscil, Marlene Carter, Arla Heise, Bernice Still. Front Row: Althea Asselstine, Marlene Amy, Margaret Still, Ruth Teasdale, Bev. Doran, Fay Tomiski, Jessie Wall, Addie Carscadden.



Isabella Men's Softball team, 1981. Back Row: Allan Heise, Mike Medd, Harley Edmundson, Cal Harrison, Scott Medd, Randy Still, Kendall Heise. Front Row: Neil Norrie, Rusty Still, Craig Harrison, Ron Still, Jeff Ross, Kevin Doran. (Elgin Knight, missing).



Ladies' Softball team, 1981, Back Row: Glenda Lawn, Sandy Yanick, Lexi Butler, Ruth Doran, Bev Doran, Bernice Still. Front Row: Joan Berry, Sandy Cloake, Colleen Leif, Joanne Medd, Kim Stowe, Lesli Teasdale.

Blaris District in the Field of Sport

by Mr. R. L. Stevenson and Mr. Ellery Sunley

The first baseball team, was formed after the school was built in 1885 and played just west of the school on the farm of Mr. Simpson later in 1895 purchased by Mr. Sunley.

The first players were; Catcher — David Hill, Pitcher — Walter Palmer, the others who made up the team were Frank Campbell, John Clark, Tom Stevenson, Henry Wilson, Jim Crawford, Mr. Albertson, and the youngest member of the team Robert Bell. Where they played on the team and what their B.A. (batting average) was, we have no idea, but we are told that they played bare-handed and with home-

made bats, and no doubt there would be some home runs. Some time later, a football team was organized and played on the same ground. They later changed to the picnic grounds on the Henry Wilson farm on the quarter section of 19, south of the church. This team consisted of John Bell, Ross Bell, Will Palmer, William McKee, Jack and Jim Armstrong, Frank and Arthur Knott, and Sed Campbell was goalkeeper. He filled the goal for size and ability as well. Others from Arrow River who used to play with them were Mat Wilson, Russell Lynch, Walker and Heslip Allenby, Richie and Tommy Lelond. On information gathered, they were a pretty good team and won a lot of games and got a lot of kicks out of it.

It was about 1909 or 10 that the next B.B.C. (that is not British Broadcasting Corporation) was organized. The ball diamond of the Blaris Baseball Club was on the Wilson grounds. They practiced on Saturday evenings. William Miller was first and a very capable manager, of this ball club. He and Lawrence Stevenson and Sam Clark picked the playing team from the club. Those who used to be on the team were George Torrance, catcher; pitchers were: Reg. Campbell, Bob Clark, Jack Sutherland, Roy and Dave Bell, Art Heise, and Donald Sutherland. William Bell played first base, and was always known as a very nervy base-stealer. He would take his cap off, then make for a base. This gave the fans a thrill and ninety percent of the time he would make it or he would score a run. Others on the team were George Sutherland, Al Clark, Gordon Grey, Harry and Frank Harrison, Archie and Fred Hill, Russ Heise and Ernie and Ellery Sunley.

Birtle, Crandall, Miniota, and Isabella Sports would nearly always see the Blaris team in their blue uniforms — not always winners, but sporty losers. At Birtle one year, they lost their first game in baseball, so they all played football and won it.

One summer as a side sport, they bought a quantity of clay pigeons and a trap shooter, after ball practice they would have trap shooting. Some of the boys got pretty quick on the draw. As far as playing went, the team did very little at the time of the first World War, but the club kept organized, and as each player went overseas, he was given a gold banded fountain pen, and when he returned, a gold ring with B.B.C. engraved on it. They also sent each soldier a parcel regularly.

The ball club used to hold suppers — oyster or fowl, box socials, etc. to raise funds to buy uniforms. At the box socials the right girls name in the box with a certain ribbon or mark would cause price inflation with fantastic prices being paid.

In 1920 when Isabella Rink was opened the B.B.C. changed the "B" for an "H" and from then

on it was a hockey club. It was a good lively club until Isabella got the better of them due to a shortage of players.

The early curlers of the district were mentioned in the history of John Sunley. The remaining families in the district enjoy playing in local bonspiels in the curling season.

Basket Ball

Basket Ball was played in Isabella for a good many years, from about 1920 to 1950. The girls who played, were High School students. At Field day it was one of the highlights of the day. Some of the earlier players were; Edna Kelly, Jean Doran, Rose Wright, Hazel Doran, May Irvine, Ruby Finkbeiner, Merle Kennedy, Florence Bardwell.

For a very short time, **Cricket and Foot-ball** were played in the Isabella district.

The Isabella Curling Club 1920-1962

The Isabella Curling Club was organized following the opening of the rink in 1920. The first records are not available but it is thought R. D. L. Warren was the first President, with P. J. Beveridge, Secretary-Treasurer.

As there was no curling rink at Decker at that time, some of the Decker men joined the Isabella Curling Club, and remained members until a rink was built at Decker.

There were eight men's rinks that first winter. First skips were thought to be: T. E. Doran, J. Sutherland, R. D. L. Warren, J. T. Finkbeiner, R. L. Stevenson, and H. Quinton, R. Anderson, and E. Bedford, from Decker.

For the first two or three winters, a bonspiel was held on the one sheet of ice, so necessarily, the games ran early and late, but no one was concerned over that.

A Ladies' Curling Club was organized at the same time, with at first, only two rinks. The skips were Miss Marjory Thompson and Miss Thirza Smith. As one of those skips remarked recently, they were not chosen for what they knew about curling, but because they happened to be two of the lady school-marms at that time, so were given the honor.

Curling came to be most popular among both men and women, and soon almost every one in the community, both young and old were trying their hand at it. One of the enthusiastic veteran curlers was Mrs. D. Kelly. She took her curling seriously, and was ready for a game at any time. Many was the win she stacked up over her opponents. She continued her curling when she went to make her home in

Miniota and played her last game when she was well over eighty years of age.

From the years 1924 to 1927, the curling activities were concluded in the spring with a banquet, which was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Finkbeiner, when all the winter curlers with their wives and husbands spent an enjoyable evening together.

Second Annual Banquet
of the

Isabella Curling Club

Held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Finkbeiner

Tuesday, March Third, 1925

Menu.

Pressed Chicken Cold Ham Scalloped Potatoes

Salad Olives Pickles Rolls

Cream Puffs Tarts Cake Ice Cream

Tea Coffee Milk Fruit Candy

Toast List and Program

Toastmaster — Mr. T. E. Doran

The King

Male Quartette

Manitoba Curling Association.

Proposed: R. E. Heise. Response: J. Sutherland.

Duet: Mrs. J. T. Finkbeiner and Mrs. G. T. Ariss.

The Officers of Isabella Curling Club.

Proposed: H. Quinton. Response: Rev. J. C. Anderson.

Solo — Mr. R. Cawley.

The Lady Curlers.

Proposed: R. L. Stevenson. Response: Mrs. R. D. L. Warren.

Under the Dome.

Our Host and Hostess.

Proposed: J. Iverach. Response: J. T. Finkbeiner.

Auld Lang Syne.

Directors of the Curling Club:

Hon. President T. E. Doran.

President R. L. Stevenson.

1st Vice Robert Anderson.

2nd Vice G. L. Dibblee.

Sec. Treas. P. J. Beveridge.

Chaplain Rev. J. C. Anderson.

After a year or two, the skating ice was flooded to make extra sheets of ice for bonspiel, as rinks from neighboring towns came to take part. As the years went by, and roads were open for cars all winter, rinks came for many miles to take part in the competitions.

From the early years of curling, many of the local rinks were mixed and many a husband and wife team, enjoyed the winters curling together. Now the ladies have their own Curling Club, and hold a bonspiel each year when they entertain the visiting curlers to a banquet, but most of these ladies will also be found taking part in the mixed bonspiel.

The local rinks, both men and women, compete at other bonspiels in all parts of the country. They have a membership in the Manitoba Curling Association, and compete in the Brier Competitions. An occasional member has curled in the Winnipeg bonspiel.

A school bonspiel is held each winter, also a 4-H competition with other 4-H clubs.

The Club officers for 1962 are; President, Tom Stewart. Secretary-Treasurer, Doug Heise.

Isabella Curling Club 1962-1982

by Douglas Heise

The officers have remained the same for this time. President, T. W. Stewart, vice-president — Neil Stewart, secretary-treasurer — Douglas Heise.

Isabella Curling Club continues to be a member of the Manitoba Curling Association. The club holds a very successful mixed bonspiel each year.

Update by M. Coxworth

The Isabella Ladies' Curling Club still continues to be an active club. They still hold an annual bonspiel with rinks from Miniota, Beulah, Birtle, Decker and Hamiota competing.

They keep a membership in the Manitoba Curling Association. In 1975 a rink consisting of Margaret Ross, Dorothy Finkbeiner, June Nichol and Margaret Coxworth lost in the final in the Manitoba Senior Ladies' playdowns at Flin Flon to a rink from Winnipeg.

An annual trophy day is held among our own members. The Ladies' Curling Club continues to support the upkeep of the rink.

The curling fees have been two dollars, but the club is financed by the sale of bonspiel lunches.

The present officers are: president, Margaret Still, secretary-treasurer, Beverley Doran.

Hockey History 1921 to 1940

written by Claude Reid and Gordon Kennedy, Winnipeg

Although the community of Isabella had been established for some time, not until the fall of 1921, when the present rink was erected, did Isabella form a hockey team. The writers, although very young, recall the community effort and spirit that got the rink up and ready for opening that winter.

Original team members were Mr. Warren (Russell), Mr. Hill (Bill), Mr. Grey (Gordon), goaltender, Mr. Young (Ollie), Mr. Quackenbush (Bill), Mr. Moffatt (Len), Mr. Wallace (Earl), and Mr. Campbell (Reg.).

From then on new faces began to appear and those better known to us were: Jim Ross, Art. Ross, Syd. Finkbeiner, Jack Iverach, Jim Iverach, Stan Wallace, Earl Warren, George Ariss, Charlie Ariss. The number of games played each winter was limited due to poor roads and the manner in which the teams had to travel. It was not uncommon for each community to have a hockey team. We recall the Blaris district having a team and playing their games at Isabella.

In 1931 and from then on until 1941 hockey be-

came the greatest attraction during the winter months. The depression years were no doubt responsible for the boys remaining at home. Again new faces appeared on the team. Austin Warren, then Claude Reid, followed by Wes. Shurvell, Gordon Kennedy (Smitty) made their appearance. A year later, Ted Finkbeiner, Cliff Shurvell and Rae Reid joined the team.

A few years later Harry (Bill) Beveridge and Murray Shurvell started to play. Following them were Bill Shurvell and Jimmy Clark which rounded out the team until it disbanded in the spring of 1940.

During this period of time 1931-1940 the hockey team each year started to travel farther afield. The usual means of travel was by a closed in truck box (heated) or when roads became impassable, a team and van was used. Records show the team travelled by train for part of the journey.

Home and away games were played more than once each winter with neighboring towns like Beulah, Birtle, Miniota, Arrow River, Crandall, McConnell, and Hamiota. When the roads were open for cars or truck, games were played with Foxwarren, Russell, Roblin, Langenburg, Sask., St. Lazare, Virden, Moosomin, Melita, Kenton, Rivers, Shoal Lake, Strathclair, Rosburn, Minnedosa, Neepawa and Dauphin.

Tournament hockey was very popular in those years. Three games a day and two tournaments a week was not uncommon, plus long hours of traveling before and after a game. Prize money was offered, usually so much per game. A good tournament paid \$10.00 a win, and \$15.00 for a final game. By winning a good share of the tournaments, the team was able to take care of all expenses from the winnings.

All this success could never have been, had it not been for the support from those remaining at home. It must be recalled that Reg Campbell was the only manager and coach for all those games except for a couple of years when Clarence Reid did the coaching during the play-offs around 1937.

Not only the team made those strenuous trips. Those frequently making the trip with the team were; Mr. Bardwell (Bill), Mr. Clark (Bob), Mr. Clark (Al), Mr. Shurvell (Herb.), Mr. Scorgie (George), Mr. Clark (Alex), Mr. Marshall (Don), Allan Sutherland and Elmer Finkbeiner. There were others, but they only made occasional trips.

Those remaining at home, but regular attenders at home games were: Millers, Kennedys, Shurvells, Robertsons, Balls, Warrens, Beveridges, Brisbins, Clarks, Lawns, Riches, Drummonds, Stewarts, Halls, Stills, Iverachs, and Dorans. It was not uncommon, when the roads were open to see the Fink-

beiners, Reids, Clarks, Robertsons, Bardwells, Shurvells, Calders, Millers, Riches and Drummonds showing up at some tournament where the team was playing. Many discussions have taken place by followers as to which team was the strongest. In the opinion of many the team of 1934-35 was the best. That was the year the Orr boys: Fred and Oscar were with the team. Fifty games were played, records show 41 wins, 1 tie, and 8 losses. The team participated in 13 tournaments.

From 1936 on, the team entered Intermediate play-downs, reaching the quarter finals. That year they disposed of Foxwarren and Russell, before losing out to Dauphin in a close series, they had eliminated Neepawa, the provincial champions the year before. The trip to Dauphin was made in 50 below zero weather. Johnny Reid transported the team in his truck. Roads north were practically impassable. They shovelled and pulled the truck most of the way. When word reached the Press of the strenuous trip, the nickname of "Isabella Snowbirds" was given in the write up of the play-off game in Dauphin.

In the fall of 1936 the hockey club was given permission to take over the operation of the rink, which they continued to do, until the team disbanded in the spring of 1940.

The Hydro reached Isabella in the fall of 1936 and Hydro Power was immediately installed in the rink, replacing the former gasoline engine generating plant. A year later music was installed to provide better skating entertainment.

Never to be forgotten were the meals and lunches provided by the players' mothers and mothers of non-players, for all home games. After more than twenty years, when we meet up with players from other teams, they mention the excellent meals and lunches put up for them. Had there been a restaurant in town, like in other towns the same friendly spirit after games wouldn't have existed.

We cannot overlook some of the happenings on the road. Some of the more mischievous were — putting the train into emergency on the hill at Millwood on our return from Langenburg and George Scorgie, the only man with a fur hat froze his ears when he walked from the Birtle Hotel to the C.P.R. station, to take the train to Langenburg at four o'clock in the morning. We remember a dinner at Campbells home on our return home from Crandall at 2 a.m., when a special cake was hidden under the buffet and shortly after we found the cat eating it. Stories of this nature would fill pages in a book, if the boys were to get together and start recalling those days.

Had records of these years been kept it would be possible to provide a lot more information if space

would permit. However, we do hope these few paragraphs will be of interest in filling in the history of hockey at Isabella since its beginning.

In the Realm of Sports

E. A. Armstrong

This article appeared in the Winnipeg Free Press following the Isabella Hockey Team's eventful trip to Dauphin.

'Frostbites — Isabella intermediate hockey team, recruited from a small village not even listed as to population, and still conquerors of Foxwarren and Russell, left home Wednesday morning in a canvas-covered truck for Dauphin to play the first game in their home and home M.A.H.A. playdown . . . it was 9 o'clock when the party set off . . . they went north to Shoal Lake, east to Cameron's Corner, and then north through Riding Mountain park and through Norgate to Dauphin . . . it was close to 40 below zero and a biting north wind had drifted the roads . . . the Isabella boys were not found wanting . . . they had equipped the truck with heavy tow ropes . . . everytime the truck became stuck they piled out, hooked the rope onto the front, and it was heave-ho many, many times during the day . . . they finally arrived at Dauphin at 7 p.m. . . . they then had their supper and rushed to the rink . . . and while the game was held up for an hour to allow the Isabella snowbirds to get acclimatized or "digested", the game went on and finally Dauphin emerged victorious by a 2-1 score . . . the Isabella lads then stayed in Dauphin for the night and started back Thursday morning, fully prepared to buck the sub-zero elements all the way and all set to take hold of the rope when necessary . . . that, my friends, is the answer de luxe to the scoffers who insist there is nothing "amateur" left in hockey . . . Dauphin is scheduled to play in Isabella Friday night . . . don't forget your rope, Russ.'

During the years of World War II, hockey was not played in this community as nearly all the "would-be" players were in the armed forces.

During the war years the rink was closed for a couple of years. But the younger boys who came to the age when they wanted to play, their games were played on Friday or Saturday nights. In 1954-55 a young group of boys playing midget hockey, under the coaching of Jim Ross reached the semi-finals of the provincial play-downs. Since that year the older hockey team will not play in Isabella rink as it is too small. They now go to Decker. However the school children still have hockey teams and play in the old rink.

In 1948 to 1956 the Isabella girls had a hockey team. They played exhibition games with Birtle,

Strathclair, Shoal Lake and Crandall. They won the tournament, and Cup at Shoal Lake.

The following is a list of the amount of food ordered for a Hockey tournament which was held in Isabella Rink on December 10th 1937. This food was all provided and served by the ladies of the community.

35 pounds sausage, 4 pounds weiners, 6 dozen rolls, cream, milk, 6 large roasts of beef, 6 pots of potatoes, 5 pints beans, 4 bottles catsup, a few sealers of pickles, some corn, bread, one box of apples made into pies. 10 raisin pies, 10 pumpkin pies. (apples and raisins were bought). 8 pounds of butter, 12 dozen buns, 5 freezers ice cream. (no bought ice cream in those days, all home made.)

MENU

Mashed potatoes, roast beef and brown gravy. Fried sausage. Beans. Corn. Pickles. Buns. Bread. Butter. Pie. Tea. Price. 35 cents. (Ice Cream on pie 5 cents extra)

Weiners, rolls, ice cream and the odd cake were sold for lunch.

1962-82 Update

by Bernice Still

To update the Hockey, I will backtrack a few years to 1940 as there was little mention of those years in the first edition of Rural Reflections.

The rink was closed in 1940 to 1942 due to the war. In 1943 the children from school flooded the ice at noon hours. Hockey consisted of a school team coached by Colin Campbell. This team developed into a senior team with the high school boys and young men who returned after serving in the forces.

In 1950's Tom Stewart and George Ariss coached a 12 and under team. Minor hockey came into being about this time. Other coaches of minor hockey were Bob Stewart and Morgan Johnson. Jim Ross coached a 16 and under team in 1954 to 1955.

In the late 60's and early 70's, Gordon Campbell and Cyril Norrie coached an older minor team and Glen Still coached the younger team. In 1969-71 Bob Ross coached the last team to play hockey out of Isabella rink. The boys ranged in age from 5 to 12 years and played exhibition games as they had too large an age span to get into Minor Hockey Leagues.

In 1972 the boys went to Miniota, Hamiota, and Birtle to play with their own age groups. Fathers who coached these teams were Bob Stewart, Cyril Norrie, Gordon Campbell, Bob Ross and Doug Harrison.

Isabella has produced several goalies. Cal Harrison played goal in minor hockey with Miniota and now plays senior hockey with Foxwarren and he also tried out for Melville Millionaires. He won top goalie

award for the North Division of the North Central Hockey League in 1979-80.

Rusty Still played goal for minor hockey with Miniota and Elkhorn. He plays senior hockey with Elkhorn. He won top goalie award for the North Central Hockey League in 1977-78 and 78-79 and for the south division in 1979-80, when the league was split into two divisions. In 1980-81 Elkhorn joined the South West Hockey League and Rusty won top goalie award for the north division with the team winning the league.

Scott Campbell played goal for Hamiota and Rivers and also the West-Man Midget team. Scott plays with the Hamiota Seniors.

Kevin Doran and Ken Still also played goal in minor hockey teams.

Many of the young married men of Isabella play Old Timer Hockey with Decker. The 8 and under boys also play with the Decker team.

Doug Harrison holds the job of referee-in-chief for the North Central Hockey League and Craig and Cam Harrison do refereeing.

This information has all been received from recollections of local citizens. If I have missed anyone I am sorry, we do appreciate all work done by coaches and officials.

Our rink still has hockey nights on the schedule; persons of all ages show up with sticks, skates and rubber balls. They have a fun game which is, after all, what "Sports" is all about.

Baseball

Baseball has always been a major sport in the Isabella district. We are told that the first interest was at Arrowton where they had a good team. In the Blaris history on sport, we find where they supported several good teams. About 1909 or 1910, Arthur and Russel Heise played with the Blaris team. There were quite a number of young men at Isabella at that time who were anxious to try their hand at the game. So Arthur and Russel Heise withdrew from Blaris and a team was formed here. World War I broke out and for the duration, the team was dissolved. Those who returned, took up the game once more and a club was formed at Isabella with Arthur and Russel Heise, Rob Clark, Crawford Lints, Gordon Davies and others. This team became part of "The Big Six League", which included teams from Miniota, Crandall, Blaris, Beulah, Arrowton and Isabella.

Through the years the teams were never very consistent. As the boys passed from high school to further education or employment, they would leave the team to be replaced by the younger boys who grew into the game.

Some more names we can recall are: Syd Fink-

beiner, Earle Warren, Charles and George Ariss, Ken Warren, Johnnie Finkbeiner, Lorne Wright, Gordon Kennedy, Claude Reid, Ted Finkbeiner, Rae Reid, Clarence Finkbeiner, Sid Riches, and Lorne Finkbeiner.

In the late twenties, baseball was played at school and high school teams throughout the Municipality exchanged games during the season. A later baseball-minded group were: Charlie Peel, Russell Clark, Dave Heise, Tom and Frank Stevenson, Bill Gilchrist, George Phillips, Jack Levins, Gordon, Frank and Colin Campbell and Bill Ingram. These joined with some of the former team, had a good club for a few years.

The next group of players were: Art, Lawrence and Jack Heise, Rodney Campbell, Edson Doran, Johnnie Wall, Stan Teasdale, Doug Harrison, Larry Gilchrist, Claire Johnston, Ted Phillips, Ken and Clarke Stewart, Barrie Miller, Glen, Ray and Dale Still, Murray, Jack, Jim, Spence and Bob Bell, Rudy Apperley and others. Many of these young men play on the present day team, with Doug Harrison as their manager.

Charlie Nichol manages a team of "Little Leaguers", with young boys between the ages of eight and twelve years, and it appears as though baseball will remain a major sport in the Isabella district.

Girls' Softball

The earliest girls fastball team was organized in about 1945, a "Married Women's" team. They played the teams in the nearby towns; Beulah, Birtle, Miniota and Crandall. About this time, ball tournaments began and through the years until 1962, there was usually a team from Isabella in attendance.

In the years 1951 to 1955, there was a team called the Rockets, coached by Bill Attwood. This team attended all the sports days they possibly could. After this there were two teams, a Married Women's and a Girls' team. There is always a team representing Isabella, at the nearby sports, and sometimes farther away.

1962-82 Update

by Bernice Still

Ladies' Softball:

In 1966 Doug Heise coached a ladies' ball team. First members were Glenda Heise, Irene Clark, Joanne Norrie, Diane Harrison, Nancy Bell, Pat Campbell, Sandra Heise, Karen Edmundson, Hazel Wall, Elva Young, Margaret Still and Bernice Still. Doug coached the team for ten years. Team members changed as girls left the district to further their education or to marry, younger ones took their places on the team. In 1976 the Mid-West League was formed

with teams from Hamiota, Shoal Lake, Virden, Sinclair, Oak Lake, Miniota and Isabella taking part. In 1977, 78, and 79 Isabella won the league. In 1977 Bernice Still took over coaching duties. Team members in 1981 were: Joan Berry, Bev Doran, Ruth Doran, Sandra Cloake, Colleen Lief, Joanne Medd, Kim Stowe, Lesli Teasdale, Glenda Lawn, Sandy Yanick, Lexi Butler, Lori Butcher and playing coach Bernice Still.

The Ladies still play in the Mid-West League and in all local tournaments. Over the years they have won enough money to buy their own equipment, uniforms, and jackets. The team colors are blue and white.

Municipal Ball:

In 1965 a group of parents got together and formed an organization known as Municipal Ball. The teams were made up of children 8-12 years from Miniota Municipality who wanted to play ball. About eight teams played every Tuesday and Friday for the first two years, then every Friday in later years. They played at Isabella, Miniota and Hoopers Lake. Games were played during May and June. A wind up night was held at Hoopers Lake with swimming and a wiener roast.

Over the years organizers from Isabella were: Doug Heise, Dave Heise, Ray Still, Bernice Still, Hazel Wall and Margaret Still. Ray and Bernice served for fourteen of the sixteen years this organization existed. The age was extended to sixteen years and lowered to six years with the beginners playing T-Ball. There were approximately one hundred children involved every year. Coaches were parents and interested people from each town.

Junior Girls' Softball:

In 1977, 78, and 79 Eddie Doran coached a group of girls 15-16 and 17 and under.

1977: Ruth Doran, Shirley Sutherland, Geraldine Flynn, Susan Brown, Karen Brown, Brenda Clegg, Belinda Clegg, Brenda Stamford, Sharon Stamford, Carla Cloake, Sandra Cloake, and Audrey Fenty.

1978: Ruth Doran, Brenda Clegg, Belinda Clegg, Hazel Babuik, Audrey Fenty, Kerri Lynn Cornish,

Wendy Brown, Sharon Stamford, Sandra Cloake and Pam Lee.

1979: Ruth Doran, Geraldine Flynn, Brenda Clegg, Belinda Clegg, Kerri Lynn Cornish, Wendy Brown, Sandra Cloake, Terri Mathison, Tanis Mathison, Nancy Duncan, Kim Robertson, Heather Cochrane, and Judy Lynn Allan.

In 1980-81, eight of these girls played in and won the Provincial B Championship as Hamiota. They were Ruth Doran, Sandra Cloake, Tanis Mathison, Terri Mathison, Nancy Duncan, Kim Robertson, Heather Cochrane, and Judy Lynn Allan.

In 1981 Marg Still and June Still coached a 14 and under team. The team consisted of: Heather Miller, Donna Brown, Laurie Teasdale, Lesli Teasdale, Karen Still, Terry Still, Glenda Still, Kim Wall, Melanie Kirk, Georgina Pierce, Lorelei Pierce, Lana Stowe, Elsie Stowe, Frances Stowe, Tracy Derlago and Suzanne Sterling.

Men's Softball:

Doug Harrison coached a men's team from 1964 to 1973. They played in a league and in tournaments. Colors worn were green and gold.

In 1972 Ray Still started a younger team. First players were Tim Wierer, Rick Still, Robert Still, Arnold Nichol, Chris Norrie, Angus Norrie, Robert Edmundson, Ron Lawn, Jim Lawn, Neil Stewart and Allan Heise. Ray coached until 1980 when Allan Heise and Craig Harrison took over. The team played in the Mid-West Men's League with teams from Kenton, Harding, Miniota, Reeder, Arrow River, Hamiota, Oakner, Chumah, Shoal Lake, and Birtle. The men still take part in tournaments and with the winnings have bought uniforms, and jackets in the Isabella school colors of red and white. Team members in 1981 are: Harley Edmundson, Kevin Doran, Jeff Ross, Neil Norrie, Allan Heise, Kendall Heise, Calvin Harrison, Craig Harrison, Scott Medd, Mike Medd, Elgin Knight, Rusty Still, Randy Still, and Ron Still.

Many of the young boys have played minor hardball with teams from Hamiota, Miniota and Birtle. A special thank you to the men in the community who umpire the games, without their help games could not be played.

Community Services

Council

In the council minutes of a meeting held in Beulah Hall in May, 1895 we find the following motions: Hamilton-Clark: That this council deems it expedient in the interest of the municipality that the municipality should be divided into six wards by a line running north and south through the centre of the municipality making the north wards 1 and 2; centre wards 3 and 4; south wards 5 and 6; numbering from the east side of the municipality. (Carried)

Hamilton-Taylor: That the clerk be instructed to send resolution No. 24 re-subdivision of municipality into six wards to the Attorney General to have municipality divided this year. (Carried)

By this division of the municipality, the Blaris and Isabella districts were placed in wards 1 and 3. Following are the names of those who have served in our municipal government through the years:

Reeve			
T. Stevenson	1893		
Wm. M. Taylor	1900-1906		
J. L. Thompson	1907-1908		
Councillors			
Ward 1		Ward 3	
Wm. M. Taylor	1895-1899	F. A. Campbell	1884
Jos. Chapman	1900-1901	W. Selby	1885
J. Clark	1902-1905	F. A. Campbell	1886-1888
G. Phillips	1906-1913	T. Stevenson	1889-1892
E. Doran	1914-1921	J. Clark	1883-1899
S. P. Heise	1922	J. L. Thompson	1900-1902
J. Clark	1923-1927	J. W. Sparling	1903
H. Reid	1928-1939	J. L. Thompson	1904
J. H. Finkbeiner	1940-1953	G. Phillips	1905
F. Reid	1954	C. Craig	1906-1908
		F. A. Campbell	1909-1914
		D. J. Hill	1915-1916

E. D. McNab (1917-1918), D. J. Hill (1919-1922), C. Craig (1923-1934), T. Gray (1935-1944), R. L. Stevenson (1945-1948), D. Cowling (1949-1952), V. E. G. Little (1953-1958), L. Hunkin (1958-). Mr. T. Stevenson was assessor in 1898.

In 1897, the clerk received \$120.00 per year and the treasurer, \$150.00. In 1901, the clerk received \$140.00 and the treasurer, \$175.00. In 1903, the salaries were \$165.00 and \$200.00 respectively.

Municipal levy through the years.

- 1885 — Municipal rate — 2 mills on the dollar
Judicial rate — 2 mills on the dollar
General school rate — 1½ mills on the dollar
- 1893 — Municipal rate — 2½ mills on the dollar
Judicial rate — 1½ mills on the dollar
General school rate — 3½ mills on the dollar
- 1894 — Municipal rate — 3 mills on the dollar
Judicial rate — 1 mill on the dollar
General school rate — 3½ mills on the dollar
- 1895 — Municipal rate — 2½ mills on the dollar
Judicial rate — 1 mill on the dollar
General school rate — 4½ mills on the dollar
- 1897 — Municipal rate — 3 mills on the dollar
Judicial rate — 1 mill on the dollar
General school rate — 5½ mills on the dollar
- 1898 — Municipal rate — 9 mills on the dollar
Judicial rate — 1 mill on the dollar
General school rate — 6 mills on the dollar

Crandall, May 19th, 1913 — Phillips, Campbell — “That the assessor be instructed that it is advisable to assess all farm lands in future in this municipality at double the present rate and that all village and personal property be assessed at two thirds of their cash value. (Carried)”

- 1916 — Municipal rate — 7½ mills on the dollar
General school rate — 7 mills on the dollar
Telephone — ½ mills on the dollar
Municipal commissioner — 2½ mills on the dollar
- 1962 — General school — 9.3 mills on the dollar
General municipal — 19.6 mills on the dollar
Hamiota Hospital — 1.1 mills on the dollar
By-Law No. 1419 — (a special fund for road work) — 2.4 mills on the dollar
Ward — 9.5 mills on the dollar
Special school rate — (Division No. 38) — 9.3 mills on the dollar

In 1906, one half section of land in this district was assessed for \$2,880.00 and the taxes were \$59.14. In 1962, the same parcel of land is assessed at \$5,000.00 and the taxes are \$325.00.

In the early days the council appointed poundkeepers, fence viewers, pathmasters (to oversee the execution of Statute Labor), constables and weed inspectors. Some of the poundkeepers in this area were: Peter Heise and James Torrance (1885), D. Iverach (1899), J. T. Finkbeiner (1913-1914), James

Still, Murd. Smith, E. Doran, S. Wallace, Wm. Wallace and E. Allingham. We find D. Iverach and W. Iverach as fence viewers in 1899. W. Iverach (1897), Joe Bliss (1898-1901), J. T. Finkbeiner (1914), and T. J. Kennedy were constables from time to time. Mr. C. Craig (1896) and Wm. Pittendreigh were weed inspectors. Mr. H. Reid was fire guardian for awhile. Enos Torrance and F. A. Campbell were pathmasters in 1884.

There were two hundred resident rate-payers in 1897, two hundred and fifty in 1899, four hundred in 1901, and about eight hundred in 1962. There are one thousand, seven hundred and twenty residents in this Municipality in 1962. These figures are given for comparison only. It is interesting to see the rate of growth through the years.

In the minutes we find where the council applied for help to supply the settlers with seed grain when their crops were completely destroyed by frost in 1888, and by hail in 1896, and by rust in 1916. In 1897, the Council set up an Indian Relief Fund at the request of the Lieutenant Governor, which was to be collected on a voluntary basis. During 1915, the Council paid a grant of \$250.00 for the months of November and December, to the Manitoba Patriotic Fund. A motion made on February 29th, 1916, reads as follows: Lynch-Bruce: That we give a monthly grant of \$818.50 to the Manitoba Patriotic Fund, to the end of August, 1917. In the early days, the Municipal Council sponsored a well drill whereby on making a deposit to the council, it could be used by the residents to develop water supplies. As early as 1899, we were and still are protected against hawkers and pedlars who do not pay a license fee to sell goods in our municipality. Bounties have been paid on gophers, rats, wolves, foxes, crows and magpies to help eradicate pests. For those who think the Canada Thistle is just becoming a bad weed, we find that in May, 1900, the clerk was instructed to write to a certain party within the municipality, to say that he use his own discretion as to how he would destroy the said thistle!

So it has been, through all these years, rate-payers were appointed to Council and acted in the interests of the residents, protecting them by making wise decisions, and in many cases, spending meagre funds with discretion. To prove that even the smallest matter was not overlooked, we quote a motion from a meeting held in Miniota on December 18th, 1901: "W. B. Rowan — Clark: That all members of this board, including clerk, who smoke during transaction of business, be obliged to contribute a per capita tax of ten cents for each offence, said funds to be spent by more temperate members, of the board, in such manner as they deem expedient. (Carried)".

During the earlier years, following each motion, are the names of those who voted "yea" and of those who voted "nay", very clearly recorded. We are proud to live in communities which have been so well represented in municipal government for so many years.

Update

by T. W. Stewart

In updating the history of the council of the Rural Municipality of Miniota over the past twenty years, I note that in 1960, a weed board was formed by the Municipality of Blanchard, with Hamiota, Miniota and Woodsworth joining in at a later date. A board of two councillors from each Rural Municipality with a secretary supervisor and Agriculture Representative carry on the work of weed control in the district.

In 1965, the Manitoba Government took several market roads and formed what we now call the Provincial Road system. In ward one, we have Number 355 running east-west and number 474 and 254 running north-south. A system of municipal feeder roads make up the road system along with the Government Trunk system, Numbers 83 and 24 being two in this municipality.

The Rural Municipality of Miniota belongs to Highway 83 Association which has representatives from Texas to Swan River. Highway 24 was another Association the Rural Municipality of Miniota belonged to until the road was completed from Rapid City. Miniota Provincial Road 355 Association has been formed for about four years. This runs from Minnedosa to Provincial Trunk Highway 83 north of Beulah with plans to extend west to Provincial Trunk Highway 41 at McAuley, where a proposed new potash mine is to be established.

In 1966, a West-Man Development Corporation was formed, with head office in Brandon. The Rural Municipality of Miniota was represented by a councillor as a delegate at meetings held in connection with the corporation. In June 1978, West-Man Corp. folded up as it was felt there wasn't sufficient interest.

Around 1963 a Manitoba Branch Line Association was formed to protect railway branch lines in the Province. Several smaller Associations also existed for example Hallboro-Beulah branch line Association. Meetings were held, when the Hall Commission was set up by the Federal Government to look into railway rationalization. The local community attended several meetings and hearings — presenting briefs, but failed when the Hallboro Branch Line was closed in 1978 and the rails were pulled up in 1979. The Brandon-Miniota C.P.R. was also closed. In

1981, grain is hauled from this district to Solsgirth, Birtle, Shoal Lake, Quadra and Oakner.

A Recreation Commission was formed in April 1976 by the Rural Municipalities of Blanchard, Hamiota, Woodworth and Miniota. It is also run on a regional basis like the weed board, with a Recreational Director. It is the work of the Director to bring out as many new programs as possible for recreation in each of the named municipalities. A swimming lesson program takes place at Hooper's Lake each summer plus other programs.

In April 1976, a new municipal office in Miniota was opened. The old office is now used for Miniota's museum.

On July 15, 1973, Mr. Ed. Spalding, secretary-treasurer of Rural Municipality of Miniota from 1948 to 1973, passed away. Mrs. Shirley Richardson assistant secretary-treasurer has carried on since with the help, first of Mrs. Thelma Lelond who retired in 1976 and now Mrs. Catherine Peel.

An Elderly Persons' Housing project with ten units, called Parkissimo Lodge, was built in Miniota in 1979. The Rural Municipality of Miniota gave \$8,000.00 to promote the building.

A low level bridge crossing, near Armitage's, was built by the Rural Municipality of Miniota in 1978. It survived a flood in 1979 and is used extensively.

In 1980, a new municipal shed was built to house two road patrols, a caterpillar tractor and fire engine with shop service.

The 1980 mill rate for rural residents was 105 mills.

In 1981, the highest assessed quarter section NE 13-15-25 in \$6,500.00.

Ward one, in 1981, has approximately 49 miles of gravel road, 6 miles of machinery road and 23 miles of Provincial Roads (numbers 474, 254 and 355).

Ward one councillors during the past twenty years:

Frank Reid	1954-1967
T. W. Stewart	1968-
Councillors for ward three:	
Larry Hunkin	1958-1972 (passed away 1972)
Bill Clark	1972-1980
Gerald Shier	1980-
Reeves in the past twenty years:	
Harvey Hyndman	1950-1967
Cyril Page	1968-1974
Vernon Lockhart	1974-1980
Jack Hanlin	1980-



Members of Council, 1976: Jim Milne, Tom Stewart, Bill Clark, Bob Mitchell, Ivan Armitage, Vern Lockhart, Shirley Richardson, Thelma Lelond, Dave Stewart.



R.M. of Miniota Road Patrol.

Hospitals

In recording happenings of the past, we must not forget the doctors who were, in reality, the noblest pioneers of all. We must remember in this scientific age of modern drugs, how few remedies they had at hand and the means they had to convey their medicines to the patients.

Through the municipal council minutes, we learn that Dr. Rolston was health officer in the Miniota Municipality as early as 1896. There may have been someone before him that has not been recorded. He was followed by Dr. Wheeler of Birtle who filled that office from 1898-1900 when on January 2nd, 1900, Dr. Chalmers, then of Beulah, became health officer at a modest salary of \$75.00 a year. Later on Dr. Fraser, of Crandall, took over those duties in this corner of the municipality. Dr. Fraser continued in this capacity until the formation of the Virden Health Unit in the late 1940's.

Several doctors from neighboring towns worked in this area, coming in when called. These were: Dr.

Clingan, Virden; Dr. E. D. Hudson, Hamiota; Dr. Bardal, Shoal Lake; Dr. Fjelsted, Birtle; as well as Dr. Chalmers, Miniota and Dr. Fraser, Crandall. In later years Dr. J. E. Hudson has served in this area as well.

From council minutes, we learn that this municipality paid a grant of \$25.00 to each of the Brandon and Winnipeg hospitals in 1895, which leads us to believe that those hospitals served this area then.

Most of the children were born at home in this district in the early days, under the capable supervision of Mrs. Donald Iverach. She had established a nursing home in her own home for the convenience of those who needed such accommodation.

The hospitals in the nearby towns that served this area were: Miniota, Hamiota, Virden, Birtle and Shoal lake. In 1950, a new hospital district was formed, taking in the Miniota Municipality and thus our communities. With a five-doctor Medical Group centered at the twenty six bed hospital which was opened in December, 1950, at Hamiota, we have services very close to us that ordinarily would have to be sought in Brandon and even Winnipeg.

This community appoints two representatives annually to the Ladies' Auxiliary to Hamiota Hospital 7A and we take a very active part in supporting it. We have raised an annual allocation of \$80.00 since 1951 which is used by the Aid to buy linens, small equipment, make loans to student nurses in the hospital area, and patient's comforts. Donations of fruit, vegetables, jellies and jam are sent in each fall for the pantry and our ladies take their turn sewing and mending there.

When we recall pioneer days, we remember two doctors in particular who served these districts in all kinds of weather, over all kinds of roads, under difficulties that would have dismayed the best of us in these times. These two were: Dr. Chalmers and Dr. Fraser.

Hamiota District Health Center

by Dave Heise

The present hospital opened in 1950 as Hamiota Hospital District No. 7A with a rated capacity of 25 beds. The laboratory and x-ray department opened in 1960 and the new medical clinic in August, 1968. At this time the doctors moved out of the hospital offices into the clinic. The clinic was owned and operated by shareholders. This unit functioned separately from the hospital. During the 1960s Hamiota Clinic had one of the first group practices in rural Manitoba. Dr. Ed Hudson and Dr. K. Hames had started the group in 1947. Rivers and Shoal Lake were added to this group with a medical doctor at each centre. To assist

the doctors, a surgeon was hired. Surgeon Dr. Heddle, resided in Rivers. Dr. Cashmore followed and lived in Hamiota serving the area for seven years. Also serving as surgeons were Dr. Kanji, Dr. Walm-sley, and Dr. Nundi. These surgeons did only surgery.

In 1972 there were more renovations to the hospital; relocation of the kitchen, addition to the east wing and to the operating room suite.

In 1974 the hospital became the Hamiota District Health Centre functioning under the existing hospital governing board. They rented the clinic building and the doctors were employed by the Centre. Support services of a social worker, mental health worker, outreach and preventative programs, all were expanded or added. The Centre assumed responsibility for public health and the home care programs. The ambulance service began in the early 70s taking patients to Brandon or Winnipeg for more specialized care. The Westman Regional Laboratory Services (located in Brandon General Hospital) opened in 1974. This laboratory now gives the Centre truck service five days a week. An integrated district health system was evolving.

The governing board was formed in 1950. It consists of ten members: two members from Miniota, from Hamiota, from Blanshard and Woodworth municipalities, and two members from Hamiota village. This board meets monthly in the hospital board room. Also attending the meetings are: the administrator, assistant administrator, secretary-treasurer, one doctor, the director of nursing, and a Hospital Aid representative.

Thirty low-cost senior citizens' housing units are built adjacent to the hospital/clinic complex. These units are run by an independent non-profit company, the Hamiota Senior Citizens' Park Residence Limited. The facility has been very well accepted. There has never been a vacancy in the units since the lodge opened in 1960 and the second part in 1970.

Early in 1981 the Health Centre Governing Board began a construction project for a 30-bed Personal Care Home (Birch Lodge) and a 15-unit Elderly Persons' Housing (Lilac Residence). This is attached to the existing hospital. The new addition is scheduled to open in the spring of 1982.

Dr. Fraser and Dr. Chalmers

Dr. Fraser was born in Georgetown, Ontario April 11, 1866. He quit school at an early age but after a few years of driving oxen decided to go back again. In 1894 he received his B.A. from the University of Toronto. He then came West and taught in Hamiota in 1895-6 when there was only a one-room school. He farmed again for a couple of years and then went to

Medical College in Winnipeg, returning to Crandall in 1903 as a M.D. The following year he married Mary Telfer of Portage la Prairie who was his partner until called away in June, 1950.

For 47 years neither the elements, nor time kept him away from any call of illness. Even after going to live with his daughter in Winnipeg in 1950, he still called Crandall his home and all whom he had served "His Family." Many were the letters he wrote to those in trouble.

The Doctor was always interested in the well-being of the community, the church, school, rink and Forrester's Lodge. He also loved plants. His home and grounds was one of the beauty spots of the area.

Doctor Fraser passed away on July 30, 1962 at Princess Elizabeth Hospital in Winnipeg.

Dr. R. K. Chalmers was born on June 21st, 1872 at Palmerston, Ontario where he received his early education. He became a school teacher for awhile and then went on to study medicine and surgery, graduating from the University of Manitoba with his M.D. degree.

The urge to practice his profession brought him to Beulah, Man., as a young country doctor. He began to make his way and gained the confidence of the people who came to him for advice and help. In a few years he moved to Miniota, Man., where his business increased. The demand for a drug store also increased which led to the Doctor's building one to accommodate his patients.

Through the years the Doctor took a very active part in community affairs — in the United Church where he held offices, in the Agricultural Society and Curling Club. He was chairman of the Miniota Municipal School Board for a number of years. His interest in education was keen and any educational projects received untiring support from him. He was an active member in the I.O.O.F. lodge and held offices in the Grand Lodge of the order.

His profession brought him in contact with a large number of families in these communities for over fifty years. It mattered not when the call came, whether the elements were fair or foul, the Doctor came. He was a true friend, a counsellor, a guide and this world of ours gained much by his kindly endeavour and honesty of purpose.

In 1937, Dr. Chalmers was honored with a life membership of the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

On his seventy-seventh birthday, the building in which he carried on his business collapsed and the worry and strain of that day and in the days that followed, took its toll.

On July 27th, 1949, Dr. Chalmers passed away very suddenly. As he was attending a patient at

Beulah, he was taken ill and his life's work ended in the locality where he had commenced his practice half a century before. He was laid to rest at Miniota, Manitoba.

"The Doctor sleeps! No more at pain's behest
Shall he relinquish his much needed rest.
No more his skillful hand and kindly heart
Shall give to some new life, a proper start.
The Doctor sleeps! His fighting days are done
But hundreds live because of bouts he won
And, generations hence, those will draw breath
Who would not be, had he not conquered death.
The Doctor sleeps! Might we his deeds recall?
His name would blaze in Fame's immortal hall-
But serving modestly through life, it now seems best
Merely to write, 'His work survives', and let him rest."

Others of our pioneer doctors are still with us. Some have moved to other parts of the country. We are proud to remember Dr. E. D. Hudson of Hamiota, Man. who, within the past year, has celebrated his ninetieth (90th) birthday and may be seen visiting patients in the hospital almost every day.

We cannot close this item on doctors and hospitals, without recalling a modern doctor in the person of "Dr. Ed." Hudson. He has made history more than once by flying his plane out our way when the roads were blocked with snow, carrying the sick back to the modern conveniences of the new Hamiota Hospital.

Many homes in this district attribute their well-being to these personal friends, our doctors.

Miniota Municipal Telephone System by Doris (Berwick) Peel

In April, 1908, at a meeting of the Miniota Municipal Council, a committee was appointed to make arrangements for getting the needed supplies and to arrange for the borrowing of sufficient money to pay for same. This committee consisted of: Reeve — James Thompson, Secretary-Treasurer, William Howard, and Councillor Fraser. Tenders were to close on July 30th, 1908, and the telephones were to be installed into the ratepayers homes for \$18.00 per year.

The poles were hauled by horse and wagon, holes were dug by hand. In November, 1908, Mr. W. D. Berwick came as Government Inspector. He was tired of travelling around so much as inspector, so he became "trouble-shooter" for the Miniota Municipality.

The switchboard was installed in Turner House, the hotel in Miniota operated by Mr. H. Turner. This building is now the Miniota Cafe. Mr. Turner and his two daughters Hattie and Carrie (Mrs. Albert Spencer) were the first operators. A number of years later the switchboard was moved to the building now

known as Miniota Electric, a repair shop for electrical goods.

The Crandall Switchboard was installed in 1908 also and was operated by Doctor Fraser, for this he received \$67.50 per month. Mr. Turner received \$89.25, per month. From information at hand we presume that this also paid night operators and other assistants.

Mr. Berwick was paid \$125.00 per month and had to take care of all expenses, such as: horse, buggy, sleigh and travel. In 1911 he bought a car which made repair work easier in the summer. Long cold drives by horse were still necessary in winter.

In 1915 a bad cyclone caused a great deal of damage to the lines. In 1918 Mr. Berwick took up farming north of Isabella and Mr. Jarvis was in charge of the telephone system until 1923 when Mr. Berwick took over again.

Mr. Berwick continued to serve this area. In the War years of 1939-1945, he sometimes hired Charles Ellerington and his Bombardier to speed up the repair service. Roads were gradually built up for winter driving and improved so that travel by car was possible for a longer period of time.

In 1950 a severe snow storm in May snapped poles and tangled the wires. The system was old and almost worn out but it was patched up and repaired as negotiations were under way to sell the system to the Manitoba Government. In 1952 the system was sold. The lines were all rebuilt and a dial system installed.

In 1952, Mr. Berwick retired at the age of seventy-three, after being in charge of the Municipal Telephones for thirty-nine years. He enjoyed his work and liked to meet and talk with people. He was a very jolly caller who soon had the party lines in working order again.

He passed away on September 4th, 1958.

The "Telephone Echo" in a column called "Those Were the Days" stated:

"When building the lines in Crandall in 1908 the Construction Gang lived in tents until Christmas. They didn't have a fire and slept on a mattress on the ground. When lines were built in Miniota conditions were better as they had a hotel in which to stay. Their wages were 25¢ per hour for a ten hour day, six days per week. Four dollars per week was deducted for board."

Isabella Lights

The following motion moved by Mr. G. Phillips, seconded by Mr. F. Massina — "That the Council give a grant not exceeding \$75.00 to the Board of Trade of Isabella, for the purpose of installing one gasoline light at the corner of Main Street near the

Hardware store. The Board of Trade agreeing to look after same without charge." Carried. This was passed at a council meeting at Miniota in 1911 or 1912.

Another motion — "That the Board of Trade of Isabella be sold two twenty-five foot telephone poles at \$1.50 per pole, for hanging street lights on, in Isabella and that Councillor Phillips be authorized to get same in Crandall" — Carried.

And so the first light in Isabella was installed.

Another motion dated Oct. 16, 1914 reads.

Doran — Maxfield — "That this council grant \$150.00 each to Miniota and Crandall and \$50.00 each to Beulah and Isabella for upkeep of lights." Carried.

None of the old-timers seem to be able to remember that light, or where it was placed but it must have been there, or the Council a year later, would not have voted money for its upkeep.

When the Hardware store was built Iverach and Beveridge had their own lighting plant. When it was installed, three outside lights were placed under the eave of the building facing the street. These lights were always a welcome sight at that corner of the street.

There was also a lighting plant in the store, with an outside light over the door. Thus the main street of the town was fairly well lighted.

During the summer of 1936 the Manitoba Hydro line was built through from Beulah to Decker, and the long waited for electricity had come to town. Street lights were installed at the corner by the station, at the corner by the rink, at the end of the street where the J. Coxworth house now is, and a fourth light at the corner straight north, just south of the track. These lights were not automatic, and it was Mr. P. J. Beveridge's job to turn them on at night and off again in the morning.

A number of years later, another light was installed in front of the Post Office, and one at the corner of Mr. H. Levins property, south of the school. All street lights are now automatic.

Isabella Cemetery

While looking over minutes of the Miniota Municipal Council, it was noted that at a Council meeting at Crandall on October 11, 1913, Robinson and Stewart moved and seconded the following motion: That Charles Craig be paid one hundred and fifty dollars, to hold land on 9-15-25 for a cemetery and nuisance ground, waiting a surveyor's report of plan.

Mr. Stewart was not pleased with the promptness of the surveyor because in July, 1914, Stewart-Maxfield:

"Whereas we have been put to serious inconvenience in delay of Engineer Jephson, and more particular he has failed to make a survey of Isabella cemetery, be it resolved that if Mr. Jephson does not complete his work immediately we will engage another engineer."

Phillips-Campbell: That Mr. William Iverach be engaged as caretaker for the current year at a salary of \$10.00 per year. Later in the year: To William Iverach for putting a fence around the cemetery \$18.60 was paid.

Evergreen trees were planted to border the cemetery. These have grown up and with ornamental shrubs have made a beautiful place for those who have lived their lives in this community and have their last resting place here.

The caretakers over the years included: William Iverach, John Clark, R. D. L. Warren, James Iverach, Ralph Phillips, Harry Levins, and Charles Nichol, A. Adams.

Early in the spring of 1961, fire of unknown origin burned the tool shed. A building, formerly used as a coal shed at the Municipal Office, was moved to take its place.

The Cemetery Committee is made up of R. L. Stevenson, J. E. Finkbeiner, Davidson Heise, George Lawn.

Update

by J. E. Finkbeiner

Officers for the Isabella Cemetery Committee 1962-1982 are:

President — J. E. Finkbeiner

Secretary — Davidson Heise

Treasurer — George Lawn

In 1971 it was decided that a riding lawn mower was needed. Each family who had plots in the cemetery was canvassed, a collection made and a "56" John Deere mower was purchased.

In 1974 Miniota Municipal Council passed a by-law implementing a plan for Perpetual Care. This was supported by 95% of eligible people.

In 1979, the John Deere mower was replaced by a larger one.

R. E. Clegg & Son made a wrought iron name sign for the gate.

Graves are still being dug as a community effort by volunteer help.

Murray Sutherland is the present caretaker.

Isabella Cemetery

C.M. — (cemetery marker)

	ROW	LOT
1 Adams, Robert James	10	78
2 Allingham, Thomas C.M.	10	87-88
3 Ariss, Lily	8	66
4 Ariss, Thomas	8	67

5 Astle, Joseph	11	76
6 Astle, Magdaline T.	11	77
7 Ball, Baby C.M.	14	77
8 Bingham, Joan	7	49
9 Bingham, Lillian	7	49
10 Bingham, Lillian Maud	7	48
11 Brad, Alvin Ernest	7	80
12 Brad, Harold A.	Died overseas	
13 Brad, Marion M.	7	81
14 Brisbin, Clara May	8	62
15 Brisbin, Harry Melburn	8	61
16 Brown, Francis	8	48
17 Clark, Catherine M. (Stewart)	8	82
18 Clark, Elmer S.	7	58
19 Clark, Evelyn Margaret (McKenzie)	7	59
20 Clark, Penny Maureen	7	84
21 Clark, Robert T.	4	77
22 Clark, Samuel G.	8	81
23 Cotton, L. E. Maude	10	80
24 Cotton, Joseph William	11	79
25 Coxworth, Christina Lorinda	5	93
26 Cuffe, Baby C.M.	7	78
27 Doran, Clara Lucinda	8	87
28 Doran, Edson Houck	8	87
29 Doran, Clara L.	9	87
30 Doran, Thomas Edson	9	88
31 Drummond, William Lawrence	8	80
32 Elliot, Nobel	11	81
33 Finkbeiner, Bertha Ann (Chapman)	6	85
34 Finkbeiner, Clare Henry	7	82
35 Finkbeiner, Geoffrey	5	86
36 Finkbeiner, J. T.	5	82
37 Finkbeiner, Jacob Henry	6	84
38 Finkbeiner, Leona Olive	7	82
39 Finkbeiner, Margaret Magdaline	7	83
40 Garnham, Alice C.M.	7	50
41 Garnham, Baby C.M.	7	50
42 Hall, Vernon Blyth	10	92
43 Harrison, Baby	7	87
44 Harrison, Baby	7	87
45 Harrison, Dewart J.	3	77
46 Harrison, C. Emily (Reid)	7	88
47 Harrison, Harry S.	6	89
48 Harrison, J. D.	7	86
49 Harrison, Stella M.	6	86 & 87
50 Harrison, Verna Christina	5	88
51 Heise, Alice Marion	8	83
52 Heise, Christina (Snider)	8	85
53 Warren, Gertrude A. (Heise)	8	92
54 Heise, James Edwin	8	90
55 Heise, Laura A. (Harrison)	8	91
56 Heise, Mary A. (Williamson)	9	83
57 Heise, Russel Edwin	9	92
58 Heise, Simeon Peter	8	84
59 Hickman, Baby C.M.	8	72
60 Irwin, Heather	4	87
61 Iverach, Charles Peter	10	70
62 Iverach, Donald	11	82
63 Iverach, James	10	84
64 Iverach, John	buried in Hong Kong	
65 Iverach, Maggie M.	10	85
66 Iverach, Minnie	11	83
67 Iverach, Priscilla Elizabeth (Heise)	10	69
68 Iverach, William	10	68
69 Johnston, Freddy	6	70

Trap 1.

X			X		X	X	94
				X	X	X	93
							92
							91
		X		X			90
		X				X	89
				X			88
			X			XX	87
		X		X	X	X	86
		X			X		85
					X		84
					X		83
				X			82
		X		X			81
							80
		X	X				79
		X	X				78
X		X	X	X			77
				X			76
							75
							74
				X			73
							72
							71
						X	70
							69
				X			68
							67
							66
				X			65
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							56
							55
							54
							53
							52
							51
						XX	50
						XX	49
						X	48
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	

NORTH



70	Kelly, Cecil D.	8	77	137	Wright, David	3	90
71	Kelly, Duncan	8	75	138	Doran, Russell E.	3	81
72	Kelly, Martha	8	76	139	Calder, Hector	5	90
73	Kennedy, Thomas J.	4	73	140	Gilchrist, William	5	65
74	Lawn, Beatrice May (Verley)	4	78	141	Harrison, Clifford James	his ashes scattered in the Strait of Georgia	
75	Lawn, Ernest Albert	4	79	Alphabetical List of Maiden Names of Isabella Cemetery			
76	Levins, Agnes	3	78	1	Campbell, Mary Marion wife of R. L. Stevenson	5	67
77	Levins, Harry	3	79	2	Chapman, Bertha Ann wife of Harry Finkbeiner	6	85
78	Levins, Melfort G. T.	died overseas		3	Harrison, Laura A. wife of J. E. Heise	8	91
79	Lints, Crawford	9	77	4	Heise, Gertrude A. 2nd wife of Russell Warren	8	92
80	Lumsden, Baby C.M.	14	93	5	Heise, Mary A. wife of William Williamson	9	83
81	Lumsden, Baby C.M.	14	93	6	Heise, Priscilla Elizabeth, wife of Wm. Iverach	10	69
82	Lumsden, Boy C.M.	14	94	7	Hickman, Lucy wife of Peter Still	9	68
83	Martin, Baby C.M.	1	77	8	Hood, Annie wife of David Wright	3	89
84	McMullen, A. G. C.M.	7	75	9	Reid, Emily C. wife of J. D. Harrison	7	88
85	McPherson, Gordon F.	10	94	10	Snider, Christina wife of Peter Heise	8	85
86	Miller, Baby C.M.	5	67	11	Stewart, Catherine M. wife of Sam Clark	8	82
87	Milne, Margaret	11	86	12	Verley, Beatrice May wife of Ernest Lawn	4	78
88	Milne, William D.	11	87				
89	Moir, Baby C.M.	8	88	Beef Ring			
90	Phillips, Alfred George	12	77	In the early 1900's, a beef ring was formed at the M. Webster farm in the Blaris district. A meeting was held to see who wished to join. Then arrangements were made to hire a butcher. Each week a member would bring a young beast to be butchered. The butcher killed one night and cut up the meat the next night, and each member would get his share of meat. By the end of the season (which ran from April until October or November) each person would have received enough meat to make up the weight of the beast he had donated, if he had a full share. If he had only a half share, he received half the amount of meat. In the fall another meeting was called to finish up the business and pay the butcher.			
91	Phillips, George Arnold	7	93	Each person paid for the killing of his own beef, and part of the time, the butcher received the hide.			
92	Phillips, George Theron	7	94	In 1920 a beef ring was formed on the T. E. Doran farm, with Mr. Andy Clubley as butcher, and Russell Doran as helper. After Mr. Clubley quit butchering, Mr. Bill Hickman was the next butcher, assisted by Russell Doran.			
93	Phillips, Harry	12	76	Later, Mr. Fred Bowman was butcher for a time.			
94	Phillips, Harry	13	77	In 1946, Russell Doran and his son Edson took over the job of killing until the beef ring was dissolved in the spring of 1959. From that time on, almost every one had their own deep freezers, and could keep a big supply of meat.			
95	Phillips, Harry Charles Ernest	13	76	In 1916, a beef ring was also started at M. G. Little's farm, run on the same basis as the other one. The butcher was M. G. Little, and this one served many of the Blaris people. In the late 40's they had no butcher so their beasts were brought to Russell Doran, who for a few years killed for two beef-rings. Killing Tuesday and cutting up Wednesday, for one, and killing Thursday and cutting up Friday for the other.			
96	Phillips, Hazel Rose	6	93	For the last few years, the two rings joined, as the membership was too small to run two.			
97	Phillips, Percy	died in France					
98	Phillips, Ralph	6	94				
99	Phillips, Theron	died in France					
100	Pollock, John C.M.	10	83				
101	Scott, R. H. C.M.	12	90				
102	Seales, Baby C.M.	8	63				
103	Seales, Mrs. Charlie	8	63				
104	Shurvell, Dallas C.M.	7	77				
105	Shurvell, Ken C.M.	7	73				
106	Shurvell, W. D. G. C.M.	5	81				
107	Smith, Mary J. E.	8	74				
108	Smith, Murdock M.	8	73				
109	Spark, Alexander	11	91				
110	Spark, Annie	10	81 & 82				
111	Spark, Jessie	11	88				
112	Spark, William	11	90				
113	Stevenson, Mary Marion (Campbell)	5	67				
114	Stevenson, R. L.	5	66				
115	Stewart, Duncan	9	82				
116	Stewart, K. L. C.M.	11	94				
117	Stewart, May C.M.	9	81				
118	Still, Eliza	8	69				
119	Still, James	8	68				
120	Still, Lucy (Hickman)	9	68				
121	Still, Peter	9	69				
122	Sunley, Allie	7	66				
123	Sunley, J. Ellery	7	62				
124	Sunley, John	7	64				
125	Sunley, Mary E.	7	65				
126	Sunley, Nancy Jean C.M.	7	70				
127	Sutherland, Anna W.	3	84				
128	Sutherland, J. G.	3	85				
129	Wall, Cecil Thomas	4	94				
130	Wallace, Barbara G.	10	77				
131	Wallace, Margaret E.	8	93				
132	Wallace, Olive C.M.	9	94				
133	Wallace, Robert Bruce	10	76				
134	Wallace, William	8	94				
135	Watt, H.A., C.M.	6	83				
136	Wright, Annie (Hood)	3	89				

Isabella Patriotic and Red Cross Societies

During World War I, the Patriotic Society was formed in the Isabella district with Mrs. Kelly as president. The group did knitting and sewing for the soldiers. Miss Mary Heise bought a knitting machine about this time, with the society supplying the wool, she would knit as many as seven pairs of socks in a day. The ladies of the district carried on knitting and sewing until the end of the war in 1918.

The Patriotic Society then changed its name and activities and became The Home Economics Society which in 1922 became The Women's Institute covered in another part of this book.

At a curling club meeting in 1939, the Red Cross Society was organized. The district was canvassed for members with the result that eighty-four members paid their fees for the first year. The following officers were elected: President — Mr. W. Iverach; Vice-Pres. — Mrs. H. Reid; Sec. Treas. — Mrs. R. Clark; with Mr. Bowman, Mr. S. P. Heise, Mrs. L. Stevenson, Mrs. H. Harrison and Mr. R. E. Heise as a committee.

Those in the work committee were: Mrs. P. Beveridge, Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Alex Clark, Mrs. Astle, Mrs. Cliff Campbell, Mrs. Moir, Miss J. Preston, Mrs. J. Chapman, Mrs. H. Finkbeiner and Mrs. G. Scorgie.

The Campaign Committee was: West and north-west — Mr. Iverach, Mr. J. Coxworth and Mr. J. T. Finkbeiner; east and south-east — Mr. R. E. Heise; central north — Mr. R. Scarth; north and north-east — Mr. E. Martin; south west — Mr. B. Robinson; town — Mr. P. Beveridge.

The committees raised money by putting on whist drives, bake and auction sales, and by canvassing. The C.G.I.T. girls donated money. Shamrock and Isabella communities worked together on whist drives and dances. They served lunches when Field Day was at Isabella. Miniota municipality sponsored a sports day when every Red Cross Society in the municipality did their part providing teams for the several events. The proceeds were divided accordingly. One time they collected forty five pounds of aluminum and at another time a carload of scrap iron was shipped from here for the cause. The women knitted and sewed for the boys in the services. The first year the society sent \$346.86 to Red Cross Headquarters.

Lorne Wright became secretary-treasurer and John Coxworth president in 1941 and carried on until 1956 when Mrs. A. Heise was elected secretary-treasurer with a panel of canvassers.

"Price controls, ceilings and floors were all disregarded in Isabella on Saturday, March 20th, 1944 at

the annual Red Cross auction sale, held in the waiting room of the rink.

Each year since war was declared this sale has been held — people bringing donations of produce, baking, sewing etc. for the sale — the total proceeds going to the Red Cross. Each year the results have been a little better than in the previous year but this year, the community excelled all records and cleared \$606.00, with Mr. Joe Johnston donating his services as auctioneer.

There were some outstanding sales. One of the boys of the district who served overseas with the R.C.A.F., was forced to bail out over enemy territory, later made his way safely home. He provided material from a parachute which his wife made into articles for the sale. A lady's slip brought \$40.00. Vanity sets brought \$10.00 to \$20.00. Two roosters were offered for sale — the purchaser put them back for re-sale and before they finally found an owner, they had brought \$89.00 for the Red Cross.

President John Coxworth closed the sale with a word of appreciation for the generous response and co-operation and after singing "The King" the crowd dispersed with their various purchases."

In 1944, the Women's Work Committee was formed. Mrs. A. Warren was the convenor, with Mrs. Kennedy, Mrs. H. Levins and Mrs. J. Johnston taking over in that order. At present Mrs. R. Still fills that position. The women of the entire district knit, sew and quilt articles distributed by the convenor which are sent to Red Cross headquarters and distributed to needy families from there.

The Red Cross Blood Donors Clinic, which has become an annual affair, is well attended by citizens of the Isabella and Blaris communities.

The pupils in the elementary grades in Isabella school are affiliated with the Junior Red Cross Society. They donate articles of sewing, knitting, embroidery, as well as woodwork and other handicrafts they have learned to do. Plant slips, also add to an annual bazaar. The proceeds are sent to Red Cross headquarters.

Update

by J. E. Finkbeiner

The Red Cross Society continues to have strong support in the community. Each year a canvass is done by volunteers. The collection has gradually increased from \$145.00 in 1963 to \$363.00 in 1981.

The Women's Work has been altered. Instead of sewing and knitting articles to be sent to disaster victims, craft articles are made. These are sold at two annual sales in Winnipeg. The money realized from these sales is then used to buy the required supplies in

the disaster area. This saves expensive freight, is quicker and meets the requirements better.

The Blood Donor Clinic is held annually and is organized by the Red Cross Society's travelling unit and the Hamiota Health Centre's Hospital Aid. Hospital Aid representatives act as volunteer helpers.

Officers from 1962-1982 include:

President: Murray Bell 1962-

Secretary-Treasurer: Hollis Stewart 1963-79, Johnnie Finkbeiner 1979-

Women's Work Convenors: Bernice Still 1962-76, Margaret L. Heise 1976-

Canvassers over the years have been: Bev Doran, Margaret Still, Jessie Wall, Doreen Norrie, Charles Nichol, Eileen Clark, Murray Bell, June Nichol, Glen Sunley, Cyril Norrie, J. E. Finkbeiner, Blanche Lawn, Murray and Celia Sutherland.

Isabella Women's Institute

The first woman's non-church organization in this community was a sewing circle, organized in 1915, under the auspices of the Patriotic Society, with Mrs. D. Kelly as president. Knitting, sewing, providing wool for Miss M. Heise to knit into soldier socks on her machine, were the chief objectives of the group.

A couple of years later, when Miss. Laura Heise returned home from Manitoba Agricultural College full of enthusiasm for a Home Economics Society, the group was re-organized, with the help of Miss Gertrude Dutton, Birtle, into a Home Economic Society with Miss Heise directing and Mrs. R. Clark as first president.

In October, 1922, the same group received their Charter as an Institute, having operated as such for over two years. Mrs. Ed. Heise was the first president.

No record of the initial membership is available, any errors or omissions in the following list are not intentional:

Mrs. A. Clark, Mrs. R. Clark, Mrs. J. Finkbeiner, Mrs. Kennedy, Mrs. Beveridge, Mrs. Ed. Heise, Mrs. S. P. Heise, Mrs. W. Miller, Mrs. R. Warren, Mrs. W. Iverach, Mrs. J. Iverach, Mrs. McGuire, Mrs. T. Ariss, Mrs. Scott, Mrs. T. Stevenson, Mrs. Bridge.

The following women have served as Presidents; they are not necessarily listed in the order in which they served, some have served twice with years between their terms of office:

Mrs. Ed. Heise, Mrs. T. Stevenson, Mrs. R. E. Heise, Mrs. A. Clark, Mrs. R. Scarth, Mrs. J. T. Finkbeiner, Mrs. H. Finkbeiner, Mrs. J. Ross, Mrs. R. Doran, Mrs. H. I. Bowman, Mrs. T. Ariss, Mrs.

H. Brisbin, Mrs. R. Clark, Mrs. C. Peel, Mrs. J. E. Finkbeiner, Mrs. M. Johnson, Mrs. L. Wright, Mrs. J. Coxworth (1960-62).

Secretaries were: Mrs. Scott, Mrs. J. T. Finkbeiner, Mrs. R. Clark, Mrs. H. Harrison, Miss Sarah Stevenson, Mrs. J. Coxworth, Mrs. J. Ross, Mrs. William Grey, Mrs. J. E. Finkbeiner (1955-1962)

Treasurers were: Mrs. T. Kennedy, Miss G. Heise, Mrs. Brisbin, Mrs. R. Scarth, Mrs. H. Calder, Mrs. R. E. Heise, Mrs. M. Johnson, Mrs. H. Miller, Mrs. Levins, Mrs. J. Coxworth, Mrs. L. Wright (1958-1962).

One of the biggest projects undertaken by the Institute in its early years was the building of the rink. The members canvassed for funds and assumed the task of paying off the remaining sum of \$700.00. This amount was raised by serving meals at bonspiel time, meals on Fair Day when the rink was used to house exhibits. Credit for the idea of such an entertainment centre as the rink was given to Mrs. Ed. Heise who saw the need for local facilities for fun for our young people and to Mrs. T. Stevenson, then president, who refused to be defeated in the project. Mrs. Kennedy was treasurer during those busy years.

At the close of World War I, a Sports Day was held in Crandall, the proceeds of the day being intended for a municipal war memorial. The total sum was finally divided between the districts and Isabella's share was held by the Institute, later to be turned over to the hall to assist in financing that project.

During World War II the Institute did a great deal of work. Boxes were sent regularly to all the boys serving overseas and in prison camps. These boxes held food, treats, cigarettes and socks. A group of members was responsible for filling and packing each box. The W.I. paid the postage. Service men and women in Canada were remembered too. Other war work such as V-Bundles, clothing drives, salvage collections were cheerfully undertaken.

Through the years dental clinics, baby clinics, eye glasses for needy school children, aid to fire victims, showers for brides, gifts for new babies, flowers for the sick, and childrens' camps all received due attention, as did other welfare societies such as Children's Aid, March of Dimes, cancer research, the Blind Institute.

Prizes have been offered for achievement in school. Music and drama festivals have been supported. The Horticultural Society was aided.

Courses offered by the Extension Service in sewing, handicraft, and home-making have all been used to good purpose.

Interesting meetings with demonstrations, displays of Manitoba products, hobbies, and antiques

have entertained members. Studies have been undertaken along such lines as United Nations and Laws for Women.

Two Birtle District Conventions have been held at Isabella, one in 1931 with our President Mrs. Al Clark in the chair and again in 1943 with Mrs. R. Scarth, then president in the chair.

The 1943 convention presented us with a problem of catering because so many items of food were on the ration list, but members shared their sugar and butter, chicken and fish were donated, and every one was fed.

In 1951, Mrs. Scarth attended the Federated Board Meeting in Macdonald College in Quebec, having been appointed convenor of Agriculture for F.W.I.C. in 1949. She was much impressed by a pageant written by Mrs. Dora Wyse, Dorion, Quebec, which was presented by members of that Institute for the entertainment of the Federated Board.

Permission was given to Mrs. Scarth to use it. Isabella W.I. prepared costumes, memorized parts and presented "Canada Calls" eleven times, always with a fine reception. The eleventh time, it was presented at the Provincial Convention in Winnipeg.

In 1953 a Rally was held in the Hall in Isabella with all neighboring Institutes invited to hear reports from the A.C.W.W. Conference in Toronto, from members who had been fortunate enough to attend. A cafeteria lunch and social time followed for the sixty or more guests who attended the Rally.

In 1959, two of our W.I. members Mrs. R. Scarth and Mrs. J. T. Finkbeiner had the privilege of attending the A.C.W.W. Conference which was held in Edinburgh Scotland, in August of that year.

In January 1960 a phone call came from the Advisory Board of Manitoba Institutes. We were asked to prepare the script and pantomime for the "Present" and "Future" sections, of a Pageant portraying W.I. in Manitoba, with Dugald Institute preparing "The Past". The members agreed to accept the challenge. With the fine singing of some of the members of the St. Vital United Church Choir to add beauty of song, we presented our share of the Pageant at the Provincial Convention in June.

Mrs. R. Scarth, who directed "Canada Calls" wrote the script and directed this Pageant.

Now, under the auspices of the Women's Institute this history is being prepared, probably the biggest undertaking yet. Credit must be given to those who have ventured, and as other ventures in the past have been successfully concluded, we hope for success for this effort.

The Isabella Women's Institute **by Dorothy M. Finkbeiner**

After reading the minutes of the Isabella Women's Institute, not just for the past 20 years, but since 1926, I noted that the horizons had broadened.

The Women's Institutes work for the betterment of the community. The motto: "For Home and Country," is still just as valid today as it was when Isabella received its charter on October 22, 1922.

Programmes on nutrition give information on better nourishment, particularly for teenagers and senior citizens, when a survey indicated a lack.

Members also examined school lunches and found "junk food" more available than nutritious fruits and milk snacks. Now there is better food in our schools because of the efforts of this group.

Nutrition was found to be lacking in children in India, and a vitamin A deficiency was causing blindness. The mothers were taught by volunteers from Womens Institutes to give their children green leafy vegetables, and soon the government took over the educational programming of the "Save the Sight" project.

Learning about gardens was a programme to help cut food costs. It also meant planting a bed of Adelaide Hoodless Roses at the Peace Gardens, where Manitoba Women's Institute has a plot, and also supporting the picnic nook of the Federated Women's Institute of Canada.

Isabella Women's Institute will help to finance a conference of the Associated Country Women of the World in Vancouver in 1983 at the University of British Columbia Campus for 2,000 delegates from more than 60 countries, many Women's Institute members.

Rural Women's Seminars are one day workshops each fall, with special speakers, tours and crafts. The last one was on the care and maintenance of a car. These sessions were held in the local garages. Repair Fair was a handyman's course for maintenance of a home.

The Women's Institute is free to choose its programmes, agenda, officers, and fees. It works for various charities such as the Women's Work Division for the Red Cross Society, donates books to the Book Mart to help the Children's Hospital, gives gifts to the Brandon Mental Health Centre. It, with the United Church Women's Group organizes a Community Christmas Party with Smorgasbord, entertainment and children's gifts.

Officers for the years 1961-1982.

Year	President	Secretary	Treasurer
1961	Margaret Coxworth	Dorothy Finkbeiner	Beatrice Wright
1962	Margaret Coxworth	Dorothy Finkbeiner	Beatrice Wright
1963	Margaret Coxworth	Kate Bell	Dorothy Finkbeiner
1964	Dorothy Finkbeiner	Beatrice Wright	Merle Dagg
1965	Dorothy Finkbeiner	Beatrice Wright	Merle Dagg
1966	Ina Doran	Jeannine Harrison	Bernice Still
1967	Ina Doran	Jeannine Harrison	Bernice Still
1968	Margaret Coxworth	Jeannine Harrison	Bernice Still
1969	Margaret Coxworth	Jeannine Harrison	Bernice Still
1970	Bernice Still	Dorothy Finkbeiner	Hazel Wall
1971	Bernice Still	Dorothy Finkbeiner	Hazel Wall
1972	Dorothy Finkbeiner	Bernice Still	Hazel Wall
1973	Dorothy Finkbeiner	Jean Norrie	Hazel Wall
1974	Margaret L. Heise	Jean Norrie	Hazel Wall
1975	Margaret L. Heise	Dorothy Finkbeiner	Hazel Wall
1976	Ruth Teasdale	Dorothy Finkbeiner	Hazel Wall
1977	Ruth Teasdale	Dorothy Finkbeiner	Hazel Wall
1978	Margaret Coxworth	Ruth Teasdale	Hazel Wall
1979	Margaret Coxworth	Ruth Teasdale	Hazel Wall
1980	Jean Norrie	Ruth Teasdale	Hazel Wall
1981	Jean Norrie	Ruth Teasdale (May 80)	Hazel Wall
1982	Margaret L. Heise	Dorothy Finkbeiner	Hazel Wall

Board Members:

Dorothy Finkbeiner, Merle Dagg, Bernice Still and Jessie Wall.

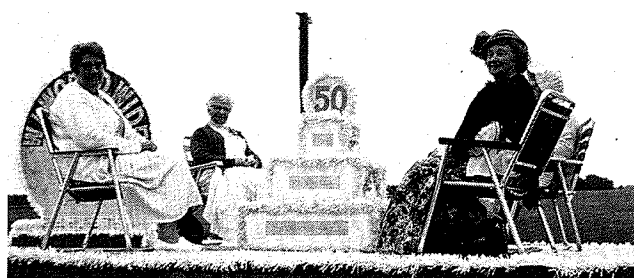
Auditors:

R. L. Stevenson, John Coxworth.

The Women's Institute movement was started by Adelaide Hoodless, whose son, because of her ignorance, died of drinking impure milk. The organization that she founded on February 12, 1897, at Squire's Hall, Stoney Creek, Ontario has spread all over the world. In Manitoba, a member of the staff of the University of Manitoba sits on the Advisory Board. A grant is given from the government for staff and office requirements. Personnel from the Department of Agriculture provide up to date information on topics relating to the rural. Programmes on current concerns are prepared and presented three times during the year. No wonder this organization has been called "the rural women's university".



W. I. tour to R. E. Clegg Museum at Arrow River.



Centennial W. I. Float. Della Harrison, Mrs. J. T. Finkbeiner, Mrs. R. Heise, Jessie Wall.



Women's Institute meeting 1976, Back Row: Hazel Wall, Della Harrison, Jean Norrie, Margaret L. Heise, Bernice Still, Ina Doran. Front Row: Thirza Heise, Margaret Irwin, Ruth Teasdale, Jessie Wall, Dorothy Finkbeiner.



Quilting Bee, 1979, a quilt for the Red Cross. Mrs. Collins, Margaret Stewart, Margaret Still, Connie Choptuik. Front: Shirley Heise and June Still.



Ladies of the community taken about 1946, at the school, Back Row: Hazel Phillips, Frances Peel, Stella Ariss, Margaret Stewart, Minnie Ingram, Ina Doran, Lizzie Stewart, Jessie Scarth, Anne Ariss, Maggie Johnston, Jessie Wall, Pat Attwood, Mildred Attwood. Front Row: Thirza Heise, Margaret Ross, Elva Gilchrist, Eva Kennedy, Wilma Ingram, Noreen Adams, Sheila Attwood.

Isabella Community Club

The organization of the Isabella Community Club was held in the Church on May 12, 1919, with 24 present.

Rev. F. C. Middleton, Secretary, Social Service Council, was in the chair. The motion that the Isabella Community be reorganized was moved by Wm. Iverach, seconded by L. Stevenson.

Officers elected were: president, and convenor of public forum committee, Mr. W. Iverach.

1st vice-president and convenor of better business committee, P. J. Beveridge. 2nd vice-president and convenor of young peoples committee, Mr. Jim Harrower. 3rd vice-president and convenor of public health committee, Mrs. D. Iverach. 4th vice-president and convenor of sports committee, Mr. R. D. L. Warren.

Later standing committees were named under each of the above headings and these went to work in their offices.

A demonstration by a public health nurse from the Provincial Board of Health was arranged. A winter's amusement program was discussed and as early as Oct. 18, 1919, the question of building a community hall was brought up.

First steps were taken in the organization of an agricultural society and later a fair. At this time, too, a series of lectures for the winter of 1920 were planned. But that winter proved to be a very hard one, 'flu raged through the district, and no meetings were held.

Then on August 14, 1920, a meeting was called for the discussing of the proposed rink.

The rink was built that fall with the Women's Institute named at the finance committee, with Mrs. Stevenson Sr., president, of that organization. The first board of trustees for the rink were: R. L. Stevenson, R. D. L. Warren, chairman, T. E. Doran, J. Sutherland, Wm. Wallace, Mrs. Stevenson Sr., Mrs. R. T. Clark.

And so the work of the Community Club began. Mr. Iverach chaired it until 1936, when Mr. Stevenson was appointed. He remained in office from 1936-1944, when Mr. J. Coxworth became chairman. In 1955, Mr. Davidson Heise took over and is in office at the present time (1962).

Mrs. R. T. Clark acted as secretary for thirty years, when her son Russell took over, he is still in office.

The annual meeting of the Community Club is held each fall, when all matters pertaining to council, school board, rink, hall, etc. are discussed and new committees are appointed, reports given and plans made for all activities for the coming year.

1962-82 Update by Bernice Still

Dave Heise was chairperson of the Community Club until 1977, for a total of 23 years of service. He was followed by John Coxworth in 1978-79 and Margaret E. Heise in 1980-. Russell Clark served as secretary until 1972, followed by Bernice Still.

Events in the community that should be mentioned are the annual sports day, started in 1968 and run by the sports committee until 1973. The sports

committee was Murray Bell, Doug Harrison, the Ladies' and Men's ball teams. The proceeds went to the hall and the rink. In 1974 the Community Club took over the organization of it, and are still running a successful day on the first Sunday in July.

In 1967 a Centennial celebration was held, which included a bonfire, three days of visiting, a museum in the Kennedy house, a church service, a parade and a ball tournament.

In 1970 the Manitoba Centennial was held. Isabella had a two day homecoming but due to rain on Sunday, the ball tournament was called off and everyone went to the hall to visit and eat.

In 1980, the 75th anniversary of the school and district was celebrated with a two day homecoming in conjunction with the annual sports day. Many former residents came home to help celebrate. A cairn was unveiled at the site of the first school.

In 1972, 74, 76, and 79 recreational grants were applied for, and received. They were used to improve many areas of the sports grounds, had land cleared, nets put up and a new playground made. The rink had a new foundation installed; was re-sided, painted, new boards put around the skating ice, waiting room insulated, new furnace installed, water tanks with electric heaters installed and a carpeted portable walk made for bonspiel time. 1980 saw the wood stove replaced by an electric range. The hall has been insulated and remodeled, a 12 x 60 foot piece was added to the north side, which contains a furnace room and kitchen, plus an extension to the hall floor space. The basement was filled in because the cement was crumbling. The stage was removed and the ceiling tiled. New washrooms and a cloak room were made in the old kitchen. the roof and trim were painted and the floor sanded and refinished.

Another community event is the Christmas Party which has been held each year since the school closed in 1968. This has taken the form of concerts, cards, skating party, games and contests, including a pot luck supper and a visit from Santa with a gift for each child. Gifts are supplied by the United Church Women and the Women's Institute.

Community showers for each boy and girl are held; and farewells for each family leaving the district. These are attended by all members of the community. The community is divided into five groups and each group takes a turn at organizing the events. Lunch is supplied by each family taking a plate of goodies.

Although our community is small there is still a great community spirit. "Bees" are held to help seed or harvest if persons are unable to do their own. In time of trouble there is always help near at hand.

Transportation of Pupils to the Isabella School 1905-1968

In the early days many pupils walked to school or provided their own transportation. Some children were taken to and from school by their parents. In winter, travel was by horse and sleigh or cutter.

George Ariss, who started school in September 1913, recalls that this was the first year that school vans made their appearance. He says "There were four vans the first year, one in each direction, two of them were huge things, with a full width seat out in front for the driver. I well remember some of the high school girls looking for the chance to ride on that seat. These were too big and were not kept too long".

In 1919, when the Miniota Municipal School District no. 149 was formed, the new board provided transportation for all children going to school. Van routes were mapped out and the summer and winter vans were supplied by the board. The winter vans were always heated.

In the 1920's the vans were driven by parents, landowners or renters, hired men or anyone living in the area. George Ariss recalls names such as: J. L. Thompson, Bert Cole, Norman Ball, Francis Brown, Len Hall, Miss Laughlin, Cecil Kelly, Jim Miles, F. Jordan, Frank Trickett, Earl and Stan Wallace, Harry Miller, Dorans, John Willie, Joe Zacharias, C. Seales.

John Finkbeiner says that he "drove the school van from 1924 till the end of the school term in 1931. I (John) transported a ten gallon can of water from our well to school every day I drove the van, and believe me, it was heavy and took up a lot of room. I remember one spring the road up to Bedford's was impassable, so I would take the harness off of Ruby, the horse, and I would get Gerald Bedford on behind me and up through the sloughs we would go. Gerald had never been on a horse in his life and old Ruby had a craving to lay down in the water. I used to have a willow stick to keep her going. Gerald hung on to me so tightly that it nearly cut off my breath. Several times we upset the winter van on the way into Blelloch's"

During the 1920's a barn was built adjacent to the school grounds. C. Seales and J. Zacharias, caretakers, had their own horses and they kept them in the school barn. There was enough room in the barn for teams of horses from other van routes. These drivers brought their own lunches, and also the feed for the horses, and they stayed in town during the day.

With the constant changing of van routes to meet the various needs of the students it is impossible to give an accurate listing of the drivers and their routes.

During the thirties the van routes were put up for

tender and were driven for a rate of so much per mile. Each taxpayer had a chance to drive, to pay his taxes according to his assessment or as a tenant to pay his telephone. Each driver supplied his own car or team. Van routes in winter wandered through fields as roads were often blocked.

Winter vans were used until about 1950. Then the municipality began snow plowing on the main roads and in a few years all van routes were plowed.

It is to be noted that a house was built adjacent to

the school at the same time as the barn was built. The first caretaker of the school that lived in this house was Joe Zaccharias. He was followed by other caretakers, namely: Charles Seales, Ralph Phillips, and Austin Adams.

Routes of seven miles meant a long ride for students in the early days. They left home before eight in the morning. When Shamrock School closed many from that area had a long, long ride to school.

Wedding Anniversaries

50th Anniversaries



Mr. and Mrs. Jim Still, 1934.



Mr. and Mrs. Mel Bridge, 1954.



Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Iverach, 1943.



Mr. and Mrs. Tom Kennedy, 1955.



Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Bardwell, 1956.



Mr. and Mrs. John Bell, 1957 (60 Years).



Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Pittendreigh, 1958.



Mr. and Mrs. Dave Wright, 1960.



Mr. and Mrs. Jack Sutherland, 1962.



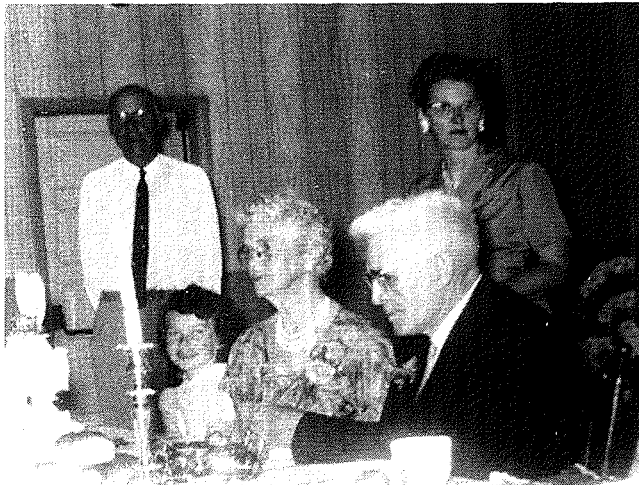
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Long, 1960.



Mr. and Mrs. Herb Shurvell, 1960.



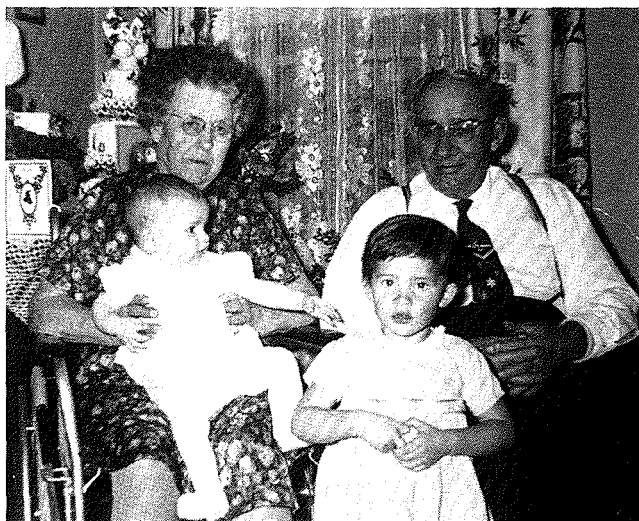
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Quinton, 1964.



Mr. and Mrs. John Chapman, 1962.



Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Irwin, 1964.



Mr. and Mrs. George Torrance, 1964.



Mr. and Mrs. Dave Blieloch, 1965.



Mr. and Mrs. Dave Moir, 1965.



Mr. and Mrs. Jack Robertson, 1968.



Mr. and Mrs. Bert Decker, 1966.



Mr. and Mrs. Harry Harrison, 1969.



Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Hickman, 1968.



Mr. and Mrs. Barnard Robinson, 1970.



Mr. and Mrs. Harry Levins, 1970.



Mr. and Mrs. Roy Bell, 1974.



Mr. and Mrs. Joe Johnston, 1972.



Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Bedford, 1974.



Mr. and Mrs. Ted Kirk, 1973.



Mr. and Mrs. Crawford Lints, 1975 (60 yrs.).



Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Heise, 1975.



Mr. and Mrs. Hector Calder, 1977.



Mr. and Mrs. Archie Hill, 1975.



Mr. and Mrs. Chris Ellerington, 1976.



Mr. and Mrs. Al Clark, 1979 (60 yrs.)



Mr. and Mrs. Sid Riches, 1976 (60 yrs.).



Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Flynn, 1979 (60 yrs.).



Mr. and Mrs. Alex Curtis, 1980.



Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Reid, 1980.



Mr. and Mrs. George Naylor, 1981.



Mr. and Mrs. Bob Scarth, 1981 (60 yrs.)

Others who celebrated 50 years together but whose picture was not received were:

- Mr. and Mrs. John Sunley, 1934.
- Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Hadden, 1939.
- Mr. and Mrs. Len Hall, 1968.
- Mr. and Mrs. Jim Collingwood, 1969.
- Mr. and Mrs. John Dagg, 1982.
- Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Hill, 1921 (60 yrs.).

Family Histories

The Pioneers

by Nan (MacPherson) Emerson

I seem to see a glow, a steady shining
As I look down the long, long lane of years.
No candle this, it is a lighted lantern
In the strong, steady hand of pioneers.
No frail or puny men were these our fathers:
Of bone and sinew, steel and fire their frame.
No toil too great, no task beyond their trying.
To conquer this wild land their dauntless aim.
They labored dawn to dark and knew frustration;
Knew drought and hail and frost and dust-filled air,
Grasshoppers, prairie fires and pestilence,
But never gave they access to despair.
They laughed and loved and sang and worshipped
God;
Built homes and church and school and planted
flowers.
They made this fruitful land what it is now:
And left it to their children — and to ours.
Looking back, remembering, we see them as they
were;
These valiant, staunch, courageous, yet humble
pioneers.
Still shines the lighted lantern held high in steady
hand,
Held high lest we should stumble as we follow
down the years.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert James Adams

written by Mrs. A. Adams

Robert James Adams was born at Gorrie, Ontario in 1876. The family moved to the Bruce Peninsula. The village of Adamsville being named after Mr. Adams, Sr.

In 1905 he married Ella May Cotton of Warton Ontario. In 1906 they decided to move to Manitoba, where they farmed at Rapid City. Two children were born to them here, Leslie and Austin. They then moved to Brandon, where they lived for a few years.

They then decided to try homesteading near Waldeck, Sask. This area was subject to drought so upon having an exceptionally good crop in their third year, they decided to move.

Mr. Adams and his cousin went to file a homestead near Beaverlodge in Alberta. The railroad went only a few miles beyond Edmonton, so the two men walked from there, a distance of four hundred miles. The following fall the family moved, going with horses from the end of the railway. Mr. Adams went on ahead with a carload of machinery, cattle, horses and household effects. The railroad had been built as far as McLennan.

Mrs. Adams and children were met by her father and brother with two vans. These along with their own, transported their equipment. They reached home shortly before Christmas. One son Clarence, was born here. When the children were ready for high school, Mr. Adams sold his homestead and returned to Manitoba. They lived at Palmerston for a few years and then came to Isabella in 1927.

Mr. Adams moved from Isabella in 1934 and returned in 1944, when he bought the farm where they now reside. He died in Hamiota Hospital, April 9, 1955. Mrs. Adams and Clarence live on the farm at Isabella.

Leslie began his career as a grainbuyer in the Western Canada elevator. He was later employed by the United Grain Growers and at present is in their office in Winnipeg. In 1938 he married Alice Cooper. They have no family.

Austin married Anna Iverach in 1935. They lived on a farm at Birtle for a few years but returned to Isabella in 1938.

In 1941 Anna became postmistress and has continued as such. Austin built a cabinetmaker's shop where he still does business, as well as being employed as caretaker of the schools.

They have two children, Joyce — Mrs. John Ollmann of Regina who has one daughter Debra; and Noreen who is training for a nurse in Brandon General Hospital.

**An update
by Anna Adams**

In September, 1966, Noreen was married to Robert Douglas. They lived in Winnipeg for about a year, then Bob was transferred to Regina where they still live. They have three children: Adrienne, Randy and Brian. Joyce still lives in Winnipeg. In 1973 they had a second daughter Lorinda. The older daughter Debra is now working in Edmonton. In 1969 Austin decided to move to Winnipeg and work with his son-in-law. I intended to stay on in the post-office until June 1970, when I would officially retire. However, owing to Austin's ill health, I resigned in December, and in January we moved to Winnipeg.

In 1975 Mrs. Adams and Clarence moved to Winnipeg, where they lived in a suite not far from us. In the fall of 1978, Mrs. Adams had the misfortune to break her hip. She was in Victoria Hospital until her death in November 1979. She is buried in the family plot in Isabella. Clarence lives in Winnipeg. Les has retired and he, and his wife Alice, live in Winnipeg.

**Mr. and Mrs. James Edward Allingham
by J. E. Allingham**

I was born in 1863 and I came to Harding, Manitoba, in March 1899. As it was a late spring, I visited with friends until the snow melted.

I had intended to rent a farm with stock and implements, but there was none to be had. I was advised there was plenty of vacant land in the Arrowton district, so I went up there. My father, Thomas Allingham, sisters and a cousin, Bert Doherty, arrived in May, 1899. Father brought a carload of settlers' effects, consisting of household furniture, building material, and three horses. We occupied the only house available, on what was known as the Henderson farm (known now, as the Quinton farm) just north and west of Decker. We lived there for eighteen months until we built our own house, which was eighteen feet by twenty four feet with 14 foot studding. I selected the north half of 23-15-27 but had difficulty in locating the owner, as the local agents did not have it listed. I was later informed that it was open for homesteading so I lost no time in going to Minnedosa to file for it. It was too late in the season for breaking, so I worked out occasionally with the team.

The following spring, I rented thirty acres of breaking from a young man who was going prospecting. There was very little snow the winter of 1900 so with a dry spring, the crops were very short. We put up buildings and broke and disced fifty-two acres of land. In 1901, we threshed 1,971 bushels of number one hard wheat. The price was fifty-two cents a bushel. The difficulty was in getting sale for the

wheat, as it was a bumper crop, and the elevators were full all winter.

I bought a binder for one hundred twenty-eight dollars in 1901. A neighbor, Mr. Walter Ware, lent me his new seed-drill to put in my crop as his land was not quite ready. I bought a cow and a calf in the fall of 1899 from Mr. J. D. Harrison, of Blaris, for about twenty-five dollars and another cow from Mr. W. Bailey in 1900. This was my start in live-stock. In 1900, I also bought Don Iverach's flock of chickens, and sold eggs at six cents a dozen. We made butter as there was no sale for cream. I bought a second hand walking plough at an auction for five dollars. In 1918, I bought a tractor for 1,360 dollars, a separator for 1,700 dollars, and in 1902 a drill for one hundred twenty-five dollars.

Through the years, we had to contend with early frosts, but we never had a complete crop failure.

I was the pound-keeper for one year.

I married Miss Elizabeth Longdon, who had come from England in 1921. She was a dress-maker, and lived with her brother in the Rothesay district. We farmed until 1933, when we sold out and retired.

We are now living in Campbell River, on Vancouver Island, B.C.

Editor's Note — Mr. and Mrs. Allingham both died prior to 1982.

**Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Allingham
by Mrs. Irma Bryan**

S. H. (HERB) Allingham came to the Isabella area from Hamilton, Ontario. His wife, Emma Maude Allingham, formerly Maude Still, came from Teulon, Manitoba. The farm at Isabella was their first home together. Their children, Irma, Marjorie and Marie were born there in 1911, 1914 and 1919. The family lived on this farm until February, 1927, when Mr. and Mrs. Allingham, Irma and Marie moved to California. Marjorie went there earlier with an aunt and uncle in July of 1926.

Mr. Allingham was employed by the California Portland Cement Company and then by the Riverside Cement Company during his years in Colton, California.

Mrs. Allingham passed away in 1956 at the age of 69 and Mr. Allingham passed away in 1958 at the age of 82.

Irma and Marjorie still reside in Colton. Irma is now Mrs. Bryan and has three boys: Bob, Dan and David, ages 19, 16 and 15.

Marjorie is now Mrs. Arthur Shackelford. She has been employed with the Concrete Conduit Company, (a construction materials division of Martin Marietta Corporation), for the past twenty years. At the present time, she is secretary to the assistant

general manager. Her husband is retired from the U.S. Air Force as a captain and is employed at Kaiser Steel Corporation in Fontana, California.

Marie is now Mrs. Michael Masoian and they have two children: Peter, born 1954 and Tommy, born 1962. Marie and Mike have been working with the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church. They spent two years in Sitka, Alaska and six years in New Mexico. Mike has just recently taken a position as recreational director at Dugway Proving Grounds in Utah.

update: Irma died April 12, 1976.

Marjorie is now retired. She is a widow and lives in Colton, California.

Marie and Michael still live at Dugway Utah.

Peter married on Nov. 4, 1977 and has a daughter, Melaine Ann born Nov. 16, 1978. They live in Salt Lake City.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Amy

by Lawrence Amy

My father, Fred Amy, came to Manitoba from Ontario in 1910, and took up farming in the Crandall district. They moved from Crandall to Isabella in 1926. They rented a farm from Mr. William Iverach and resided there until 1933. They then moved to Birtle, where Mother died on March 22, 1940. Father died on October 31, 1957 in Vancouver, B.C.

There were five children: Bill, who married Lil Rockenshire, they have three sons. Iola, who married Bill Roxburgh; they have no family. Welda, who married Bill Matthews; they have two daughters. They all live in Vancouver. Elwood is married and has four children, they live in San Francisco. I, Lawrence, married Dorothea Salmon. We have a son and two daughters and we live at Beulah.

Lawrence and Dorothea Amy

by Dorothea Amy

In the last twenty years, there have been quite a few changes in the Lawrence Amy family. Their three children are grown up, married and have families of their own.

Lawrence and Dorothea are still farming in the Beulah District and take part in community affairs.

Their son, Lynn, married Marlene Shepherd and they have one daughter, Maureen, and two sons, Brent and Kurt. They live on the same section as Lawrence and Dorothea. Lynn farms with his dad.

Daughter Althea married Barry Asselstine and they have three sons, Wesley, Carlyle, and Duane. They farm with Barry's parents, Russell and Doris Asselstine in the Beulah District.

Daughter Rhonda married Glengarry Longmuir.

They have three children, a son, Scott, and two daughters, Christine and Deanna. They live in Edmonton where Glengarry is in the plumbing business.

Lawrence lived seven years with his folks in the Isabella District. He worked one year for Harry Sawyer and one year for T. E. Doran. He says he has some good memories of his years in the Isabella District.

Lynn and Marlene Amy (Shepherd)

by Marlene Amy

I was born in Birtle Hospital, on October 18, 1947. I lived with my parents, Wilf and Edith (Sawyer) Shepherd, on the Harry Cottingham farm at Birtle, where Dad worked. In 1951, Grandma Sawyer passed away and we moved to Isabella in 1952 to help Grandpa, Harry Sawyer, with his farming. In 1953 my sister Debbie was born. I remember Mom coming home from the Hospital. It was early spring and the roads were impassable for cars, so we travelled a mile home with a tractor and wagon, Dad put a rocker in the wagon for Mom and the baby. I started school in Isabella in 1953. It was a big deal, the first year of school, when we had to go by horse and van for part of the winter. We left in the morning in the dark and arrived home at night in darkness.

In 1955, Dad bought a farm at Beulah, and we moved. I continued school at Beulah and finished Grades 11 and 12 at Birtle.

I worked in Beulah post office in the summer of 1965. On October 23, 1965 I married Lynn Amy. We lived in Beulah, where I continued to work in the post office, and Lynn was caretaker of the rink. He also worked with his Dad on the farm.

In June 1966 we moved to the farm, and on July 30, 1966 our daughter, Maureen Joyce was born in Brandon. We have two sons, Brent Laurence born April 29, 1971 and Kurt Wilfred born June 1, 1974, born at Hamiota. We still continue to farm today. We like to return to Isabella for dances and skating. Isabella rink was where I learned to skate, and now our children too have learned to skate in the same rink. It is always a pleasure to go back — as everyone is so friendly and makes us feel welcome.

S. Andrews

Mr. Andrews owned the N½-18-15-25 in 1906 or possibly earlier. He was a bachelor and rented his farm from time to time. Mr. Don Marshall bought the farm after working for Mr. Andrews for awhile.

Fred and Donna Apperley

by Fred Apperley

I was born, the eldest son of Rudy and Rose

Apperley, in the Pelly District of Saskatchewan. I moved with my parents to Isabella in 1954. I enjoyed hockey, ball, scouts and school in Isabella.

I moved to Westbourne with my family in 1962. I took the rest of my schooling in Westbourne and then moved on to Winnipeg, on my own, to attend Red River Community College for an electrical course. I worked in electrical construction and obtained my Journeyman license in Winnipeg.

I met my wife, Donna (nee Batters), in Winnipeg in 1970 and we were married in 1972. We lived in Winnipeg for one and a half years and I then joined Manitoba Hydro and moved to Northern Manitoba to a site called Jenpeg. Here, Russian turbines were being installed at the power site. Our first son, Jimmie, was born in 1975 and our next son in 1977. Shortly after Brian was born, we moved to Morden, Manitoba where I am employed as an Electrical Inspector with Manitoba Hydro.

We all enjoy camping, fishing, and all types of sports. I coach hockey and ball and still find time to play a little hockey in the "linament league".

I still have great memories of Isabella recalling old friends and good times had in town and out at local farms.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Apperley **by R. Apperley**

Rose and I were both born in the Pelly district of Saskatchewan, receiving our education there. I lost my parents when I was a boy. Rose's parents were farming and still live on the farm. After leaving school, I worked on construction for a few years. Rose stayed at home to help her parents on the farm during the war when help was hard to get.

Later I went to work for the Pelly Co-op Association as a clerk and truck driver.

Fred and Geraldine were both born in Pelly and are receiving their education at Isabella. In 1952 I started to work for United Grain Growers at Pelly. In 1953 I worked as second man at Kamsack, Bowman, Norquay, Verigin, Pelly and in 1954, I was transferred to Isabella where we all enjoy living very much. Ross was born at Hamiota in June, 1961.

In 1962 I became Scoutmaster of the Isabella-Beulah Boy Scout troop.

Update **by Rudy Apperley**

While we were in Isabella we took an active part in the rink and hall committees, in sports, and in sports days.

We moved to Westbourne in 1962. Bruce was born while we were at Westbourne in 1964. In 1967

United Grain Growers transferred us to Carnduff, Saskatchewan, where we have lived ever since.

Fred received his education in Isabella and Westbourne and went on to take electricity at Red River Community College in Winnipeg. He is married and has two boys and lives in Morden, Manitoba.

Gerri received her education in Isabella, Westbourne, Portage la Prairie and Carnduff. She lives in Winnipeg and is employed by Manitoba Hydro.

Ross received his education in Carnduff and is presently taking electricity at Red River Community College in Winnipeg.

Bruce, our youngest, is taking Grade 11 at Carnduff. He enjoys hockey and his team has made it to the Provincial Finals twice, but lost both times.

I am in my 29th year with United Grain Growers. For the past four years Rose has enjoyed working at the Post Office.

After a number of years of being away from Isabella, we still enjoy going back for a visit and still hold many a fond memory of living in Isabella.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Argyle **by C. Ariss**

Charles Argyle was the oldest son of Wallace Argyle, a tinsmith in Ilkeston, England. He had a brother, Percy, and two sisters, Kathleen (later Mrs. Charlie Seales) and Lily (Mrs. G. T. Ariss).

Charlie Argyle came to Canada in 1904, where he worked for Wm. Iverach and David Blelloch. Charlie and his wife were the first couple to be married in Isabella Church. He went into partnership with Charlie Seales, his brother-in-law, and farmed the Dunn farm, opposite Ed. Doran's farm. After dissolving this partnership, he and his wife moved to Shellmouth, Man. where he farmed for a few years, until they were left some property in England. They sold the farm and left for England, but Charlie caught cold on the train which later turned into pneumonia. He died aboard ship and was buried at sea. His wife later remarried, and as far as is known, is still living in London, England. Her husband has a trucking business there.

1982 — No update.

Mr. and Mrs. P. Argyle **by P. Argyle**

Percy Argyle was the second son of Wallace Argyle, a tinsmith in Ilkeston, England. He came to Isabella in 1905 and worked for Mr. Wm. Iverach, G. T. Ariss, Jim Drummond, Duncan Kelly, Ed. Doran, and Mr. Spratt. He also built a number of sidewalks in Isabella. He left here in 1910. Percy joined the army about 1915, serving in France where he was wounded several times. After his discharge, he returned to

Canada and was married in Winnipeg. He farmed for a number of years in the Russell district, then moved to Winnipeg in 1927, where he worked on the building of Deer Lodge hospital. Some years later, he and his wife and three sons moved to Creston, B.C., where he was employed in a store.

Percy said he could remember when Mr. Clark got the first small threshing outfit around 1908 or 1909. He believed Mr. J. Thompson had a Bell threshing outfit about the same time or it may have been a little earlier. It was in 1905 that people commenced to stook and thresh instead of stacking all of their grain. They used two or three teams to haul sheaves. In those days you traded your eggs, butter, poultry, etc. for groceries at the local store. You were lucky if you did not find a horse-shoe in the bottom of a twenty five pound pail of butter, or even a mouse in the bottom of your pail of butter.

Percy remembers seeing the first horseless carriage in Isabella in 1906. It was like a democrat with a gas motor mounted underneath. It was stuck in a ploughed field on Jim Drummond's place. He believes it came from Crandall way.

People were more friendly in those days. They did not travel very far but visited more often. On Friday night, there was always a party some place. Percy remembers that Mr. and Mrs. Ed Heise always had a very nice party when it was their turn. Mr. and Mrs. Don Iverach also were a very fine couple to visit. We had box socials. The girls made up a box lunch which was sold by auction to the boys. The comical part was when the wrong boy bought the girl's box.

1982 — No update.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford E. Ariss by Clifford E. Ariss

I was born on a farm one mile south and one-quarter mile west of Isabella, the oldest son of Edward Ariss and Jane (Allingham) Ariss. My brother Edwin now lives at Campbell River, B.C. where he is a plumbing contractor. He married Norma Andrew of the Chumah District. My other brother Herbert passed away in 1911 at the age of seven months.

My father passed away in 1913. My mother then sold the farm and returned to Ontario. After a year she returned to keep house for her brother, James Edward Allingham of the Decker district.

I went to school at Decker after which I worked on a number of farms in the area. In the fall of 1937 my brother and I worked at Kippins saw mill south of Dauphin. We worked here until enlisting in 1941 in the Canadian Army, with the 18th Armoured Corps (later the 12th Manitoba Dragoons). We were sent to V. and E Fortress area at Esquimalt B.C. where we

patrolled 30 or 40 miles of coast on the west side of Vancouver Island. I married Miss Marion Clucas of Elm Creek, Manitoba, in June 1942.

In August of 1942, the 12th Manitoba Dragoons sailed from Halifax for the British Isles. Here, like all other good Canadian soldiers we ended up at Aldershot, Surrey, England. From this Army town we were dispersed for further training. The 12th Manitoba Dragoons, being a mechanized unit, it was my duty to drive various armoured vehicles. Late in 1943 I was transferred to No. 1 Canadian Armoured Corps Re-inforcement Unit at Woking, where I served as a truck driver.

In December 1944 I was sent back to Canada, to Fort Osborne Barracks, and was posted to the Royal Canadian Electrical Mechanical Engineers. I served on Army vehicle repair and maintenance until September 1945 when I obtained my discharge from the Army. My first job after returning to "civvy street" was as fireman in the boiler room at United College. In the spring of 1946 I obtained work with a contractor, and assisted in building 35 houses in St. James. I stayed with Swanson Construction until December 1948. In July 1957, I was put in charge of Victoria Albert School as head caretaker and am still employed in that position.

My wife's father, Edgar Clucas was a pioneer of the Elm Creek district where he broke the land with oxen. My wife spent most of her time helping her father on the farm, but part of the war years she spent driving for MacDonald Aircraft. She also worked in the Mail-Order Department in the T. Eaton Co.

We have three children, two girls and a boy. Our elder daughter Donna, finished Grade 10 this year. She would like to become a doctor. Since last October she has been with the candystripers, at Grace Hospital. This is a voluntary project where the girls donate three hours of their time on alternate weekends as nurses' aides, where they gain experience.

Beth and Huan will write their Grade 8 and Grade 3 exams respectively this year. They have not made up their minds what they would like to do.

1982 — no update.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ariss by Charles Ariss

I was born on the farm of my parents, Thomas Ariss and Lily (Argyle) Ariss. I attended school in Isabella, continuing until I finished my Grade Nine, when I figured I knew enough to count all the money I would ever earn.

After leaving school I helped on the farm and made a little spending money by helping the neighbors, and working on the road. One summer I painted three houses.

I was always interested in the out-doors and spent a lot of pleasant hours hunting and fishing. I have seen a large part of Manitoba from following this pastime. Baseball was always my favorite sport, although I played hockey and curled.

In the spring of 1928, I filed on a homestead five miles east of Birch River. I spent a great deal of time here until the summer of 1931 when I put in a quit claim, as I didn't see much future in this quarter section of heavy poplar and maple bush. I worked for a time for Ross and Scorgie in a saw-mill.

One experience I will never forget was when Sandy Ross and I attended a Christmas concert at the Old Fort School twelve miles east of Birch River. We danced until six o'clock in the morning. They had just got a new fiddler who was good for another two hours when we left for home. It was while here that I



Charles Seales, Charlie, Tom, Stella, and Lily Ariss, Vaila Kuppers, and Dora Seales, 1943.

shot my first moose and saw my first dog team. We also took a lot of fish from the Woody River, with nets fishing through the ice.

I took a mechanics course in Winnipeg in the winter of 1928 and was caretaker of the rink in the winter of 1929. The hydro was not then available so the rink was lighted with a 32 volt lighting plant. It was always a guess, if the engine would go or not. I also bucksawed all the wood for the fires as wood-bees hadn't been thought of at that time. I boarded at Hector Calder's and hauled the water to flood the ice

from there. For three months in the following spring I worked in the Alex. Clark Garage, and helped set up thirty new implements.

In the summer of 1931 I returned home to help my father on the farm. In 1938 I added the S.E. ¼ of 12-15-25. This land had gone back to grass and bush as it had been used for pasture for fourteen years. I broke 75 acres on the quarter that summer.

On June 10, 1939, I married Stella Bogan at the manse at Isabella. Stella had helped Mrs. Brad for ten years. We now have five children, Margaret, who is teaching school at Cork Cliff School near Winnipegosis, and James, Charlotte, Edward and Beverly who are all at present attending school.

Update by Charles Ariss

Stella and I continued to farm and took the good with the bad, as we were hailed out in 1942. I did some carpenter work also combining to help out with the money problem. We had a ravine running through two quarters of the land which made some land not suitable for grain farming so we always kept thirty to fifty cattle (mostly Herefords), also some pigs, chickens, ducks, and geese. Rural roads improved greatly and as they became 'all-weather' roads, the winter van was put away and the horses were sold. This made quite a difference doing winter chores and travelling.

I joined the I.O.O.F. Parkissimo Lodge at Miniota in 1961 and really enjoyed the fellowship, etc. We have visited as far as Devil's Lake in North Dakota, Flin Flon, Gilbert Plains, Treherne, Brandon, Winnipeg and also the local lodges.

Being fond of travelling, Stella and I motored to British Columbia several times in the late sixties to visit relatives. We sold the farm the spring of 1974 and moved to Birtle to retire. Since then we have been to Churchill in Manitoba, the Maritimes, California, the Black Hills in South Dakota, Wisconsin Dells, Waterton Lakes, and Yellowstone Park.

We joined Birtle Senior Citizens' Club and take part in such activities as cards, bingo, shuffle board, crokinole, carpet bowling, choir, quilting, lawn bowling, etc. I joined Birtle Art Class and get a lot of enjoyment sketching and painting scenery, animals, and old churches and buildings. Wood work is also very interesting.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Ariss

Edward Ariss was born at Clifford, Ontario, the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ariss. We believe he came to Manitoba about the turn of the century. He and his brother, Tom, "bached" for awhile, then a

sister, Mrs. Morley Crandall came to keep house for them.

He married Jennie Allingham in March, 1905. They had two sons. Eddie, who married Norma Andrew and had two children, Garth and Sylvia. Garth is learning gunsmithing in Denver, Colorado, and Sylvia is still going to school. Clifford's history is elsewhere in this book.

The house on their farm was covered with tin siding. The only other buildings were a low stable and a granary. Later the buildings burned — first the stable, then the house. They tried to drill several deep wells but did not find water.

The family of Mr. Ariss remember that he used to have horses. One colt in particular used to sit on its tail like a dog.

After Mr. Ariss died, the farm was sold to Mr. Francis Brown. He did not live very long. Dave Miles had it for awhile as did Pete Stewart. Mr. R. E. Heise also owned it for a number of years.

Mr. Ariss didn't have a car but travelled by horse and buggy or team and wagon or team and sleigh in winter. At one time he owned a steam threshing outfit.

Mr. Ariss was superintendent of the Isabella Sunday School. Some people can recall him leading the singing in church.

Mr. Ariss passed away in March 1913 and Mrs. Ariss in 1956.

Edward and Elisa Ariss

by Edward Ariss

I was born in Hamiota, Man. on April 17, 1952 being the youngest son of Charlie and Stella Ariss. I took my schooling (grades 1-8) at Isabella, then took grades 9-12 at Birtle.

After finishing high school in 1971, I went into the Canadian Air Force. I took my basic training at CFS in Cornwallis, Nova Scotia, then went into trade training at CFS, Lac St. Denis, Quebec. I was then posted at CFS, at Yorkton, Sask. I was in the Forces for 1½ years.

After leaving the forces I worked for Edson Campers Ltd. in Neepawa and Rivers, and then for Winnipeg Audio in Winnipeg.

In May, 1974, I started working for the Canadian Pacific Railway in Birtle. During the summers I work on gangs which could take me anywhere from Thunder Bay, Ontario to Swift Current, Sask. During the winter I am usually back working on the section. Although I travel a lot, my family and I call Birtle our home.

On March 24, 1979, I married Elisa Calanchie of Yorkton, Sask. Elisa was born on November 6, 1955, in Yorkton and was raised at MacNutt, Sask. about

45-50 miles east of Yorkton. Our first daughter, Sara Kristine, was born on August 28, 1979, in Yorkton.

Mr. and Mrs. George Ariss

by Mrs. George Ariss

I, George Wallis Ariss, son of Thomas and Lily Ariss, was born in 1907 at the family home on 6-15-25. I started school in 1913 and was taken to school in a van. Miss Laura Heise (Mrs. Robert Clark) was my first teacher. I played baseball and hockey on the school teams. In 1924 I went to work for Mr. R. E. Heise, at five dollars a week. I stayed for three years.

In the fall of 1933 I was offered \$5.00 a month along with the five dollars from the government to stay on the farm, but could not collect same, as I had been with the same farmer for quite some time.

I changed my occupation, took a team and hauled logs to Kippins Mill at Clear Lake for a winter. After the farm, \$12.00 a month seemed a good wage.



Nick Kohuch, Don, Anne Ariss, Fred Kohuch and Jerry Ariss, 1944.

In 1937 I took a course in agriculture at Shoal Lake, and then spent a number of years working as hired help in the McConnell and Lavinia districts. 1940, my last year as hired hand, I worked on the farm of Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Thompson of Lavinia and I met Miss Anne Kohuch from Mears, Manitoba (Rosburn Municipality). She also had spent most of her years after school working out.

In 1941 I moved back to Isabella and rented the north half of section 6-15-25 from Mr. Wm. Miller, formerly Mr. Will Taylor's farm, which is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Murray Bell. I married Anne Kohuch on October 7th, 1941 and we lived there until March 1952, when we moved to the Crandall District to the east half of section 22-14-25, formerly the Charlie Gray farm.

Anne and I have two sons and three daughters: Gerald, Donald, Edith, Hazel and Carrol.

When Jerry started school in 1947 his first teacher was (Miss Eileen Ebell) Mrs. Russell Clark. Jerry worked at the nickel mine at Thompson, Manitoba for the winter and summer of 1961 at a salary of \$1.78 an hour. Donnie went to Thompson in February of 1962 and worked underground at \$2.17 an hour, got along really well with bonus pay on an eight hour shift, Sundays off and cleared \$207.00 in two weeks. At the age of 18 that's pretty good.

Jerry is now employed at Grand Rapids as a mechanic. The girls Edith and Hazel are still in school and Carrol is only 20 months.

Update

by Anne Ariss

Update of George and Anne Ariss history, after they left Isabella, March 31st, 1952.

It was a beautiful spring day, oodles of snow and water. The first night at Crandall, in the old house, it was very windy. Only Edith and Hazel came with us. Jerry and Donnie stayed with Grandma and Grandpa Ariss to finish school before Easter holidays.

The boys were very lonesome and homesick for their old home at Isabella, so there were a lot of tears shed trying to comfort them.

As it was spring and plenty to do, we all worked hard to make the old house homey. Everyone got over the move.

Garry and Tom Van Buskirk were our first visitors. The boys made friends quickly with Garry, Murray and Wayne Van Buskirk. After Easter they started school at Crandall, made lots of friends; but they always liked to go back to Isabella to renew old acquaintances.

It was an early spring. Tom Van Buskirk sowed wheat in the field just south of our house on April 19th and harvested it on August 6th. A wonderful crop!

Donnie's first teacher at Crandall was (Wilma Beattie) Mrs. Bill Cowling. Jerry's teacher was Miss Bashford. Other teachers were Miss Frost, Mrs. Fowlie, Mr. Kuch, and Mr. Dibblee.

On October 13th, 1956, we moved into our new home, which we had built ourselves. Neighbors had helped us. It was such a treat from the old house. We were without hydro until June 1965. I still remember very well how I couldn't get used to the bright lights, and had to light the lamps just for old time's sake. When we got used to the power and so many appliances, we wondered how we ever got along.

Times were really changing fast. The farmers weren't working as hard with tractors and other farm equipment.

October 20th, 1960, our third daughter was born, Carrol Nancy Anne, at Hamiota Hospital.

The year 1961 was a dry year. We only harvested 365 bushels of wheat. Feed was scarce, and we lost several head of cattle. We grew a good garden, canned and preserved and depended on the family allowance which was \$26.00 for four children.

On May 23, 1964 tragedy struck our home. Donald Wayne, our second son, 21 years old, drowned accidentally in the Burntwood River at Thompson. He had been employed since February, 1962, in Thompson. He was buried June 27th at Crandall with Rev. Victor Bowins officiating. Without the support of friends and clergy we could not have carried on. When we are all together we always feel someone is missing.

Both Donnie and Jerry were interested in sports — baseball and hockey. They were both members of the 4-H Club in 1954, with their dad as leader.

Jerry married Sherry Knight of Winnipeg on May 27, 1967. Jerry received his certificate as a mechanic and a furnace man. He is at present driving a semi-truck for Reimers on the Edmonton-Calgary run.

Edith, born Jan. 26, 1948, attended school at Crandall. She was active in volleyball and 4-H, C.G.I.T., and church choir. She received her Registered Nurses' Diploma on January 29, 1969 from Victoria General Hospital, Winnipeg and has worked as assistant head nurse at Deer Lodge Hospital since then. She married Ken Stephenson of Graysville, Manitoba on July 19th, 1969. Ken serves in the Airforce Reserve. They have a daughter, Marcia, born March 22, 1971.

Hazel was born August 6, 1950, and later attended school in Crandall. She was a member of the 4-H Club, C.G.I.T., the Church Choir, and taught Sunday School. She took a clerk-typist course at the Manitoba Institute of Technology, Winnipeg, graduating June 27, 1969, and went to work for the Children's Aid Society. She married Michael Rudniski of Newdale on June 6, 1970. They have two children: Jason born February 10, 1971 and Jennifer born February 6, 1974. Michael is employed by the Canada Wire Company in Winnipeg.

Carrol is a Downes Syndrome Child and has attended special classes in Brandon and Virden. Because we felt we should be with her more, we sold our farm to Bill Higgins of Decker and moved to Virden on October 12, 1973.

George and I had farmed all our lives, and we found it was quite an adjustment, as the roots were strong. With the help of friends in Crandall and Isabella, we have managed quite well. We plan on taking a trip to Vancouver this year to visit Ivor and Marion Koppers and family. This will be George's first trip of any distance and we are looking forward to it.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ariss
by Mrs. Robert Young

Tom Ariss was born in Guelph, Ontario in 1874. Two years later, his family moved to Clifford, to a small farm. He had four sisters and four brothers. His father kept cows and sold milk in the town. Very often Tom had to deliver the milk. His father rapped three times on the door and the ladies knew that it was the milkman. Tom continued using this signal, and adopted this rap which he used after that.

At the age of twelve he started to work for one of his uncles looking after a large number of horses and cattle. The water was all carried by pail.

In 1897 he came to Manitoba to his uncle's farm in the district of Methven P.O. where he spent a year. Not liking the dust and the light land he came up to the Blaris district, where several people from his old home town of Clifford had settled. The trip from Brandon to Hamiota by train took five days. The snow drifts were so deep and plentiful, that the little snow plow on the train was of very little use. A crew of twenty men was hired for the purpose of shovelling out the railway. Not thinking it would take so long, all he took for lunch was a box of soda biscuits. From Hamiota, he came up to Campbell's, (Lucas Post Office) and they directed him to Charlie Craig's home. He walked to Craig's and stayed there two weeks. He then worked for Mr. Stevenson who was teaching Blaris School at this time. Tom worked for Mr. Stevenson for two years.

After leaving here, he went to work for Mr. Jim Thompson as foreman. This was in the year of 1900. As well as having several sections of land, Mr. Thompson also had a cheese factory. When the cheese-maker took sick, Tom had to look after the cheese and turn it every day.

One wagon load of cheese was taken to Beulah Store. Tom carried it all upstairs where it was to be stored. The following day he was called back to take it all out again as the ceiling was sagging. No wonder he never liked cheese!

Leaving Thompson's farm, he and his brother Edward, rented the farm belonging to Charlie Craig for one year. He later purchased the west quarter of 6-15-25 from Joe Bliss, and the east quarter of 6-15-25 from Donald Sutherland. Ed was with Tom for a year, and then put in a quit claim and bought the east half of 5-15-25.

One of the first horses he bought was from the man who owned the livery barn in Miniota. After getting it home he discovered that it could really kick. He later learned from neighbors that someone had teased the horse until it could kick as high as the ceiling.

The back quarter of land had a ravine running

through it. The house was situated at the top of the hill. The barn which was at the bottom was later moved to the top so it would be more convenient to the house. Tom bached here for five years.

On December 14th, 1905, Tom and Miss Lily Argyle were married. Miss Argyle had come from Ilkeston, England and had worked for Mrs. William Iverach. They lived on the west quarter, until a new house was built in 1911.

In those days there was a trail from one house to another. Part of the trail from John Clark's farm to William Taylor's farm is still visible in the pasture field, after 50 years. Arrowheads have been found from time to time on the land where this trail has been broken up.

Tom and his brother Ed, helped build the road from the railroad at Arrow River to the Doran farm. He also helped build the railroad west from Isabella to Beulah.

About this time he, and his neighbor, Mr. Mel Bridge bought a threshing outfit together. This was a portable machine so they were able to do much custom work.

After Mr. Scott's store was destroyed by fire, Tom was the first one to bring lumber to rebuild it from Arrow River.

He was always interested in the work of the church. He served as a member of the Board of Stewards for a number of years and later on the Session.

When the rink was built in 1920, he was one of the volunteer workers. He and Mrs. Ariss skated for the first winter or two, then Tom became an avid curler.

The Agricultural Society was formed and fairs were held in Isabella. Tom and Mr. Gil Woods from Beulah looked after the garden produce, the sheaves of grain and the poultry entries.

The Grain Growers Elevator was built in Isabella in 1913 and he was a charter member.

There were two boys and a girl: George, Charlie and Lilian. George married Anne Kohuch of Rossburn. They have a family of five children, and now reside on a farm at Crandall. Charlie married Stella Bogan of Isabella. They have a family of five children and reside on the home farm west and south of Isabella. Lilian married Robert Young and reside in the old Iverach house in Isabella. They have a family of six children.

In 1944 Tom and Mrs. Ariss retired to Isabella. For several years after coming to town, Tom kept a team of horses and plowed gardens and did many chores around town.

Tom passed away in March 1960, and his wife predeceased him in November 1955.

John and Florence Armbrust

by Florence Armbrust

I am the only daughter of Dewart and Della Harrison. I received my education at Blaris and Isabella schools. I went to British Columbia and while there I took a Secretarial Course. I was employed as a secretary until I moved to Regina. I continued to work there as a secretary until I married John Armbrust in June 1962. He works for the Saskatchewan Government as a computer supervisor. Our first son, Wayne Ronald, was born in 1963 and has just completed his Grade XII. He is working at Canada Safeway store for a year and then plans to continue his education at the University of Saskatchewan. In 1964 our only daughter, Michelle Della, was born. She has just completed her Grade X and is continuing her education with plans to go to university. In 1971 our twin sons, Robert Kent and Gary Allen, were born. They are both in school. We reside in Regina, Sask.

Don and Sandra Armitage

by Sandra Armitage

I, Sandra Louise (Heise) Armitage, was born May 20, 1953 at Hamiota Hospital. "Dr. Ed", who seems like an institution in the area, attended the birth. I am the elder daughter of Davidson and Margaret Heise.



Don, Brian, and Sandra Armitage, 1981.

My childhood life was spent in Isabella. School was a large part of my activities and my memories of those years. I went to Grade VIII at Isabella. The field days and preparation for the Christmas concerts are two good memories I have about those times. From Isabella I then went to Birtle for high school. I really enjoyed all the extra-curricular activities available there and participated as much as I could in sports, drama, and student council.

Other things that stand out in reminiscing upon childhood days are: Mr. Coxworth's store, church on

Sunday, choir practice after school, skating on Saturday nights at Isabella rink and the many community activities at the hall.

When I was twelve I began to learn to play the bag-pipes, taking lessons at Rivers and eventually joining the Rivers Pipe Band (the first female member). Piping was a real experience. The band had many engagements at fairs, memorial services, etc. We travelled all over the province. The Rivers Band was invited to play at Expo '67 in Montreal so our family made the trip. I also enjoyed competitive piping at many events. Later, when I was going to university I joined the Heather Belle Ladies' Pipe Band for two years. This band combined with the other Winnipeg pipe bands to go to the Rose Bowl Parade in Pasadena, California. This massed pipe band really impressed the Americans and the band was invited back to lead the parade the following year.

After I finished high school at Birtle, I enrolled at the University of Manitoba in the School of Social Work. In 1975 I graduated with my B.S.W.

On October 12, 1974 I married Donald Keith Armitage of Miniota. (Don was born August 22, 1950, elder son of Keith and Muriel Armitage of Miniota). Don had just graduated from the College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon. He was practising at Shoal Lake, Manitoba. While we lived at Shoal Lake, I worked with the Children's Aid in Brandon.

In the spring of 1976 we made a big decision, one which has worked out well for us. We moved to Sundre, Alberta (in the foothills north-west of Calgary), where Don became a partner in Pioneer Veterinary Service.

Alberta Social Services was my employer from 1976 to June of 1980. I did social work — largely a child welfare caseload.

On August 4, 1980, our son, Brian Donald, was born here at Sundre. Our lives have been enriched by his presence in our family. He is a healthy, happy, little boy.

At the present time we are building our own home so our energies are directed there. We also try to participate in the community here and are active in the curling club, the canoe club, and, myself, on the continuing education committee.

Both Don and I appreciate the rural small-town way of life, the closeness and fellowship of a small community. So we hope to continue enjoying our lives here in Sundre.

Armstrong — Mackee

by Betty Mackee Harrison

In the spring of 1882 an advertising campaign in Northern Ireland urged people to emigrate to Cana-

da. My grandparents, John and Sarah Armstrong (nee Montgomery) decided to accept the challenge and move to a new land.

My grandfather was foreman of an estate in Ireland and heard of a Mr. Simpson who was looking for a foreman for his farm in Manitoba. He applied for and obtained the position and he, my grandmother and their three children, Mary, William John and James, prepared to travel to Canada.

The trip across the Atlantic took three weeks at that time. This was a very tiring experience and resulted in the children becoming ill. The family had to stay in Montreal till the children were well enough to travel, so it was June before they reached Brandon, which was then the terminal of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Here they waited till Mr. Simpson bought the necessary supplies, two wagons, two yokes of oxen, two cows, a horse and buggy, tents, etc.

Floods that spring made travelling very hard, so the eighty-six mile trip to Beulah took until the first of July.

Many times, during this trip, the wagons were mired in the mud and had to be unloaded and the contents carried to dry land. Sometimes their last night's camping ground could be plainly seen at the end of the day.

As there were no buildings on the farm, they had to sleep in tents until a house could be built and this took until the first of November.

During that time wild fowl (ducks and prairie chicken) helped provide them with food.

The house was a frame building sheeted in the inside with lumber. There was no insulation, so it was extremely cold and the only heat came from the cook stove. Fire wood had to be drawn from the Assiniboine Valley a distance of over ten miles and, with oxen, taking the better part of a day.

The following summer improvements were made to the buildings and some of the land was broken and put into crop.

Mr. Simpson donated a piece of land for a school with the provision that it be called the "Blaris" School. Blaris being the name of his farm, which was, in turn, called after his uncle's estate in Ireland. Here the Armstrong children attended school.

Church services were also held in the school building, the Methodists and Presbyterians using the building alternate Sundays. When a church was built, this practice continued.

By the spring of 1887, Mr. Armstrong had filed on a homestead of his own. A house had been built and some land broken, so it was decided that the family would move to their new home in the fall of that year.

This would necessitate Mr. Simpson getting other help and he decided to advertise for what was then known as a "Pupil Farmer." In this way he would have help and be paid 50 pounds a year besides.

William Holland Mackee of Birkenhead Bidston, England, was anxious to learn how to farm. He had spent some time on a farm in Scotland, but wanted to go to Canada. His father owned a large exporting, importing business in Liverpool, and heard of Mr. Simpson through a brother of the latter's, who also owned a business there.

It was therefore, arranged that William go to Mr. Simpson's farm, and, on April 6th, 1887, he arrived in Beulah, where he was met by Mr. Simpson and driven to the farm.

This was the way my future parents, Mary Armstrong and William Mackee, first met.

That fall the Armstrongs moved to their own place. Mr. Simpson and William batched that winter, but in the spring of 1888, Mr. and Mrs. Langford were hired to help with the work.

The crops of 1888 were very good, averaging 30 bushels per acre throughout the province, but there were so few threshing machines that many people had no threshing done until the following spring, even though the work continued after drifts of snow had formed. The grain was, of course, stacked at this time, so damage from the weather was not so apt to affect the grade of the grain. The machines were very cumbersome and awkward to move from place to place, as they had to be pulled by oxen or horses. They were also operated by horsepower. The grain had to be taken to Birtle by oxen drawn wagons. This was a two day trip, one day to go and another to return. In 1889 the grain was frozen after a very wet summer.

Indians were seen at times, but were always friendly. They used to ask for food at the homes of the white settlers. Quite a large band passed the Armstrong home on one occasion on their way to bury their chief some place in the United States. The "Braves" rode horses and some of these horses had poles attached to each side, with a piece of cloth attached to the poles, so as to form a place where supplies could be carried. The squaws walked. On another occasion, a tribe camped at the "Big Slough" and held a Pow-wow, with dancing, shouting, singing and so on, far into the night.

After my father left the employ of Mr. Simpson, he worked on a survey gang, in logging camps, on farms and on the construction of the Mann and North-West Railway, which is now the Edmonton line of the C.P.R. The pay on the railway was \$1.25 per day and \$2.00 plus board was considered very good pay in the logging camps. He used to walk to

new jobs that he heard of, sometimes a distance of 60 or 70 miles.

Work in the logging camps was very hard. The undergrowth along the rivers was very dense and it was very hard to push through it. Mosquitoes were around in swarms. The men often lost their footing on the logs and fell into the water and they had to continue the day and often go to bed with soaked clothing. They slept at times on the raft, but at other times had to roll up in a blanket and sleep on the ground.

In 1890 William Mackee went to Winnipeg on a holiday. He mentions, in his diary that the street cars were then drawn by horses.

On December 28th, 1892, William Mackee and Mary Armstrong, were married by the Reverend McArthur and settled on a farm north of her parent's homestead.

This land, the north half of Section 27-14-26 and the quarter west of that, had been purchased from the C.P.R. for \$3.50 an acre.

They lived in a small house there for the first eight years.

In 1900 they moved into a new nine room house just north of their first location. This house is still in good condition and was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. V. Kelly (who purchased the farm in 1936), and later by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pierce, who purchased it in 1976.

My father belonged to two lodges, — "The Sons of England" and "The Knights of the Maccabees."

He was one of the men who arranged for the building of the Omar School in 1904. This school was built on a corner of the J. O'Callaghan farm and the initials of Messrs. O'Callaghan, Mackee, Armstrong and Ringland formed the word "Omar." Mr. Mackee was trustee of this school and then Secretary-Treasurer. Later, when the Municipal School District was formed, he served as trustee of the Municipal School Board.

The first telephones were, I believe, installed in the year 1912. Mr. Mackee purchased his first car, an "Overland Four" in 1919, but other cars had been purchased in the community prior to this. Dr. R. K. Chalmers and Mr. W. Berwick were, I think, the first who owned cars. These cars were such a novelty that the teacher used to allow the children to stand up and look out at them, when they passed a school. To be given a ride in one was an unbelievable thrill.

Mr. and Mrs. Mackee sold their farm in 1926, and, after spending a year in Winnipeg, moved to Vancouver, where they spent the rest of their lives. Mr. Mackee passed away in 1944 and Mrs. Mackee in May, 1957.

They had seven children, —

Alice Frances taught school for a few years and then trained as a stenographer. She decided to move to Vancouver shortly after her parents and she still lives there.

John Leslie (Jack) worked in the Miniota branch of the Royal Bank of Canada until 1916, when he enlisted and went overseas. At the end of the war he returned to Canada, bringing with him his English bride, Elsie Locke of Sutton, Surrey. He then re-entered the bank and was shortly promoted to the position of Bank Manager. He served in this capacity in Glen Ewen, Dubuc and Esterhazy and then decided to go to Vancouver. There he worked for Nesbitt Thomson and Company and rose to the position of Manager. He is now retired. He has one son, William, who married Gloria Clark of Vancouver. They have three children. Bruce, who is married to Leslie Ireland teaches Mechanics at Terrace, B.C. where they live with their children Erin and Jonathan. Deborah and Jennifer live in Kamloops.

Sara Elizabeth (Betty) Mackee taught school until her marriage to Frank Harrison in 1921. (Refer to history of Frank Cannon Harrison).

Eleanor Janet (Nell) also taught school until her marriage to William Watts of Miniota. Bill worked in the store owned by W. L. Hodnett but in 1928, he and Nell moved to Vancouver and a couple of years later to Premier, B.C. There he operated the Power plant at the Premier Gold Mine till the mine closed and then went to Lytton as manager of the Power plant owned by David Spencer. When this company was taken over by the B.C. Hydro he was employed by them and given a permanent position at Spence's Bridge, where he and Nell purchased property. They lived there as active members of the community until August, 1980, when they moved to Kamloops, B.C. Bill celebrated his fiftieth year as a member of the Masonic Lodge in 1976, and Nell is a member of the Eastern Star. Their son Eric is Terminal Supervisor of the British Columbia Railway at Dawson Creek. He is married to Joan Stead of Lillooet, B.C. and they have two children, William John (Jack) and Janet. Jack is a welder and lives in Dawson Creek. He was married in August, 1980 to Magda Agathy, who is a nurse in that district. Janet is a nurse in the Royal Alexander Hospital in Edmonton. She is married to Brian Fiddler, who is supervisor in one of the Safeway Stores there. They have one daughter, Chrissie.

Dorothy Margaret Mackee worked as a stenographer for the Canadian National Railway in Winnipeg, and, at her request, was transferred to their offices in Vancouver. There she met and married Thomas Davis, who worked in the same office. Tom later accepted a position with the Pacific Great Eastern Railway and, at the time of his death in 1964, was

Labour Administrator for the company. Dorothy continued to live in Vancouver, where her daughter Gail attended and graduated from the University of B.C. and then taught school. On July 1st, 1968, Gail married William David Sharp, who had won the Governor General's Gold Medal when he graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1967 and was studying at Princeton on a scholarship. Gail taught school there till his graduation. He then was given a position as a professor in the University of Alberta in Edmonton and he and Gail bought a home there. They have two children, Nyree and Christopher. Dorothy Mackee died in the spring of 1980.

James Mackee (Jim) married Wilda Hamilton and they moved to Vancouver in 1926. He obtained a position with the Western City Company, where he worked till he started his own company, Victoria Securities Ltd., in 1941. He became very successful as a promoter of Mines and other developments. He died of a heart attack October, 1958, leaving his wife, his son Ronald and two grandsons, Scott and Brent. Ronald had married Phyllis Cowling of Vancouver. He is now employed by Norman Whittall and Company.

William Gordon Mackee went to Vancouver at the same time as Jim and worked for the same company until he started his own Insurance Company, Mackee Insurance Agencies Ltd. He married Kathleen Sproule of Vancouver. They have three children, Joan, Carol, and Brian. Joan married Reidar Getz, the tennis players who made so many headlines in 1964. They live in Richmond, B.C. and have three children, Lisa, Melinda and Corey. Carol married James Parry of Vancouver. She taught school for a few years and then became a real estate agent. She died in her early thirties. Brian married Aileen Keays of Vancouver. Since his father's retirement he manages the Insurance business. They have one son, Aaron.

My grandparents John and Sarah Armstrong moved to a cottage on my father's farm after the marriage of their son, James to Eva Clyde of the Miniota district.

My grandmother died in the winter of 1916, and my grandfather spent the rest of his life at the home of my parents.

Mr. Simpson also lived with my parents for a short time after he became too frail to live alone, but finally returned to Ireland and spent the last years of his life in a home for Retired Gentlemen.

The ravine that runs through the farm owned by him is still called "The Simpson Ravine". The Blaris school was taken to the Sunley Farm and used as a workshop. The community is still called "The Blaris District."

William John and James Montgomery Armstrong

by Mrs. H. E. (Audrey) Stevenson

William John, first son of John and Sarah Armstrong, married Nellie Richardson and they had seven children: Gladys, Minnie, Sarah, Ralph, Robert, Francis, and Marion.

James (Jim), second son of John and Sarah Armstrong, was born in Auchnocloy, County Tyrone, N. Ireland, on August 31, 1877. In 1882, at the age of five, he came to Canada with his parents, one brother and one sister. The family settled in the Isabella area.

James bought a farm east of his father's homestead. Shortly after this, he married Eva Irene Clyde on July 11, 1907 in Miniota. She was a school teacher at Omar School and daughter of Andrew D. and Mary Ellen Clyde of Miniota. The name for "Omar School" came from the four families who had children attending when it was built (O'Callaghan, McKee, Armstrong, and Ringland). They were the four trustees at that time. Jim and Eva lived on this farm until 1920 when they sold it to Fred Hill. They moved to Nelson, B.C. with Irene and Hugh where they bought a fruit farm. While they lived at Isabella they were active in church and community affairs. Jim owned a 1912 McLaughlin Touring car. There is one very similar in the Elkhorn Museum and also a threshing machine identically set up as his was.

James died in 1942 at Nelson and Eva died in 1973.

They had three children: Irene (Mrs. Ed Bartrim) of Port Alberni, B.C., Hugh Clyde (died November 1980), and Kenneth (died in infancy 1921).

Mrs. Bartrim has two children: Lorraine (Mrs. Larry Hanna) and Ted Bartrim. Both live in Port Alberni.

Hugh leaves his widow, Helen, at Nelson, B.C., and one daughter, Diana Rose (Mrs. Lloyd Wood) of High River, Alberta.

Bob and Sharon Attwood

by Mrs. Robt. Attwood

Robert Edward Attwood was born at Arrow River, Manitoba on March 14, 1939. He was the second child of Mr. and Mrs. William Attwood. He has two sisters: Margaret Still and Elaine Armitage.

Bob attended school at Blaris and Isabella. He took part in various community activities: 4-H, hockey, and baseball.

On October 12, 1963 he married Sharon Merle Dagg. She was the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Dagg. She attended high school at Isabella and was active in the church choir and C.G.I.T. Sharon was interested in curling and softball.

Three children were born: William John on May 11, 1965, Sandra Lynn on June 17, 1966 and Lynda Joanne on February 16, 1976.

Bob and Sharon have lived in various places after leaving the farm in 1966 when they went to Minnedosa. In the spring of 1970 they moved to Virden, Manitoba where they lived for 13 years. A year and a half ago they moved to Alberta where Bob is employed with the Bar Pipe Hereford Farms. Jack and Sandra attend high school at Black Diamond and Lynda goes to kindergarten at Millarville.

The family is still active in sports. Jack plays baseball and hockey. Sandra is interested in all sports and especially enjoys figure skating. Bob has coached ball and hockey for both children.

Mr. and Mrs. Reg Attwood

I, Reg Attwood, was born at Siltingham, England on January 7th, 1906. I came to Canada with my mother and father in April 1906. My uncle Bill Nankivell had come out before, to find a place for us to live, as my mother was in poor health. In September of that same year, my brother, Bill, was born.

We settled near Arrow River in the old stone house, that still stands east of the village, on the late Mr. John Tennant's farm. My brother and I started to school from there. The school was situated by the Arrow River cemetery, which is now a part of the new cemetery. They held school there for two years, until the school was built in Arrow River in 1916.

When mother became too ill to care for us, we moved in with our grandparents on the Mr. Russell Lynch farm. Our mother died in 1915 and we stayed on with our grandparents, and helped run the farm, until we were out of school.

In 1927-1928 I worked for Mr. Donald Sutherland, and in the winter of 1929, I travelled selling Watkins products. That summer, I tried a little carpentering for Mr. Bill Sutherland.

In the early thirties, in the surrounding districts, I drove a cream truck to Miniota Creamery.

In July 1939, I married Mildred Jane, third daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Watters of Arrow River. I worked on a farm at Arrow River until November 1940, when I came to Isabella, and worked in the garage with Johnny Reid.

In April the following spring, my wife and daughter Mary came to Isabella. In June, we moved into the Don Iverach house, which had been the post office before Mr. Iverach's death.

Johnny Reid left the garage in the fall of 1942. We moved into the Alec Clark house in May, and three weeks later on May 22, our second daughter Sheila was born. On November 9, 1946, our third daughter, Patricia, was born.

I bought the house and garage in 1947.

Our youngest daughter Sharon, was born on October 30, 1951. I drove mail once a week from Shoal Lake, until it was changed to Oakner, when I made three trips a week. I drove the mail for eighteen years, up to July 1961, when the mail truck took over.

Following my mother's death in 1915 my father married Miss Mable Akhurst on December 14, 1918. They farmed, through the years, and in September



Mary and Erik Hurlin, Hunter, Robert, Sheila Lobban, Clayton, Sharon, Bob and Jason McKenzie, Patricia, Larry and Tammy Moldowan, Rick Hurlin, Mildred, Mrs. Attwood Sr., Reg Attwood, Bill Hurlin, Vaughn Moldowan. Inset — Mitchell McKenzie.

1954, just as they were about to retire, my father died. His wife remained in the district for some time then went to visit her home in England. She returned in six months, happy to be back in Canada. She now resides in Brandon.

Our eldest daughter Mary, was married on April 25, 1959, to Erik Hurlin of Miniota. They reside on the Hurlin farm, one mile east of Miniota. They have one son, William Russell.

Sheila was married to Hunter Lobban on December 30 of the same year. They have one son, Reginald Ian, and they reside at Wawa, Ontario, where Hunter works in the iron ore mine.

Patricia wrote her Grade Eleven this year, and Sharon her Grade Five.

Reginald and Mildred Attwood update by Reginald Attwood

Mary and Erik Hurlin by Mary Hurlin
Sheila and Hunter Lobban by Sheila Lobban
Sharon and Bob McKenzie by Sharon McKenzie
Patricia and Larry Moldowan appears under the heading, "Larry and Patricia Moldowan"

My wife and I, and our daughter, Sharon moved

to Miniota in August, 1975, and lived in a house on Sarah Street for two years. We then bought the Mike Kostinuik house in June, 1968. I worked at the John Wiens garage for two years, then for Tom Andrushuk.

Sharon was in Grade IX when we moved to Miniota. She took Grade XI, and then worked for Jerry Cutton at the motel.

I retired from garage work in 1971. Mildred worked in the motel with the girls until December, 1980, when she retired. We take a keen interest in the Community Drop-In Centre, in handicrafts and in golf.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Attwood **by Mattie Attwood**

I, Magdaline Attwood (nee Mattie Wallace), was married to Charles William (Bill) Attwood, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Hector Attwood, in my mother's home in Arrow River on Christmas Day, 1933.

Bill, along with his brother Reg, farmed the Russell Lynch farm one mile west of Arrow River, on which was a beautiful large brick house. This was to be our first home, where we spent our first few happy years.



Elaine Attwood, Glen, Margaret, and Robert Still, Mattie, Bill, and Bob Attwood.

In January 1936, we were blessed with our first child, a little girl. Margaret Beverly is now Mrs. Glen Still of Isabella. The Stills have three children; Robert, Glenda and Kenneth; also one granddaughter, Candace, and a grandson, Jason.

In the fall of 1937 we moved to my mother's farm, 26-14-26, which we rented. The house at that time was my father's homestead with a few additions added to the original one room. It was plenty cold. A new house was built in the summer of 1939.

In March of 1939 our son, Robert Edward, was born. October 12, 1963 he married Sharon Dagg of Isabella. They have three children; John William (Jack), Sandra and Lynda. They now live in Alberta on the J. B. Cross ranch south of Calgary.

On Christmas Eve, 1948, another little girl was born, Ivy Elaine. She is now Mrs. Rick Armitage. Rick and Elaine have one daughter, Caroline Dawn. They live in Virden.

We spent most of our married life in the Blaris-Isabella community where the children received their education.

When we were first married the farm work was done with horses. Bill had some nice black Percherons and a fine team of drivers of which he was very proud. Through the years tractors replaced the horses and power machinery took over. Along with the grain farming we milked a good number of milk cows and sold cream. How those cream cheques had to stretch! We had some good times and some not so good, but we always felt the good outweighed the bad.

We both took an active part in the community and were very interested in sports. In 1949 Bill organized a men's senior Arrow River baseball team which soon became well known at all the sports days around. They were very worthy of the support they received. For several years Bill coached the girls' ball team known as The Isabella Rockets.

We both enjoyed curling and many good times were had in the Arrow River and Isabella rinks.

In the spring of 1968 we sold our farm and went to work for P.F.R.A. Bill drove the truck and I was hired as cook. We enjoyed our work and also enjoyed having our weekends free. Our first two summers were spent at Arborg and the interlake area and then to Kerrobert, Sask.

In the winter of 1970 we moved to Virden where we made our home. We were working for P.F.R.A. in Val Marie, Sask. when on the 29th of August, 1970 Bill died suddenly. This ended my work for that season but I went back to work the following spring. In the spring of 1972 I started to work at a motel in Virden.

I spent three winters in Texas with my sister, Florence, and her husband. I enjoyed these winters very much. Now, in my seventy-second year, I am enjoying good health and am still working at the motel. I feel very close to my family, my grandchildren and the many friends I have made through the years. For these blessings I am very grateful.

Bert and Mary Baldwin **by Bert Baldwin**

I was born on May 8, 1915 at Beulah, the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Baldwin. My parents, at this time, were working on a farm for Mr. Vess Armstrong. We moved to the Isabella district in 1925 when my dad came to work for Herb Shurvell, about four miles north-west of town where, I believe,

George Wierer now lives. In the fall of 1925 Dad went to work for Mr. Bill Iverach and we lived in the house that was called the "biscuit box", situated one-half mile north of the village. Mr. Iverach sold out in the spring of 1926 and the farm was rented by Fred Amy. My dad continued to work on the farm until the fall. We then moved to the Crozier farm, approximately four miles north and east of Isabella. Dad worked for Mr. Alf Lints. In the spring of 1928 we left the district and moved to a farm north of Decker to be employed by Mr. Mel Greaves.

I took Grades IV and V at Isabella School and my teacher was Miss Lottie Dotton. Some of the students I remember in my grade were Ray Reid, Ted Finkbeiner, "Smitty" Kennedy, George Wierer and Lawrence Amy. I finished my school years at Ethel School and after that I worked in the Decker district for Mel Greaves, Ed Allingham, and Dan Ross. In the spring of 1932 I moved to Oak River to be employed by Mr. Harry Morcom and remained there on his farm for eight years.

By this time the war had started, so in 1941, I joined the army with the 70th Battery of the 8th Light Anti-aircraft Regiment and went overseas in August, 1942. I received my discharge in February, 1946. I returned to the Oak River District and drove the Blanshard road patrol for the summer. Deciding to farm, I bought the W $\frac{1}{2}$ 3-15-22 in the McConnell area. The farm was formerly owned by Mr. Les Pangman. With V.L.A. assistance I was able to buy a 9N Ford tractor, a 7 ft. cultivator and a tandem disc — quite a contrast to the machines of today!

On November 22, 1947, I married the former Mary Longstaff of Cardale. We have a family of two. Eleanor Joyce, was born March 15, 1960; and Raymond Murray, was born December 26, 1961. Eleanor took Grade I at McConnell School and, when it closed, she completed her education at Hamiota, graduating in 1978. She then went to Regina to take a Dental Assistant's Course at the Wascana Institute, graduated in 1979, and began working at the Brandon Health Centre. On April 26, 1980, Eleanor married William Russell Bradley of Strathclair and they reside in Brandon. She is presently employed at the Brandon Mental Health Centre.

Ray received all his education at Hamiota and graduated in 1979. He took one year of the Diploma Course in Agriculture at the University of Manitoba and is, at present, living at home. He works at McTavish Motors in Cardale.

Through the years I have been active in the church, Legion, I.O.O.F. Lodge and the Hamiota District Health Centre where I have been on the governing board for fifteen years. Mary has also been involved with the church, U.C.W. and the Re-

bekah Lodge. So, along with the farm work, we have had no trouble finding something to do or somewhere to go!

Mr. and Mrs. John George Baldwin by Mrs. B. Baldwin

John George Baldwin was born in Glington, Peterborough, England on April 15, 1887. He had five years' apprenticeship in a bakery. He came to Canada in July 1907 and began working in the Miniota district. Mrs. Baldwin (nee Ethel Porter) was born March 1886 at Nottingham, England, and came to Canada in 1912. She left Liverpool, on February 11, arriving at Miniota on February 18 and was married on February 27 at Jim Armstrong's at Blaris. They worked at several farms in the Miniota and Beulah districts before coming to Isabella to work for Mr. William Iverach and Mr. Fred Amy in 1926-7. They went from here to a farm of Art Glintz' at Oak River.

In 1936 they moved to Hamiota where Mr. Baldwin worked in the bakery for a number of years.

Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin were both active members of the United Church and because they were fond of singing always found a place in the church choir wherever they were. George Baldwin passed away on December 23, 1954. Mrs. Baldwin still resides in Hamiota.

They had a family of three daughters and two sons. Ethel (Mrs. Clement) lives in Idaho, U.S.A. and has one daughter. Doris (Mrs. Young) lives in Winnipeg and has one son and two daughters, Arthur is in Saskatoon. He is married and has two sons and one daughter. Elsie (Mrs. Petty) lives in Winnipeg and has one son. Bert is living in the Cardale district where he took up farming after his discharge from the Army in 1946. In 1947 he married Mary Longstaff of Cardale and they have a daughter and a son.

1982 no update.

Norman and Jean Ball by Gordon and Alice Ball

Norman Palmer Ball was born August 6, 1887 in Plymouth, England. At the age of 18, he joined the Royal Navy, where he served for seven years. After his discharge, he came to Isabella to be with his brother, Gordon, who died shortly after as the result of a buggy accident. Norman, or Nobby, as he was often called stayed on in Isabella doing odd jobs in town and working on farms for several years.

Jean Miskelly was born on November 8, 1887 in Dunfries, Scotland. In April, 1915 she brought her two nieces, Frances and Florence, to Isabella to be with their father.

On December 23, 1916 Norman and Jean were married and rented a farm south of town where they

lived for several years before moving back into Isabella. They bought a house and a machine shop from a Mr. McMullen, who would not sell either building separately. For a while the machine shop was rented and Norman had a mail route, drove a school van, and a little later hauled cream for the T. Eaton Co. for several years. He then decided to use his shop himself and started selling McColl Frontenac Oil Co. products, Red Indian Case and Cockshutt farm machinery and Ashdown Co. hardware.

In 1942, at the request of the machine companies, Norman and Jean moved their business to Birtle. Because there was already an Ashdown dealer in Birtle, their line of hardware was changed to Marshall Wells. They operated out of two rented premises on Birtle Main St. before moving into a new building of their own, also on Main St. in 1946.

Norman and Jean had two children, a daughter (stillborn) and a son, Gordon, who worked in the business until he enlisted in the R.C.A.F. in 1941. After the war, he came back to the business, eventually taking it over.

Norman died on May 31, 1966 and Jean on December 11, 1977.

Alice and Gordon were married in January, 1947, and have lived in Birtle ever since. Gordon worked with his dad in the machinery business, gradually taking it over and adding more lines of machinery. In 1968, after selling Case machinery for thirty-four years, he gave up the larger type machinery agencies, doubled the size of the store, and sold Link Hardware Co. merchandise, until selling out in September, 1979. He now farms a half-section in the Blenheim District, seven miles south and west of Birtle. There were two children, Lisbeth Jeanette, B.N., married to Bruce Kondratuk and who have Tammy (8), David (6) and Dana (2) and living in Winnipeg, and Norman, 'Tom', a journeyman electrician, married to Cheryl Stanger and who have Steven (3 months) and live in Brandon.

In 1979 Gordon received a Gold hammer from the Stanley Tool Company in recognition of the 50 years that the family were in the hardware business.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Bardwell

by Mrs. A. Armitage

Mr. W. Bardwell came to Canada from Ipswich, England in 1902, and came to the Thomas Douglas home, which was then the Penrith Post Office. His wife-to-be, Florence Partridge, came from London, England in 1905, and they were married on December 5, 1906 at the Thos. Douglas home, six miles south of Crandall. The first year after their marriage was spent at Creelman, Sask. where Mr. Bardwell was employed with the railroad on construction

work. The following year, they returned to the Lenore district and farmed there for a number of years. In 1914, they moved to a farm three miles south of Crandall and farmed there for ten years before moving to the Charles Craig farm three miles south of Isabella. Their children attended school at Isabella, and the family attended Sunday school and church at Blaris. Many social evenings, such as the Blaris Football Club suppers and dances were held at the Bardwell home.

On completion of high school at Isabella, their eldest daughter, Florence, took Normal school training at Brandon in 1929 and 1930. She then taught the next five-and-one-half years at Ravine and Palmerston Schools. In 1935, she married Austin Warren of Isabella, where they farmed until 1945, they then sold out and moved to Kelowna, B.C., where they still reside.

Marjorie, the second daughter, likewise took her Normal school training at Brandon in 1932 and 1933, and taught for five years at McAuley and Glenlocher schools. She married Allan Armitage in October 1938, and still resides at Miniota, Man.

Their third daughter, Merle, married Wesley Shurvell in December 1939. They lived at Waskada and Alameda, Sask., where Wesley was employed as a grain buyer. In 1941, her husband joined the RCAF and served overseas until his plane was shot down during operations over France. He made his escape and was returned to Canada in 1945. He is now employed in the Winnipeg Post Office.

William, their only son, joined the Royal Canadian Artillery at the outbreak of the Second World War. He joined the 71st Battery of the R.C.A. at Brandon. He served overseas for seven years in England, France and Italy, returning to Canada after the war in August 1945. He married Shirley Hunkin in June 1946 and they resided in Winnipeg until tragedy struck in September 1957, when Bill was drowned in Lake Manitoba.

After their son married in 1946, Mr. and Mrs. Bardwell decided to have a farm sale that fall. They then left to reside in Winnipeg. Their fiftieth anniversary was celebrated at the home of their daughter Marjorie of Miniota, Man. on December 5th, 1956. Mr. Bardwell did not enjoy the best of health in the last three years, and in August 1961 passed away. Mrs. Bardwell still resides in Winnipeg.

Update

by Marjorie Armitage

After the death of my father, Mr. Wm. Bardwell in August, 1961, my mother lived for a short time in Winnipeg. She then sold her house in Winnipeg and lived with her daughters. She spent a couple of win-

ters in Kelowna with Florence, Mrs. Austin Warren, and also spent time with Merle, Mrs. Wes Shurvell; but, most of her time was spent at my home, at Miniota. In 1969, she went to live in the new Park Lodge in Hamiota. She enjoyed living there and spent many hours taking part in Lodge activities. In November, 1976, she took sick and spent much of that winter in Hamiota Hospital. By spring she was able to return to her suite where she lived until passing away in September, 1977. She was in her 92nd year.

Allan and I were married October 22nd, 1938, at the farm home of my parents at Isabella. We spent the first year of our married life with Allan's Uncle Pickering Scutt in the Glenlochar district. The next year we built our house in the beautiful Assiniboine Valley and Allan farmed with his father for some time, then going into partnership with his brothers, Charles and Keith. We were married six years before we adopted our son, William Herbert. He now lives in Thompson, Man., and has two children, Patricia 12, and Barbara 8. Our daughter, Linda, was born in 1946. After completing her schooling in Miniota, she entered Brandon University, and graduated three years later, accepting a position teaching in Miami, Man. In 1969, she married William Schrader of Plumas. They have two children, — Christopher Allan, 8 years, and Margo Elizabeth, four years. They still reside at Miami.

Kenneth Allan, the youngest of the family was born in 1948. He is the farmer of the family, and lives in the home where his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Armitage raised their family. Ken married Rita Sheane of Willen, Man., and they have three children, — Lyanna, 11 years, Kelly, 7, and Trevor, 5. We enjoy having the children nearby us and only wish we could see the rest of our family more often.

Allan is now retired from farming but we continue to live on the farm where we enjoy our yard and garden.

Mr. and Mrs. Batty

Mr. and Mrs. Batty lived on the J. L. Thompson farm for a little while. They came from England. Mr. Batty worked for Mr. Charlie Craig.

Morris Thomas Beare

by Morris Beare

I, Morris Beare, son of Oliver Fredrick Beare and Ella Joyce (Nesbitt) Beare, was born December 27, 1936 at Rounthwaite, Manitoba, on section 17-8-18. I attended Delton School for Grades I to VIII, then went to Nesbitt High School for Grade IX. In 1952-3, I took an Industrial Arts Course at Brandon Collegiate. For 1953-5, I returned to Nesbitt High School

In 1958 I rented the farm SW 29-8-18 and farmed with my father. I bought the farm in 1964.

In the spring of 1973, I sold my farm and bought Russel Clark's farm, 21-15-25 at Isabella. I moved to the farm at Isabella on April 15, 1973, where I still reside.

E. H. Bedford

by Mrs. E. H. Bedford

The original Bedfords to come to this district were Joseph Henry and Susannah (Thompson), who were married at Bethany, Ontario on June 25, 1879. In 1880 Joseph came west to Brandon and worked as a carpenter for a year, then returned home. In 1883, the family which included Albert and David, came to Brandon, where they lived for a time, eventually homesteading near Alexander. Ann, Frederick, and three boys: Victor, Norman and Benjamin, who died in infancy; Ernest, Bertha and Ida were added to the family. In 1899 they and their neighbors, the George Phillips family, moved north, the Bedfords to section 1, township 15, range 25 near the present town of Decker.



Douglas, Dale, Ronald, Gerald, and Jamie, Trudy, Susan, Dianne, and Muriel, Ernest and Janet Bedford.

In 1910 Joseph Bedford sold his farm and with Ernest, Bertha and Ida went to live in Hamiota. Fred purchased the north half of 14-15-25 and farmed there until he went overseas in 1914. He was killed in action in October, 1918. David bought the south half of 7-15-24 and farmed there for many years. Ernest followed Fred overseas in 1916.

During the war years Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bedford lived on the farm, and retired to Brandon when Ernest returned to the farm. In 1924 he married Janet Iverach, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James

Iverach of Isabella. To them were born three children: Allen Gerald (1925), Ronald Ernest (1930) and Muriel Ruth (1932). After farming until 1938, the family moved to Melita and in 1949 to Brandon. In Brandon, Ernest secured a position with the Beaubier Hotel and Janet became the manageress of the Sewing Machine Department in Eaton's Brandon store. In 1970 they moved to Winnipeg, where Ernest retired and Janet continued serving for a few years on the staff of Eaton's, this time in the Winnipeg store. Today they reside in Valhalla Gardens, in North Kildonan on the east side of the Red River.

After completing secondary school in Melita, all three children continued to University study. Gerald obtained a Ph.D. degree in English (University of Toronto) and has for many years been a professor of English in the University of Winnipeg (formerly United College). In 1954 he married Jean Douglas of Mather, Manitoba. They have three sons: Douglas Allen who graduated in History from the University of Winnipeg (B.A. Hons.), and the University of Toronto (M.A.) and in Law from the University of Manitoba; Dale Murray, who is in business in Winnipeg; and James Ronald Charles, who is completing secondary school in North Kildonan.

Ronald joined the National Research Council in Ottawa after completing a Ph.D. degree in Physics (University of British Columbia). In 1955 he married Gertrude Cole of Gainsborough, Saskatchewan. They have three children: Michael Ernest who is in the intensive care unit of an Ottawa hospital and who married Barbara Hodgson in 1980; Linda Dianne, who graduated in Home Economics (Hospital Dietician) from the University of Guelph and is interning in the Vancouver General Hospital; and Kimberley Susan, who is in secondary school in Ottawa.

Muriel graduated in Arts and Education from the University of Manitoba (Brandon College) and has taught secondary school classes in Dauphin, Manitoba, Kenora, Ontario, and Orillia, Ontario, where she has resided since 1961.

There is an interesting story I remember my father telling of the farm on which we lived. It was homesteaded by Mr. John A. Frazer in 1879. Very often when work was not pressing, or on a Sunday, the young men of the district would join in a group to visit the different farms. One day in spring when the Arrow River was in flood they decided to visit John Frazer. The river was so deep that in order to keep their clothes dry they took them off and held them over their heads until they reached the other side. It was a warm, balmy day, so the easiest way to dry off was to continue up the hill and let the sun dry them. To their horror and embarrassment, on arriving at the site of the house, they noticed it had changed ap-

pearance. In place of the familiar bachelor establishment there now appeared sparkling windows with ruffled curtains, a new mat at the door, and a delicious aroma of baking. Mr. Frazer had married. I don't know if Mrs. Frazer had seen the guests approaching, but some rather quick dressing was done!

Dave and Kate Bell

by Kate Bell

For the earlier history of Dave and Kate Bell, see the William Bell, Sr. history.

As before stated, Dave and I were married in 1924 and Dave still continued to operate the farm where he was born. Our house is the same house his dad, with the help of Walter Palmer, built. We have replastered, and repainted. Dave built a garage in the twenties, and had a well drilled 81½ feet deep, but we have very good water and as far as we know, we have an abundance of it. Our well is now on the top of the hill and just a short distance from our house. We have built a number of granaries and have purchased two large steel bins.

In the summer of 1938 we lost three or four of our horses with sleeping sickness. We were up night after night with ice packs for them and constantly watched them in slings in the daytime. After that we purchased a W-30 tractor and gradually went out of horses entirely. Today we have a 500 diesel and larger implements to go with it.

Dave served as a member of the Miniota Municipal School Board from 1932 to 1943. He took the same interest in our school as his dad had taken. He was also the first secretary for the Manitoba Pool Elevator at Isabella. Mr. Bardwell was the president at the time and Mr. Herb Shurvell was the grain buyer.

Our farm was one of the first in the district to have our grain combined, as Dave and brother Will got their heads together and decided that it would be a wonderful way to thresh. Will bought the combine, and Dave bought a 15-30 International engine, both were bought from Mr. F. W. Decker, of Decker. He gave them a reduced price, when they bought the complete unit. They pulled the combine with the International, although, if the tractor had to be used elsewhere, Will would pull the combine with his three-horse team. Today we have a self-propelled combine. How different the price!

Dave always was a grain farmer at heart, but to make ends meet we had horses, cattle, pigs, and poultry. Today we are back to mostly grain farming. This time, not by choice, but Dave's health will not permit him to do any heavy lifting, so cleaning barns is out.

Dave and I are both supporters of the United Church. How could we be otherwise? Church Union came so quickly after our marriage.

Our family, five in number, are: Bob, Murray, Jim, Bill, and Janet.

Robert Craig took his schooling in Blaris, his high school at Isabella, and his Grade Twelve in Miniota. He served in the Navy in the Second World War, as a wireless telegrapher. He married Evelyn Brad of Isabella in 1946 and they now have six children and all live at North Bay, Ontario.

John Murray attended Blaris School, then high school at Isabella and took a two year diploma course at the University of Manitoba, in Agriculture. He married Phyllis Brown of Oakner in 1951 and they have a son, Ronald, and a daughter, Nancy Jean. They are farming in the Isabella district.

David James attended Blaris School, high school at Isabella and took Grade Twelve at Brandon College. He graduated from the University of Manitoba with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. He married Coral Oppertshauser of Edmonton in 1958, and they have three boys: Dean, James, and Bruce. Jim works for Pan-American Oil in Calgary.

William Roy attended Blaris School and remained on the farm. He married Gloria Peacock of Hamiota in 1959. They have three children: Catherine, David, and Robert. Bill farms the Sutherland farm in the Blaris district and with his father-in-law at Hamiota.

Janet Harding attended Blaris and Isabella School, then took nurses' training in Brandon General Hospital, graduating in May, 1959. She married J. V. (Bud) Kelly in September of the same year. Bud is a graduate in Electrical Engineering from the University of Manitoba. He is also a member of the R.C.A.F., now stationed at Rockcliffe, Ontario.

There have been five generations of Bells interested in the growth of this farm. First, there was grandfather Bell when he filed for his pre-emption, next Robert Bell, then David, our children, and today, our grandchildren who are fourteen in number. All love to come to Grandpa's. How true the words of Edgar Guest . . . "It takes a heap of livin' in a house to make a home."

Update by Kate Sunley

In the beginning of the year 1965, we decided to sell our farm, as it was getting too much for Dave, even with help from Murray. So by the time June came the lawyer's work was done, and we sold our three-quarter section to our son, Jim. We had also bought a house in Hamiota, on eighth street, so we moved on the 2nd of July. We were quite happy with our neighbors, and everyone was quite good to us.

We joined the Lawn Bowlers' Club, and from then on we bowled twice a week. Dave just bowled one or two years, but it was too much of a strain on him, so he quit. He had Parkinson's Disease, and hardening of the arteries.

Then in the year 1967 on Oct. 10th, our granddaughter phoned to tell us, that our son Bob had been killed instantly in a car accident. Murray made arrangements for his dad to go into the hospital, while he and I, Doug Harrison and Will and Roy Bell motored to North Bay for Bob's funeral. Bob is buried in North Bay cemetery, as is his youngest son Ray, who passed away in April 1982.

Bill had been in the hospital from April 29th, 1967 as he had been in an accident at that time. He had a broken leg, concussion, and various bruises and was in the hospital until November.

On June 26th, 1968, Dave passed away. He was buried from the Hamiota church, and laid to rest in the Hamiota Cemetery. Rev. Ralph Clark took the service. All the family came home except Evelyn. But her family was represented by our granddaughter, Linda. She was working in Winnipeg and came with Robert K. Bell, also Mildred, Dave's sister.

I am now Katie Sunley, as Ernie and I were married on February 24th, 1973. We were married in Boissevain, by Rev. Angus McColl. Roy and Lizzie Bell stood up with us.

Jim and Coral Bell

by Jim Bell

Note: Previously mentioned in Wm. Bell Sr. write up.

Jim purchased the home farm NE¼-24-14-26 W1 from his father, Dave, in 1965 and Gordon Grey's adjoining farm in 1966. He presently works for Alberta Energy Company in Calgary having moved to Alberta in the spring of 1954.



Allan, Bruce, Dean, Jamie, Jim and Coral Bell, 1979.

Dean, born in Edmonton, Alberta on March 26, 1959 is presently entering second year Medicine at the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

James, born in Calgary, Alberta on March 4, 1961 has attended one year of University in Vancouver and one year at York, in Toronto and is currently planning a trip to Europe.

Bruce, born in Calgary, Alberta on Feb. 14, 1962 is presently starting second year Economics at the University of Calgary.

Allan, born in Drayton Valley, Alberta on June 10, 1966 has completed grade nine in Calgary and in September is starting grade ten at Trinity College School at Port Hope, Ontario.

The Grey house was moved to the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ -24-14-26 from the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ -24-14-26 in 1980 and further renovations and home improvements are planned for 1982 which is Centennial year for the Bell Family Farm. Jim and Coral are planning on retiring from the city and returning to farm life if they are ever able to accumulate a nest egg, the intent being to farm until it is all gone.

Mr. and Mrs. John Bell by S. Bell

In the spring of the year 1881, William Bell and his son-in-law Walter Palmer, came to Brandon Manitoba from Pickering County, Ontario, by train and walked to the present site of the Steve Bell farm N. W. 24-14-26.

William Bell had come originally from Scotland, with his wife and two children, because of hardships caused by the change in land-holdings system known as the "Enclosures". In 1874, Annie Grierson wife of William Bell died. In 1881 William Bell made the first arrangements to move his family to Manitoba.

During the summer of 1881, Bell and Palmer built a house, so there would be a dwelling for the family to come to in the spring of 1882.

This house may be described as a story-and-a-half 18' by 24' building. There was a good cellar with stone walls. The lumber for the building was hauled from the mill at Birtle, probably using a team of mules owned by Donald Mckenzie. The walls of the house were filled with grout, a lime and sand mixture. The walls made in this way, were eight inches thick and made good protection against both the heat of summer and the cold of winter.

In the fall of 1881, Bell and Palmer returned to Ontario. The following spring, they came back to Manitoba bringing their families with them.

William and Frances Bell, the two older sons of William Bell, preferred to go to the United States where they settled in Michigan. Those members of his family coming with him were: his daughter Janet

(Mrs. W. Palmer), Margaret (Mrs. N. Rogers), Jeanine (Mrs. W. Mitchell), and his two younger sons, Robert and John. Another daughter, Annie (Mrs. T. Grey), came to Manitoba one year later.

There are many interesting anecdotes that may be told of the early years on the homestead. One concerns Jeannie, the youngest daughter. One day, during the frightening time of the second Riel Rebellion in 1885, Jeannie, alone in the house, saw an Indian enter the yard. She watched him as he went to the grindstone and began to sharpen his knife. Next he came to the house and asked for some food. Jeannie gave him the food, but when he asked for the boots belonging to her brother, she refused to hand them over. The Indian left without the boots.

Later, when the family returned, they admired her courage, but were appalled to think of the danger to her blond tresses.

The house happened to be near an old Indian trail, and in later years Indians called often at the Bell homestead. Sioux Benn called John Bell "Friend John".

The farm of William Bell consisted of NW 24-14-26, his homestead, and NE 24-14-26 his pre-emption. The pre-emption was later taken over by son Bob.

The first stable on the farm was built of logs hauled from the Assiniboine valley. The building was about seventy feet long and had a sod roof. This stable, with some additions, was still in use in 1914 when John Bell built a 72' x 30' barn employing the Kirkaldy brothers as carpenters.

The first breaking was done in 1881, when Bell and Palmer grew a crop of potatoes which was stored in the cellar of the newly-built house and which added to the food supply when the families came in 1882. Water was procured from dug wells and for the first few years, was in short supply. It was not thought possible at that time to go beyond fifteen feet. When a forty to fifty foot well was dug, the water supply was adequate.

Farming could be described as grain farming. Equipment consisted of oxen, walking plough, wagon, sleigh, harrows and cradle. The grain was sown by broadcasting it by hand. William Bell could sow enough grain before breakfast to keep someone harrowing with the oxen all day. This would be approximately ten acres.

The line of equipment contrasts sharply to the line of equipment used at present on the farm. This equipment consists of two tractors, one diesel, and one smaller gas tractor, discer drill, cultivator, harrows, combine, truck, wagons and haying equipment. The workman of today would probably take half an hour to harrow ten acres.

Grain from the William Bell farm was hauled to Virden in the winter time in order to cross the river on the ice. Two settlers with two teams of oxen would set out together in order to "double up" to climb the valley hill.

Butter and eggs were taken to "Old Beulah" in order to be sold at the store there. These trips were made on foot. In 1897, eggs were sold for five cents a dozen and butter for twelve cents a pound.

William Bell took his plough shares to be sharpened at Birtle. He did this errand on foot with a plough share in each hand. He was one of the trustees of Blaris School when it was first established in 1885. The next owner of this farm was John Bell, youngest son of William Bell.

John Bell was a pupil of the first class held in Blaris School when it was opened in 1885. Later, he went to Glanton School at Forrest.

John and his brother, Bob, batched together for a while.

On the 21st of December, 1897, John Bell married Marion Brown of Howick Township, Huron County, Ontario. Three children were born of this marriage: William Clarkson, Barbara Grierson and John Steven.

William died in infancy. Barbara attended school at Blaris and at Isabella High School and did well in her studies. The family suffered a cruel blow in August, 1920, when Barbara died of pneumonia at the age of seventeen.

John Bell extended the farm to include the S.E. quarter of 23-14-26 which he bought from Dr. Fraser, and the N.E. quarter of 23-14-26, which was C.P.R. land.

John Bell was secretary-treasurer of the Presbyterian Church at Blaris from 1907 until the time of union in 1925. He was for many years trustee of the Blaris School. He was on the first school board at the inception of the Miniota Municipal School System in 1919, and was always a staunch advocate of this plan, to offer secondary school education to all the children of the municipality.

Mrs. John Bell took an active part in all church and community work. She taught a senior class in Sunday School for many years. She was a charter member and also a life member of the W.M.S. at Blaris. She held office in both the W.M.S. and the Ladies Aid at Blaris, and she was "Strangers Secretary" of the Presbytery in 1921 and 1922.

The present owner of this farm is John Steven Bell, only son of John Bell. Steve attended Blaris School, Isabella High School and Success Business College in Winnipeg.

Steve was a school trustee on the Miniota Municipal School Board from 1946 to 1956.

On October 23, 1937, John Steven Bell married Gwen, eldest daughter of J. J. Taylor of Miniota. Of this marriage there are three sons: John James, Steven Spencer, and Robert Kennedy.

John James is at present a teacher on the staff of Virden Collegiate.

On October 7, 1956, John James Bell married Gwendolyn Marie, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Edwards of Hamiota. Of this marriage there are four sons: John Edward, Daniel Roy, Richard Wayne and Brian Scott.

Steven Spencer Bell and Robert Bell are at present Fourth year Science students at Brandon College. Both have held positions on the main executive, representing the student body. Bob was manager of the Athletic Board 1961-62. Spence was class president 1960-61, and Brandon College Students' Association representative 1961-62. Spence is president of the student body (Senior Stick) for the 1962-1963 year.

History of the John Bell Family a sequel to the 1962 history sent in by Steve Bell by Gwen Bell

John Bell, Steve's father died in 1960 in his eighty-sixth year. Since the 1962 history in **Rural Reflections** there are other sad changes to record.

Mrs. John Bell died in 1965 in her ninetieth year.

John Stephen Bell died April 9th, 1974.

Steve had left the farm, farmed first by his grandfather in 1881 or 1882. He rented the farm to Ron Bell, and spent most of the winter, 1967-68, in Arizona, U.S.A., where his health improved. He said, he "felt like running races again". Steve and his wife moved, in 1970, to Victoria, B.C. where Steve had a position on the staff of the Swiftsure Inn as night auditor of that very complex business that overlooks the Inner Harbour.

The farm: NW 24-14-26, first farmed by William Bell; NE 23-14-26, bought by John Bell from the C.P.R.; and SE 26-14-26, bought by John Bell from Dr. Fraser, is still rented by Ron Bell as part of his large farming enterprise.

In 1962, John (Jack) James, Steve's oldest son was on the teaching staff of Virden Collegiate. Spence and Robert K. were still at university.

Jack and family moved from Virden to Churchill, Manitoba where Jack had a position in the secondary school at the military base. It turned out that the little boys, John, Danny, Rick, and Scott, at a very early age (the youngest was two or three) were very good at singing in three part harmony and won prizes and entertained. Their mother was their accompanist at the piano.

In 1968, Jack was granted Educational Leave and

the family moved to Brandon. Jack completed degrees at the University of Brandon and the University of Saskatchewan. He was awarded a scholarship from the University of Saskatchewan to continue towards a Masters Degree but was not able to accept the award at that time. The family moved to Fort Smith, N. W. T. where Jack became Director of Continuing Education for the Northwest Territories. His main concern in this position, for a time, was in the establishment, successfully, of the Adult Vocational Training Centre at Fort Smith. Courses included: Welding, Heavy Duty Mechanics, Carpentering, Nursing Assistant, Dental Assistant, Up-Grading and Life-Skills courses. This was the first time that such a training centre had been opened in the Northwest Territories. Students came from many parts of the Territories: Cambridge Bay, Holman Island, Fort Rae, Yellowknife, Fort Simpson, Lac LaMarte, Fort Providence and Fort Smith. The Centre later became a Community College.

In 1968, there was a great urgency to get native people trained, and able to take jobs in the many fields that were opening up because of new finds in oil and uranium. In traveling around in the North one meets people, now in their thirties, (some of them) who feel that their stay at the Centre was a great turning point in their lives.

In the late summer of 1974, Jack Bell accepted a position with the Dept. of Northern Saskatchewan (D.N.S.), a department of the Saskatchewan Government that serves the northern part of the province, and has its headquarters at La Ronge.

Jack became Director of Continuing Education for Northern Saskatchewan, responsible for Community Colleges, Manpower requirements, company requirements, all having the objective of building up a skilled work force in Northern Saskatchewan.

In 1979, Jack Bell left D.N.S. and set up the firm: Bell, Ahenakew and Associates, Training Consultants, Box 228, La Ronge, Sask. S0J 1L0

From his La Ronge office, he also manages: Sunshine Office Services, (S.O.S.), an office overload and accounting service, which he now owns.

From the same office, he manages and now owns: Northern Courier Service.

Gwen M. Bell began studies leading towards a Degree in Science at Brandon University when the family was living in Brandon, Manitoba. Gwen M. has continued to attend classes at University of Saskatchewan, and has a responsible job with the Dept. of Agriculture, Federal Gov't., in Saskatoon.

John E. Bell lives in La Ronge and is Bulk Distributor for Esso Oil Co. Danny Bell is married to Lyn Vogt, eldest daughter of John Vogt, Mayor of Fort Smith. They have a son, Jason. Danny works for

Athabaska Airways, La Ronge. Lyn is a secretary at D.N.S. Rick Bell has also worked for Athabaska Airways at La Ronge. This year he is at the University of Saskatchewan doing pre-Law. Scott Bell graduated with Senior Matriculation (Grade Twelve) from Notre Dame College, Wilcox, Saskatchewan. He works for Sask. Hydro and his home is in La Ronge.

Stephen Spencer Bell completed his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Manitoba (1963) and later, his degree in Education, (Bachelor of Education). From universities in Ontario he received creditation as Science Specialist.

Spence taught science in the Secondary school at Miami, Manitoba, for one year; then moved to Dryden, Ontario, to teach at the Senior Secondary level. In 1967, Spence moved to Marathon, Ontario and is now Head of the Science Department in the Secondary school there and teaches Physics and Chemistry at the senior level (grades 12 and grade 13).

June 17th, 1967, Stephen Spencer Bell married Wendy Maureen Hutt of North Bay. They have two children, Brenda Leigh, and Stephen Robert James.

Wendy Bell is at present editor of the Marathon Mercury. Also, Wendy has had the honour of being appointed by the Ontario Dept. of Health to be a member of a Commission to study certain health hazards in the province.

Spence still plays in a band, trumpet or guitar, as he has done since university days. He still plays hockey, on defence, coaches hockey, has a big part in management of the local Educational Television Station. All of the family ski. There is good skiing (downhill facilities) near the town of Marathon.

In February, 1981, Spence applied to the C.R.T.C. for a license to open an FM Radio Station near Marathon. He received the licence to open: CFNO-FM.

Name of station: North Superior Broadcasting Ltd., Box 822, Marathon, Ontario P0T 2E0.

The expectation is that the new station will be on the air in the near future.

Robert K. Bell graduated from the University of Manitoba with a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1963. He did not continue studies at the University of Manitoba at that time, although he had been accepted at Medical College, June 19, 1963. In 1963, he was Principal of the High School at Glenella, Manitoba. In 1965, he resumed studies at the University of Manitoba and in 1967, graduated with a Master of Science Degree.

July 26, 1968, Robert Kennedy Bell married Lawrie Mae Johnston of Crandall, Manitoba.

Lawrie was an R.N. and was continuing studies at the University of Manitoba. In 1968, Bob worked at the U. of Manitoba and Lawrie was teaching nursing

at the St. Boniface Hospital in Winnipeg. In the same year they passed the requirements to qualify to work for the Federal Government in the North and moved to Aklavik in the Northwest Territories. Life north of the Arctic Circle seemed to suit them very well and they enjoyed it. They stayed several years at Aklavik. Lawrie was a nurse at the Nursing Station. Bob was Vice-Principal then Principal of Moose Kerr School, and for about three years was a Councillor on the Aklavik Council.

It was in Aklavik that Jennifer Leanne, daughter of Robert K. Bell and Lawrie Bell was born, November 8, 1974, at the Nursing Station.

In 1976, the family moved to Hay River, N.W.T. where Bob was Principal of the Diamond Jenness Secondary School, considered to be one of the most modern school structures anywhere in North America. It had been completed in 1972 at a cost of approximately two million dollars.

In 1978, the Robert K. Bell family moved to Yellowknife, capital city of the Northwest Territories, where Bob had a position with the Department of Renewable Resources, N.W.T. Wildlife Services, and Lawrie had a position at the Yellowknife Hospital. Bob became Supervisor, Wildlife Management, N.W.T. Wildlife Service. They bought a house that overlooks Great Slave Lake.

There have been some changes through 1980-81. Lawrie now has a position as District Nurse. Bob is on the Science Advisory Board of the Northwest Territories. Jennifer goes to a Yellowknife Elementary School and is in Grade Two.

Murray and Phyllis Bell

by J. M. Bell

I, John Murray Bell, the second son of David James and Katie (Craig) Bell of Blaris, was born September 6, 1927 at Miniota, Manitoba.

I took my elementary schooling at Blaris and



Murray, Phyllis, Ron Bell, Nancy, David, and Kris Weinhandl.

high school at Isabella. I then went to the University of Manitoba, where I received my diploma in Agriculture, graduating in 1949.

While at university, I met Phyllis Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Brown of Oakner. We were married on November 17, 1951 and have two children: Ronald Murray and Nancy Jean. Ronald was born December 20, 1952, and Nancy on April 16, 1955, both at Hamiota Hospital. They attended elementary school at Isabella and high school at Birtle.

We purchased the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of 26-14-25 in 1950, and the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of 6-15-25 in 1951, the latter being the original William Taylor farm, homesteaded by him in 1882. We lived the first year of our marriage at the Gordon Grey home at Blaris; moving to our own farm in the spring of 1952. We lived in the original two-story frame house until 1967, when we built a new home. The barn, moved from Blaris school in 1956, has been replaced by a metal implement shed, since we no longer have livestock. The van shed, moved from Isabella school in 1953, is now a double garage and shop.

In the sixties we started to work the former Gordon Grey farm, now owned by Jim Bell. In 1979, we bought the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 32-14-25 from Mother. We had been



Ron Bell, Brenda Evans, and Jamie Bell Evans.

renting it for a number of years. Along with Ron, we now farm twelve quarters; growing wheat, barley, flax, rapeseed and mustard. Some grain is grown on contract, and some for registered seed.

After high school, Ron went to the University of Manitoba for two years and in 1971 began farming with me. He rented three quarters from J. S. Bell. He now also rents one quarter from his Uncle Jim. On September 15, 1979, he married Brenda Evans, daughter of Len and Alice Evans of Winnipeg. Brenda has her Bachelor of Arts and her Bachelor of Education degrees from the University of Manitoba and has been teaching at Birtle for the past five years. Their son, James David Bell-Evans, was born on September 18, 1980 in Brandon.

Nancy worked several summers during high school in the recreation field, and continued her education at Kelsey Institute in Saskatoon. She graduated in Recreational Technology in the spring of 1975. On August 30, 1975, at Isabella she married David Weinhandl, son of George and Marian Weinhandl of Lintlaw, Saskatchewan. David went to school at Lintlaw and graduated from high school at Kelvington. For the first five years they both worked in Saskatoon, David in a tire shop and Nancy at a Daycare Centre. On August 7, 1980, their son, Kristopher Scott, was born. That same fall, they moved to Eaglesham, Alberta, where they bought a service station, specializing in tires and snow machines.

In researching for information for the Centennial of the original Bell homestead, we found documents which state that they arrived from Ontario in the spring of 1882 and filed for a homestead on May 15, 1882. That year they broke eight acres, and built a house, 16 x 18. They went back to Ontario on October 28, returned on April 2, 1883 to stay.

We look forward to a Bell reunion in August 1982 to celebrate this centennial.

William Bell Jr.

by Mr. Wm. Bell

William Bell was the oldest son of Robert and Florence Bell, Florence being the oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Hill all of Blaris. William was born and raised on the old home farm 24-14-26 in the Blaris district going to school and church in the same place.

He enlisted in the Fort Garry Horse at Miniota June 28, 1916 and was discharged June 2, 1919. After a short holiday at the old home, he visited the west coast to have a look around but decided farming was for him.

On October 21, 1919 he purchased the Northeast quarter of 21-14-25 and the Southeast quarter of

28-14-25, where he still lives, from William John Hill who had homesteaded it. Later on he purchased the east half of 22-14-25 which has since been sold. This land is of a rolling nature and has a black loam surface. It has never failed to produce a crop in the forty two years he has been privileged to live on it.



William and Mabel Bell.

He also has a drilled well which has never been known to go dry.

In 1928 Mr. Bell purchased a 10 foot International combine and swather with reel and pick-up attachments, which is believed to be the first one in the Blaris district. It was used at first binder fashion with six horses, later with a tractor. He was the butt of many remarks both complimentary and otherwise, but it proved the trend of the times. Since that time a self-propelled combine has taken its place.

In 1929 Mr. Bell married Nellie Young, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Young of Crandall. Nellie was chief operator at Crandall for the Miniota Municipal telephone system before her marriage. She passed away in 1936. Mr. Bell married Mabel Henderson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Henderson of Scotia in 1942. She was head ironer at the Kelowna Steam Laundry in B.C. at the time of her marriage.

Mr. Bell belongs to the Miniota branch of the Canadian Legion and has received his twenty five year badge. He is also a member of the Oddfellows Lodge. Since the closing of the Blaris Church, Crandall Church is attended.

Being a member of the beef ring, going up to M.G. Little's farm for the beef was a Friday night chore. In rainy weather and dirt roads, it was necessary to travel by horseback, but being a cavalry man that was no hardship for him. With the coming of

electricity and with deep-freezers in every home, beef rings are no longer necessary.

Today it is a mixed farm and a commercial herd of Hereford cattle proved a very profitable sideline. At one time the farm supported sixteen light and heavy horses, but now there is only one around the farm.

In looking back over the years one ponders the changes that have taken place and signs of progress certainly have to be admitted. I wish to pay sincere tribute to the memory of Mr. and Mrs. William John Hill who pioneered on this farm and in this district before I took over. "They builded better than they knew."

1981 Update by Mabel Bell

We retired from the farm in August 1964 and moved to 1209-9th Street in Brandon. We have enjoyed our years here in Brandon but it was quite a change from the farm.

Trinity United Church is the one we attend and I belong to the afternoon United Church Women's group. We have been out to the west coast several times since living in Brandon and we have toured a lot of Manitoba by bus trips.

Two years ago Bill was made a life member of the Fort Garry Horse Association, and he has belonged to the Miniota Legion for forty-four years.

Neither of us is too spry but we get about and enjoy life. We have made many friends since coming to this friendly city, but we still keep in touch with the ones we had when we lived on the farm.

We are now living at Fairview Home Inc. in Brandon.

William Bell Sr. by Mrs. Dave Bell

In the early spring of the year 1881, William Bell, my husband's grandfather, came to Manitoba, from Green River, Pickering County in Ontario. He took a homestead on the northwest quarter of 24-14-26. He also took, as a pre-emption, the northeast quarter of the same section.

He put up a small frame dwelling, broke patches of prairie land with oxen, put in a few potatoes and a little garden. He worked all summer at his holdings, and, when fall came, he made preparations for his trip back East. He picked his potatoes that were still in the garden, stored them in his small cellar and he and his son-in-law, Walter Palmer who homesteaded on the same section, returned to Ontario for the winter months.

In the spring of 1882, he and as many of his family as could come west, came with him, to his Manitoba homestead. His wife had passed away in Ontario before he made his decision to start a new life by coming west.



Robert Bell family: Mae, Millie, Roy, Jessie, Dave, and Will.

They hurried to finish his house, which he had lived in the previous summer; his potatoes, stored in the basement had been touched with frost but were still edible, though somewhat sweeter than they liked. The land on the homestead and pre-emption was black loam with a clay base, and a picturesque ravine ran through both quarters.

He acquired a team of oxen, and with their help and his determination and hard toil, soon had larger fields of cultivated land, and with a walking plow I'm sure hard labor was much in evidence.

Feeling that he could make an adequate living from his homestead as his fields were growing larger, he threw up his pre-emption and his son, Robert, homesteaded it.

Robert built a small log shack on the south side of the ravine. The shack has been out of existence for many years, but three or four stalwart birch trees mark the spot where it once stood, and to our knowledge they are the only birch trees in the Blaris district. No doubt he planted the trees as a shelter to his home, and his grandchildren all think the birch trees an oddity but are proud of their existence.

Later, Robert built almost straight north of his first location. His father, William Bell, passed away in the year 1887, and he was buried in the Arrow River Cemetery.

On February 3, 1892, Robert Bell was married to Florence Hill, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Hill, and they continued to farm. Their first home still stands. Of this marriage the following children were born: William, Roy, Jessie, Dave, Mildred, May and Chester.

William Bell (who served in the First World War in The Fort Garry Horse) and his wife, Mabel, now farm in the Crandall district.

Roy, also in uniform in the same war, now is a retired forest ranger. He built a lovely new home in Boissevain in which he and his wife reside. They have four children. One girl and one boy live in Edmonton. One boy lives in Yellowknife, N.W.T., and one girl lives in Winnipeg. Both girls are registered nurses. All are married and have families of their own.

Jessie, Mrs. J. E. Sunley, has three girls. One has her R.N. The other two girls are married to farmers, one in the Birtle district and the other in the Hamiota district. They have six sons: two are farmers, one a Winnipeg policeman one a medical doctor, one a station agent at Thompson, Manitoba, and one in high school in Hamiota. All but the two younger boys are married.

David James was named after his grandfather Hill. He and I were married at the home of my dad and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Craig, in November, 1924. At that time their home was one-and-a-half miles north of Arrow River. Dave and I live on Grandpa Bell's pre-emption (or his father's homestead.)

Mildred, Mrs. William Carlson, lived in Saskatoon until her husband passed away in March, 1939. She is an x-ray technician and now resides in Winnipeg.

May, Mrs. Allan Warren, died in Dawson Creek in November, 1960 and was buried in Dawson Creek cemetery.

Chester died with diphtheria when he was quite young, in 1906.

All the family attended Blaris School and all but Will, attended the Isabella High School.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bell was enlarged twice to make room for their growing family. It was heated with a wood burning cook stove, and two wood burning heaters, so had two chimneys. Later they burnt coal in the heaters. A furnace was installed in 1910. There are three bedrooms upstairs; a dining room, parlor and bedroom is on the ground floor, and in a small basement there is room for a coal bin, furnace, and fruit shelves. Their barn was built in 1905. The lumber was purchased by permit from Riding Mountain and shipped to Arrow River from Laurier, Manitoba. Two more quarters were added to their farm, namely, SW 19-14-25 and NW 7-14-25. Their water supply was good, but the well was in the ravine. Their wheat was hauled to Virden, a distance of thirty odd miles. One trip in the winter, Mr. Bell upset his load, and after getting his sleigh right way up, his wheat reloaded, and on his way again, he realized he had lost his pocket watch. It was a prized possession as it had been his dad's and his dad had given it to him. On his way home he looked for it, but

all in vain. No watch! He made a careful study of the upset location, and returned as soon as possible after the snow melted in the spring. To his joy he found it and it would still keep good time. Today, his oldest son, William, has it amongst his keepsakes, a watch that has been owned by three generations. As time progressed, they hauled their grain to Birtle, then to Hamiota, and later to Arrow River. By this time they were hauling with horses, an improvement from oxen. It was mostly winter hauling.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Bell were loyal to the Presbyterian Church, although Mrs. Bell had been a Methodist till her marriage. Both helped whenever possible in all community undertakings and were especially interested in Blaris School where Mrs. Bell, herself, had attended as a girl, and where John Bell, Robert's younger brother, had also attended. Mr. Bell was an active member of the Canadian Order of Foresters. They held their lodge meetings in Hamiota.

Mrs. Bell was very adept with her hands, and a new baby never arrived in the Blaris district, without a gift of a bonnet, booties or jacket, either crocheted or knit by herself. She also served efficiently as secretary of the Red Cross for the district. During the First World War, she helped to pack many a soldier's box, and always tucked in a prayer for his safety.

Mr. Bell was accidentally killed while sawing wood quite close to his dwelling in January, 1908. The following appeared in print at the time of his passing and conveys, much clearer than I can, the esteem in which he was held. He was thirty-eight years old.

A Letter of Sympathy . . . "The Blaris Fatality"

It is my painful duty to chronicle the death of Mr. Robert Bell, which took place on his own farm on the sixth of January, 1908. The deceased was in the act of sawing wood with a horse-powered circular saw. The belt slipped from the jack, and Mr. Bell went to stop the power, by applying a hand spike to the jack. As soon as he put pressure on the wheel, it broke, and a piece struck him in the temple and he was almost instantly killed.

The writer knew the deceased for twenty-five years, since he was a mere boy, and it was only needful to know "Bob Bell" in order to admire him. While left, when only a boy without his father, the duty of attending to the farm, and looking after the household affairs devolved on him, he conducted himself in such a manner as older heads might copy with profit. While yet a young man, he had secured for himself and family, a farm and surroundings that show the energy and perseverance of the man. He had acquired considerable property outside of his homestead, had erected commodious buildings, and

just when he had reached the climax of his ambitions, he was called hence.

Mr. Bell was a devoted husband, a kind and an indulgent Father, a loyal churchman and a good neighbor in the settlement in which he lived. His word on business was as good as his bond. He scorned to commit a low or unmanly act. In fact those traits of character were inherent in him, for he was a worthy son of a worthy sire.

To the widow and her children, the writer extends his heartfelt sympathy in their bereavement, and prays that "Him" who has promised to be a husband to the widow, and a father to the fatherless, may take them under the folds of his protecting care.

A Neighbor.

Mrs. Bell and her young family ran the farm till her death in 1923. She passed away in her sleep, due to a heart condition. Both she and her husband are buried in the Arrow River Cemetery.

At the time of her death, Will and Roy were both at Grandview, Manitoba, where each had a homestead. David had been running the farm for his mother while the boys were overseas so he continued to do so. The two youngest girls were in school. The following year, Mildred went to Saskatoon to train as a nurse, and May stayed at her Grandpa Hill's in Hamiota and continued her schooling, returning to the farm for weekends.

Sioux Benn

In 1876, a young general, by the name of George Armstrong Custer, was sent into the western United States to share General Sheridan's campaign to quell the Indian uprisings in Montana. They fought the Sioux Indians, under Sitting Bull, a Sioux Indian Chief, who refused to live on a reservation. He was one of the last tribal leaders to submit to the United States authorities. It was at the battle of Little Big Horn, that Sitting Bull and his followers ambushed and destroyed General Custer's forces. Custer and two hundred and sixty four of his men were surrounded by about three thousand Indians and shot down in the fight, known as "Custer's Last Stand". Sioux Benn told of this battle. "In the early morning, General Custer and his men came riding over the hill in their colorful uniforms. He was a big fine-looking fellow — but he not know how to fight Indian. I was lying in ambush and ping — all over for General Custer!" Sitting Bull and some of his tribe escaped to Canada. Some time later, when he returned to the United States, he was shot by Indian Police at Grand River.

Sioux Benn lived on the Birdtail Reserve, west and north of Beulah, with the Dakota Indians. The Sioux are part of the Dakota Tribe. Sioux Benn was a

well known figure in this community. Many in the community can recall this colorful figure calling at homes, where he knew he was welcome. Here he would be given food and clothing, that had been saved for him. His tent pitched on the old picnic grounds was a familiar sight.

Anyone to whom he spoke, had a feeling that he was a little afraid that some day the American authorities would come and take him back to the United States. Some of the old-timers that knew Sioux Benn said he was a fine looking man in his youth. Some think he acted as a scout in the Riel Rebellion of 1885.

Sioux Benn showed a picture of Sitting Bull that he had taken from the cover of a magazine. He was very proud of that picture.

Other Indians from the Reserve visited the community also, selling their baskets made from willow branches as well as braided mats and cranberries. They had a friendly visit in the homes and nearly always received food and clothing before returning home. Their teams and low wagons dotted the countryside.

Some of the names of those that called in the district were: Hannah McLeod, Mrs. Charlie Hanska, Mrs. Bunn and Mrs. Jenny Bluebird. In 1939, Dr. Chalmers had his first Indian maternity case in the hospital at Miniota.

Rev. and Mrs. H. I. Bowman were welcome guests at the well cared-for home of Mr. and Mrs. Hanska. Mr. Hanska helped Mr. Bowman by leading the singing at the church services on the Reserve.

Living conditions have improved and their ways have changed. The children receive their education at a new elementary school built in 1960 on the reserve. There is also a residential school at Birtle. Automobiles have replaced the team and wagon, and these people, like the rest of us, travel farther for entertainment and employment.

Since 1962 the elementary school has been closed on the Reserve. The residential school at Birtle is no longer used. Now the children travel by bus to attend schools in Birtle.

Herbert and Marilynn Bernard by Marilynn Bernard

I, Marilynn Joyce Bernard, am the eldest child of Frank and Hannah Reid. I attended school at Isabella and Birtle. I belonged to the 4H Sewing Club, C.G.I.T., and sang in the church choir. I enjoyed skating and curling on Saturday afternoons, but reading was my favorite pastime.

My parents encouraged me to take advantage of every opportunity that presented itself, especially in education and music. I went to the University of

Manitoba and obtained my Bachelor of Arts degree in 1968 and my Certificate in Education in 1969. I taught in Heritage School in Winnipeg for four years and then moved to Edmonton in 1973. I taught chil-



Marilynn and Herb Bernard, 1973.

dren with learning disabilities in Kildore School for three years, and then moved into a Grade I classroom. I received my Graduate Diploma in Reading in 1973 and my Graduate Diploma in Elementary Education in 1975.

On December 29, 1973 Herb and I exchanged our marriage vows in Isabella United Church — my home church where I had worshipped, had attended Sunday School, had sung in the choir and where I was confirmed.

Herb and I bought our home in Edmonton in 1974. Herb, at that time, was sales agent for Bicknell Freighters and also owned and drove his own truck under Bicknell colors. He later worked in the same capacity for Thoveson Transport. Then in 1979 he decided to build his own trucking company and now is the proud owner of Bernard Transport Ltd.

Herb enjoys curling, hockey games and watching T.V. In my spare moments, away from the classroom and my involvement on education committees, I enjoy downhill skiing at Jasper and Banff, reading, and sewing.

Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Beveridge

Paul Beveridge was born in Kircaldy, Scotland. He came to Canada and to Isabella in 1912, when he worked for a time at his trade as a carpenter.

He went back to Scotland, and in April 1914 returned to Isabella with his bride, the former Euphemia Glass, also of Kircaldy.

His first job following his return, was helping with the building of the J. Finkbeiner house, as their house was burned the morning after his arrival.

During the next few years, Paul continued at his

trade, and with his crew of men, many fine houses and barns were built through the district.

They stand as a lasting tribute to his fine workmanship.

Shortly before 1920, he went into partnership with Mr. Jas. Iverach in the lumber and hardware business, and carried on there until the business was closed in 1941.

Through the 27 years Mr. and Mrs. Beveridge resided in Isabella, they had a part in every worthwhile activity in the Community. Paul was a valued member of The United Church choir. In 1918 he was leader of the Boy Scouts, and also took part in many of the local drama plays.

He was secretary of the rink and the Curling Club for many years, and memories of him still linger, as he stood at the curling draw during the bonspiel, trying to arrange the games to suit everyone concerned.

It was a task which was well-nigh impossible, but how he tried.

Mrs. Beveridge was a faithful member of the W.M.S. and was a charter member of the Women's Institute. She was a leader of some of the Extension Service sewing groups, and acted as chaperone to the girls at an Older Girls' Conference which was held in Winnipeg in 1917.

Their only son Harry, was born on July 1, 1918.

When the hardware business was closed in 1942, Mr. and Mrs. Beveridge moved to Winnipeg, where Paul worked as a cabinet maker, for a number of years. He finally became ill, and when he was no longer able to work, they moved to Flin Flon where Paul passed away in 1953.

Their son Harry, served with the RCAF in Canada during the Second World War. He married Anne Clark, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alec Clark formerly of Isabella.

They now reside in Flin Flon, where Harry is a pilot for the Hudson's Bay Air Transport.

They have three children: a son Jim, who is at present attending Brandon College, a daughter Peggy-Jo attending school in Flin Flon, and a young daughter not yet in school.

Mrs. P. J. Beveridge still resides in Flin Flon.

1982 update — Mrs. Beveridge passed away on Jan. 19, 1978.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bingham

by Vera Clark

One of the couples who worked for Allan Clark was Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bingham. They had two small girls. They were with Al part of the winter of 1918, and the summer of 1919. In the spring, Mrs. Bingham, who was expecting another child, went to En-

gland. She took her two children and came back in November with the three children. Their train was rammed and Mrs. Bingham and the two smaller children were killed. One daughter survived. The Company sent their bodies back to Isabella. The caskets were taken to the John Clark home and were later buried in Isabella cemetery. Mr. Bingham and Ivy stayed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Clark for the summer, and in the fall, they went back to England.

Mr. and Mrs. David Blleloch

by Mrs. D. Blleloch

Mr. and Mrs. David Blleloch bought S.W.¼ of sec. 10 — twp. 15 — R 25 from J. Murray of Hamiota in 1908 and lived in this district for twenty-two years. This was a fairly level farm, only part was a little rolling. The soil was black loam with clay subsoil. Their water supply was from a dug well.

Mr. Blleloch carried on mixed farming, hauling his wheat ten miles by team and wagon. Their home was of frame construction, heated by a cook stove. He bought a Massey-Harris eight foot binder in 1908 and in 1917 bought a Model T Ford car which was a luxury after driving horses on a buggy for so many years.

They had six children: David, who served in World War II was overseas with the Lake Superior Motor Regiment, and since his discharge has worked as a checker and grader of lumber with a lumber company in B.C. at Port Alberni.

Robert and John served in the Air Force in World War II and on their discharge purchased a farm through the Veteran's Land Act, four miles south of Birtle on Highway 83.

Their older daughter, Nellie, is married to Mr. Wm. Paterson, caretaker in Doig's store in Brandon where they reside.

Sarah, the younger daughter, is married to Mr. Hugh Harley who works for the Brandon Fair board. They, too, reside in Brandon.

Tom, the youngest son, lives at home. He works out on farms and has been care-taker of the Birtle skating rink for two or three years.

The family all attended school at Isabella except Tom who wasn't of school age when they left here to reside at Birtle. Mr. and Mrs. Blleloch live in Birtle where he is caretaker at the Royal Bank. They always liked the Isabella district as the people were all so good and friendly.

Update

by Evelyn Blleloch

David Blleloch was born at Torryburn, Scotland, September 3, 1886, the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs.

David Blleloch. He came to Canada in 1907 and worked for William Iverach.

On December 29, 1915, he married Mary Isabella Craig, born April 12, 1890, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Angus Craig of Miniota. They celebrated their Golden Wedding 1965. David died 1968, and Mary, 1978. David and Mary have six children, eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Their son, David, has been in British Columbia since 1936. He works as lumber inspector for the Alberni Pacific Lumber Company in Port Alberni. He married Evelyn Bell on November 30, 1946. They have two children Linda and David. Linda was born February 28, 1948. She married Gordon Hector King, November 30, 1968. They have two children; Tammy Lynn, born May 27, 1970 and Leanne Louise, born April 9, 1972. They live at Parkville, British Columbia where Gordon is a master mechanic for Mais Contracting. David was born November 12, 1952. He lived in Port Alberni and works for MacMillan Bloedel Pulpmill.

Robert, married Isabel Grant of Birtle, September 13, 1951. He manages the lumberyard of Twin Valley Co-op in Birtle. Robert and Isabel have four children Russell, Angus, Mark and Roberta. Russell Robert, born April 9, 1952, married Frances Jean Ellis of Foxwarren on September 17, 1977. He works for Good Roads and lives in Birtle. Angus Grant, born March 23, 1957, married Kathryn Maxine Murray of Binscarth on Sept. 2, 1978. Their son, Stanley David, born March 28, 1981 in Esterhazy died later that day in Regina. Angus works for the Potash Mine at Esterhazy. Mark Allan, born February 12, 1961, is presently in Grade 12 at Birtle. Roberta Jean, born April 9, 1964, is in Grade 10 at Birtle.

John and Tom are unmarried and live in Birtle. They both work at Twin Valley Co-op in Birtle.

Helen (Nellie), elder daughter of David and Mary Blleloch, married William Allan Paterson, November 19, 1960. He passed away April 28, 1981. There were no children.

Sarah married Hugh Harley, August 4, 1951. They have two daughters. Catherine Mary, born July 8, 1952, works at the Brandon Clinic. Linda Margaret, born November 16, 1956, died Nov. 9, 1957. Hugh passed away Dec. 3, 1966. Sarah works at Perth Laundry in Brandon.

Mr. and Mrs. William Clifford Blight **by Mr. W. C. Blight**

I was born in Oakville, Manitoba on July 4th, 1908. I was educated at Oakville public and high school, Portage Collegiate, and Brandon Normal School. I received the B.Sc. at the University of

Manitoba in 1940, and the M.S. (Math) at the University of Wisconsin in 1951.

I was assistant principal at Isabella from 1933 to 1937. On December 27 1933 I married Elizabeth Chaytor of Angusville, Manitoba. We have two children William John and Elizabeth Ann. Our honeymoon was spent at Angusville. We borrowed a school van and rented a fine team of black horses from H. Reid as means of transportation. We often recall the four years we spent at Isabella and think about the students I had in the classes. After leaving Isabella in 1937 I attended the University of Manitoba until 1940. I then joined the R.C.A.F. as armament instructor and was discharged in 1945. On February 1, 1945 I was appointed instructor in mathematics at Regina College. In 1952 I was appointed assistant professor of mathematics and assistant to the dean. I was appointed associate registrar, of the University of Saskatchewan, Regina campus in 1961.

Dr. William John Blight was born on March 12, 1935 at Isabella. He received his B.A. in 1955 and his M.D. in 1959 at the University of Saskatchewan. He is practicing Medicine at St. Boniface, Manitoba. He married Donna Margaret Crosland of Calgary in 1960. They have one son John Stephen Blight born in 1961.

Elizabeth Ann Blight was born on February 2nd, 1944. She took her senior matriculation in 1962, at the University of Saskatchewan, Regina campus.

Update

by W. Blight

Name: William Clifford Blight B.Sc. U. of M. 1940
M.S./U. of Wisc. 1951

Married: Elizabeth A. Chaytor, Angusville, Man. 1933.

Children: Wm. John Blight, B.A., M.D., born 1935.
Dr. in Wpg. Elizabeth Ann Blight B.A. Honors, born 1944
Asst. Archivist Wpg. Man.

Taught at Isabella 1933-1937

R.C.A.F. Senior Armament Instructor, 1941-1945

Future Career — Associate Professor of Mathematics, Regina College, University of Saskatchewan
Registrar, and Campus Secretary, 1945-1974.

Retired 1974, Registrar Emeritus.

Teaching at Isabella, was a learning process for me. I discovered that, self discipline and the ability to learn for oneself was more valuable to the students than the material which was taught. A student must want to learn for himself not for the teacher if he is to be successful. I hope that my former students will take time out now, to think about this. I am certain that many of them will agree with me today, — "Success depends upon oneself not on other persons."

Possibly one story you might like to recall is our honeymoon trip. We were married Dec. 27, 1933, and I hired a team of horses from Mr. H. Reid, for the trip from Isabella to Angusville and back. The temperature was around forty below and too cold for the team to trot. The distance of forty-six miles could be timed as the team could walk a mile in sixteen minutes. I ran out of wood for the van about five miles short of my destination. We made sure there was sufficient wood on the way home.

I thought I could play hockey, until I started to practice with the Isabella team. I then turned to curling, a much quieter game. Mr. Bowman curled with me quite often, but wasn't a strong curler. I think he hated to see other people lose. Somehow or other, it became known that I boxed a little. Rae Reid proved how little I knew about that game too, when we had a friendly bout in the school yard. He hit my adam's apple and I had trouble talking for the next few days.

One can still recall the friendship which was offered to us while we were at Isabella. We hear from Mrs. Finkbeiner each year, and her last letter this past Christmas, describes her very nicely. She said she couldn't complain about her aches and pains, but did object to being described as the oldest person in the district. She was ever young in spirit.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Bliss

Mr. Joe Bliss homesteaded the S.W.¼ of sec. 6-15-25. The dugout stable and hen house which had sod sides, can still be seen on the south side of the ravine.

He married the first lady teacher from Blaris school. After awhile he sold the land to Mr. Sutherland, and moved to near Uno, Man.

Their family consisted of three boys and a girl. Bob, twin boys, Percy and Philip, and Betty.

1982 — no update.

Rev. and Mrs. H. I. Bowman

Reverend Harold Isaac Bowman, his wife Elizabeth, and their two small daughters, Leslie and Margaret, and a young friend, Pearl Galbraith, came to Isabella in 1927. Mr. Bowman spent his boyhood on his father's farm at Miami, Manitoba. He went overseas as a chaplain in the Canadian Army during World War I. While in England he met Elizabeth Hyde, an English girl who was serving as a volunteer nurse in an army hospital. They were married and came back to Canada together.

Their first pastoral charge was at Rose Isle, Manitoba, where they served for about six years. Pearl was a high school girl whose home was in Rose Isle.

She came with them to Isabella where she remained until she had completed her high school. She went to Carman hospital where she took her nurses' training.

For the first few years of their ministry, they served the Orrwold, Decker and Isabella congregations. Each Sunday found Mrs. Bowman attending all three services, often playing the organ or teaching Sunday School class, in spite of having two small children. During the week she felt the same responsibility toward women's activities, such as — W.M.S. at Orrwold and Decker as well as Isabella. Again later, when the field was changed to include Beulah, Blaris and Isabella, she carried on as always.

One and all were welcome at the Manse and the refreshing cup of tea that was invariably offered, was a kindness that is not soon forgotten. The manse weddings were enhanced by the dainty lunch that was always prepared unless other plans had been made.

Mrs. Bowman not only felt responsible for women's work in the church but for years, whenever necessary, she led the choir, Mission Band, C.G.I.T., Baby Band, etc. to keep up the interest. Mr. Bowman was often accompanied by Mrs. Bowman on his visits throughout the charge and anyone who knew them has many happy memories of those visits.

It was not many years that they were to enjoy having their two little daughters together, for when Margaret, the younger daughter, was about school age, she became very ill and soon after passed away in Hamiota hospital. She was laid to rest at Miami, Man. During the few years she had lived here she had endeared herself to everyone who knew her and in her passing, the families of the community felt as though they had lost one of their own.

Leslie, the older daughter, attended school at Isabella and very willingly took part in all branches of church, school and community life. Later she graduated from Brandon College. She took missionary training at the United Church Training School in Toronto, Ontario. She was in charge of All People's Mission in Sudbury, Ontario, when a fire destroyed the church and she and her mother lost all their belongings. It was while Leslie was at Sudbury that she met Lorne Keyes whom she later married. Lorne completed his training as a minister and they now reside at Paisley, Ontario, with their two sons, Bruce and Garth, and one daughter, Miriam.

We do not think of Mr. Bowman's ministry here, without thinking of his untiring efforts in every branch of church work. He was not content to limit himself to his own charge, but where the need arose, he was there. He ministered to the Indians on the Birdtail Reserve west of Beulah and held alternate services at Shamrock Hall and Rothesay school on

Sunday evenings, after having taken three services already. Travel for him was not easy. He used his car in summer but through most of his ministry here, winter roads presented quite a problem, with the result that most of his travelling was done with a faithful old horse and a cutter for those months. He travelled over all kinds of roads at all seasons and at any time of the day or night. Mr. Bowman wrote a letter in March 1943, describing a trip he had had to the Indian Reserve about that time, to officiate at a funeral there. "The roads were terrible — the trip took twelve hours and with detours, amounted to about thirty-eight miles. I so nearly froze my hands going over, that I could have howled with pain when they got to the heat — but had to try and be a good Indian and pretend they did not hurt. I changed horses at Rollo's and McLean's." He had many trips like this one but only to a close friend would he admit the hardships.

The evergreen trees that line the churchyard stand as a lasting reminder of the Bowmans and their interest in gardening. Although the trees were planted before their arrival, the small saplings could never have survived the drought of the Thirties without the tender care and attention given them by Mr. Bowman. He landscaped the gardens around the manse, planting flowers and fruit trees. Many of the home gardens in the district have plants and trees that had their beginning in the manse garden.

In 1947, he felt that he could no longer carry on the work here and moved to Ashcroft, B.C. for one year, returning to MacDonald, Man. where they stayed for a few years. Then they moved to Portage la Prairie, Man. where he worked as assistant to the United Church minister at Trinity Church. He then was minister at MacKenzie Church there and now, although retired, he again is assistant minister at Trinity Church.

Words cannot express the feeling of love and fellowship that everyone in this community has for Mr. and Mrs. Bowman. Although it is fifteen years since they left, in times of deep joy or sorrow, they are the first people of which we think. They will ever be remembered, with love, by their friends in Orrwold, Decker, Beulah, Blaris and Isabella.

1982 update — Mrs. Bowman died Nov. 24, 1962 and Rev. Bowman Nov. 5, 1977.

Orvy and Edna Bowman by Orvy Bowman

O. L. Bowman, "Orvy", was born in 1917 on a farm south of Decker. There was no doctor in attendance. The midwife was Mrs. Andrew Clubley. The Bowman children numbered three with older brother Eric and a younger sister, Lorna.

The family moved to Beulah. There, Orvy started school and cried the first day. By the time he was in Grade VII, the Bowmans moved nearer to Isabella and he took his schooling there, to Grade X. He remembers Miss Rourke, Miss Corke and Mr. Dibblee. The school boys played baseball in summer and hockey (using a road apple) in winter.

When he left school he farmed at home. During depression years the government paid five dollars per month to farmers and they paid this to hired help. Orvy did some of this work to get money. The big pay was obtainable in harvest, a whole twenty dollars a month. Social life was mainly attending dances at Shamrock, Gnaton and Rothesay. The Birtle July 1st dance is remembered as a big affair with both the upstairs of the town hall and the small community hall in use. There were two bands and if you were lucky you could take a gal to one hall to dance while her boyfriend looked for her at the other hall.

A steady job with John Hatch draying freight from the Birtle station to down town stores followed. Orvy got pneumonia when unloading a box car of flour in 1937 and had a ruptured appendix in 1938. He gives full credit to Dr. Fjelsted for getting him through those severe illnesses.

Orvy began working at Walley's store in Birtle in 1938. He joined the Canadian Army in 1940 and served six years in the armed forces.

He married Edna Forster, a young English lady, in 1945. Orvy came back to Birtle in 1945 and Edna followed in 1946. He stayed with Walley's store until 1949 at which time he, Edna and young son, Lyn, moved to British Columbia.

In 1951 Orvy went to work at Lapointe Pier in Vancouver and then moved to Ballantine pier. When Centennial pier was opened in 1960 he was appointed superintendent, and Orvy kept this position until his retirement in 1979.

Orvy lives in Burnaby and owns a lot at Point Roberts where he gardens. During those years when he had a most demanding job he could go to that spot, where no telephone could reach him, and dig in the good soil.

The Bowman's British Columbia born daughter, Marjorie, is a secretary in London, England. Lyn is a worker in Medical Engineering Research doing post graduate work in computer medicine at Stamford University.

The Bowman's Manitoba connections have remained strong. Many of their British Columbia friends are former Manitobans. They have made many trips back to the prairies.

Adam Boyce

Adam Boyce homesteaded the S.E. ¼ of

12-15-26. As soon as he completed his homesteading duties, he sold it to Wm. Sparling and the house was not occupied for a time. When Shamrock School District was formed, school was held in the house until a school was built.

Mr. Boyce worked for several farmers in this district and then moved to Coulter where he had a number of relatives. Here he worked until his retirement. He then returned to Gorrie, Ontario which was his original home.

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Brad

by A. E. Brad

Alva Ernest Brad was born at Dominion City, Manitoba and came to Isabella in 1911 as clerk in the general store. Mrs. Marion (Schweitzer) Brad, his wife was born at Mildmay, Ontario. Mrs. Brad had not enjoyed the best of health for some time past and having gone to the city for medical treatment, passed away in Winnipeg on May 26, 1948. They had four children: Harold Arthur Brad — born at Isabella, Man. He joined the RCAF and was overseas during World War II, losing his life over Germany. He is buried in the military cemetery at Durniback, Germany. Alice (Mrs. W. J. Shurvell) was born at Isabella, Man. She has four children: Rae, working away from home; Joan in the telephone office at Souris; Judy and Jimmy, still going to school. They reside at Elkhorn, Manitoba. Alva Howard Brad — born at Miniota, Man., has two boys — Ronald and Freddie who are still in school at Brandon where the family resides. Evelyn (Mrs. R. C. Bell) — born at Miniota, Man., has six children: Sandra, Linda, Donnie, Harold and Kathie in school and Rae at home. They reside at North Bay, Ont.

Editor's Note: Mr. Brad's update is found in Bill and Alice Shurvell's history.

Alva ('Buster') and Lois Brad

by Alva Brad

Alva Brad, better known as 'Buster', was born October 5, 1925 and was raised and educated at Isabella, Manitoba. At the age of eighteen in 1944 he joined the Canadian Army. In 1945 he married Lois Elizabeth Lints of Decker, Manitoba.

After his training he was sent overseas for duty. While in Holland, Buster signed for the Pacific and in August 1945 was sent home for a thirty day furlough before further training in U.S.A. While on leave, Japan surrendered and it wasn't long before he was discharged from the forces.

In 1949-50 Buster took a jewellers' course in Winnipeg and following that he worked for Wright and Wightman in Brandon for twelve years.

In 1961 Buster, Lois and family moved to Carman, Manitoba and purchased a jewellery business from Mr. and Mrs. Kline Cochran. This business had been established in 1901.

Buster and Lois have two sons. Ronald Wayne was born in 1945 and is married with no family. He has worked in The Pas, Manitoba for many years. Fred Ernest born in 1950, was married in 1968 and has two children, Tammy Lee Brad age twelve and Jason Howard Brad, age ten. Fred has also taken the jewellers' course and now works with his dad. Fred and Mary live in Carman, Manitoba.

For the past twenty years, Buster and Lois have enjoyed their life in Carman.

Keith and Agnes Bridge **by Keith and Agnes Bridge**

Keith Mervyn Bridge was born on March 6, 1936, at Shoal Lake, Manitoba, the eldest son of Mervyn and Beryl Bridge. He lived the first five years on the farm at Isabella (NW ¼ of 5-15-25 and SE ¼ of 7-15-25.) He then moved with his parents to the farm north of Lavinia where he grew up. He was educated at the school in Lavinia and then went on to the University of Manitoba, receiving his Diploma in Agriculture in 1955. He came home to farm with his father until 1962 when he bought a half section of land in the Shoal lake Municipality.



Lindsay, Keith, Agnes, Ryan, and Carla Bridge.

He married Agnes Jean Killoh of Hamiota, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Killoh July 21, 1962. Agnes took Grades 1 to 11 at McConnell School, Grade 12 in Hamiota and Teachers' Training at Brandon College, graduating in 1957. She taught at Solsgirth, Portage la Prairie, Neepawa and Decker.

Three children were born: Ryan Keith November 25, 1964; Lindsay Grant September 14, 1966 and Carla Jean March 20, 1969.

The family moved in 1967 to the former Killoh farm on NW 28-15-23, nine miles north of Hamiota where the family has lived ever since. In 1972 Keith purchased three quarters of a section of land from Jim Killoh. He sold the half section in Shoal Lake Municipality at this time and now farms six quarters of land. He has a mixed farming operation raising Hereford cattle and growing mixed grains.

The three children have taken piano lessons and all play an instrument in the Hamiota School Band. All three children belong to the McConnell 4H Beef Club of which Keith is a 4H leader. Ryan has a keen interest in his school work, air cadets and curling. Lindsay likes hockey, baseball and helping on the farm. Carla is very interested in figure skating, junior choir and baseball. All three children are still attending school in Hamiota. Keith has been a director of the McConnell Fat Stock show until it dissolved in 1981. He has been a director of the Hamiota Agricultural Society for 18 years and is currently president of the Agricultural Society at Hamiota.

Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Bridge **by Mrs. T. McKenzie**

Melville and Harriet Bridge were married on July 6th, 1904 in the Annworth district, several miles south of Oakner. After the wedding festivities they travelled by horse and buggy to their new home in the Isabella district. At that time Blaris was the community center as the railway had not gone through. Mother found Mrs. John Clark and Grandma Taylor wonderful neighbours for a young bride. Dad had bought the northwest quarter of 5-15-25 and southeast quarter of 7-15-25. He was the first one to break sod on that half-section. The house he built was a frame house which still constitutes the large dining room and two bedrooms of the present house. They always said they added the kitchen for me.

In the earliest days Mother and Dad attended church at Blaris. When church was started at Isabella they belonged to the Methodist church. Dad was one of the elders and secretary-treasurer of the church. The Methodist minister came from Miniota to hold services in the Presbyterian Church on Sunday evenings. Mother has always been a life member of the Women's Missionary Society and acted as president at one time. In 1925 church union came to Canada and they continued to help in every organization.

Dad's chief interest was in the Co-op movement, first in the United Grain Growers of which he was secretary for years. Then he worked to promote the co-op movement which he so firmly believed in until his death.

Our family planted maple and lilac trees which are still growing. The land was clay loam and we

grew grain and raised livestock, at first hauling the grain to Arrow River by team. Later when the railway came to Isabella in 1909 we hauled our grain there. The S.E. ¼ of 7-15-25 was formerly owned by Frank Reeves and Robert Hamilton from 1887 to 1889. The N.W. ¼ of 5-15-25 was owned by Will Bedwell and earlier by W. W. Renwick in 1887.

All three of us children went through the Isabella schools. Mervyn took up farming and after his marriage to Beryl McLean moved from the home farm to his present home at Lavinia. They have two boys, Keith at home farming and Glen attending Notre Dame College at Wilcox, Saskatchewan.

Eileen trained as a nurse and at present is Mrs. George Snowden of Killarney. They have one girl, Joan, a nurse and two boys, Wayne working and Lawrence at school.

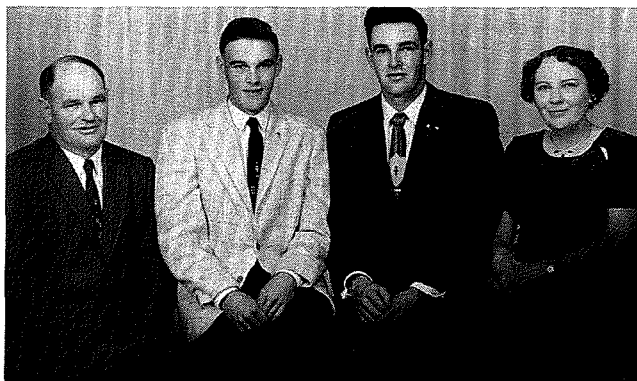
I, Ethel, am Mrs. Tully McKenzie and am on the teaching staff in Brandon. We have four children; Lois, a registered nurse; Marjorie, a school teacher, and Kenneth attending Agricultural College. Beth is attending school.

Mother and Dad retired to Hamiota in 1943 where they lived until Dad passed away April 6, 1960. Since then Mother has lived in Brandon.

Update 1981 — Mrs. Bridge died December 1963.

Mervyn and Beryl Bridge by B. Bridge

Mervyn, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mel Bridge, was born at Isabella in 1909. He attended school at Isabella and then farmed with his parents for many years. In 1934 he married Beryl McLean of Shoal Lake, who had been nursing up to this time. Mervyn and Beryl continued to live on the farm at Isabella until 1939 at which time they moved to the Lavinia district. They farmed 35-15-24. Mervyn was a trustee of Lavinia School, and a member of the board of the Pool elevator at Lavinia. He enjoyed hockey and travelled many miles to follow the games. In 1966,



Mervyn, Glen, Keith, and Beryl Bridge.

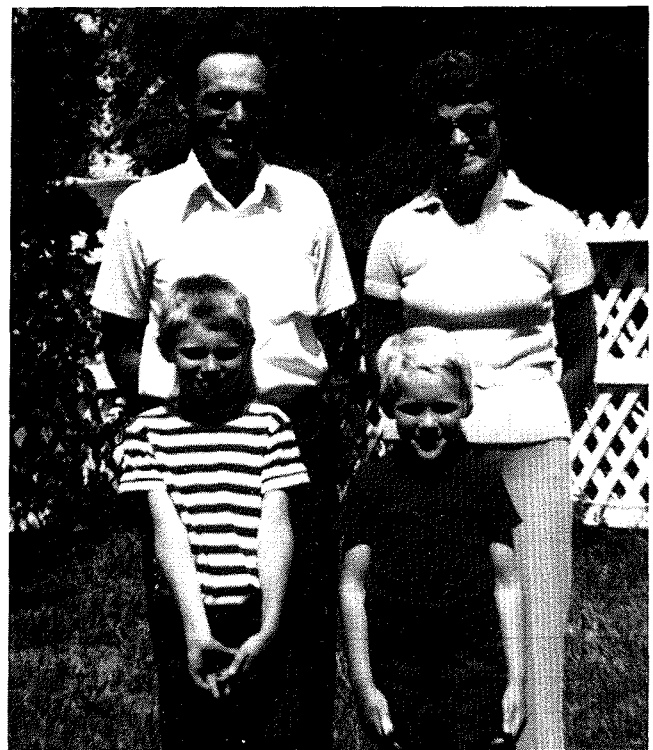
on November 3, they retired to Hamiota. On February 16, 1967, Mervyn passed away in the Hamiota Hospital after a long illness.

Mervyn and Beryl have two sons, Keith and Glen. Keith has submitted his own history.

Glen attended the Lavinia School taking his Grade X at Decker and completing his high school at Notre Dame College at Wilcox, Saskatchewan. He took his teachers' training at Brandon College in 1963. Then Glen taught school at Miniota and Rivers.

When going to Lavinia School Glen belonged to the 4H Calf Club at Decker. Frank James was the leader. Glen was on a 4H exchange trip to Rochester, U.S.A., and in 1959, won the gold watch which he wears daily. He was also a member of the Boy Scouts and enjoyed playing hockey. At present he takes great interest in the community. He was a delegate to Winnipeg for Pool Elevators for nine years; he has been president of the P.F.R.A. pasture board at Wallace Community pasture for two years; he is a member of the Hamiota Lions' Club; he is secretary of the Pool Elevator Board at Shoal Lake; and he is also a member of the Birdtail River School Division Board.

Glen and Fay (Long) were married in 1968. Fay taught school for several years at Miniota, Rivers, and Hamiota. She is a teacher in the Sunday School at Hamiota Church as well as being a director of the Hamiota Agricultural Society and on the executive of the Hamiota Nursery School. Glen and Fay have two



Glen, Fay, Jason, and Darren Bridge.

sons. Jason is in Grade I. His interests are in hockey and gymnastics. Darren is in kindergarten and he is a member of the Beavers.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Brisbin

Mr. Harry Brisbin was born in Ontario and moved to a farm at Pilot Mound, Manitoba, with his parents. He came to Isabella in 1918, to buy grain for the United Grain Growers for a year-and-a-half. He was transferred to Saskatchewan and from there was moved to Beulah, Manitoba. He married Clara McKinnon also of Pilot Mound. In 1923, they moved to Isabella and the same year, their son, Jack was born. In 1946, Harry became a dealer for Anglo-Canadian Oil and still operates that business. He retired from United Grain Growers in 1954.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Brisbin took an active part in the community life. In his younger days, Mr. Brisbin played hockey and was a member of the Curling Club. He is a member of the Masonic Lodge at Miniota.

Mrs. Brisbin was Mission Band leader, C.G.I.T. leader, and junior choir leader for a number of years. She was also a member of the church choir, taking an active part in all organizations.

John attended school in Isabella and then served in the R.C.A.F. during World War II. He married Ethel Loder of Winnipeg and they have three daughters, Diane, Laurie and Carol.

1982 update — Harry Brisbin died April 30, 1964 and Mrs. Brisbin died in May 1957. They are both buried in Isabella Cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Broadfoot

by Mrs. R. S. Broadfoot

Ronald Smith Broadfoot was born at Darlingford, Manitoba but has lived most of his life at Gladstone, Man. He married Nettie Mary Forrest of Manitou, Man. on August 17, 1940 and came to Isabella where Ron was already principal of the school. They had three children: Ronnie, born August 1st, 1942 (died June 28, 1946); Ricky, born August 28, 1945; Lynne, born August 9th, 1948. Ron has served as town councillor and at present is an elder in the United Church. He has left the teaching profession and is now an insurance agent in Gladstone where the family resides.

1982 no update.

Francis and Mary Brown by daughters Frances and Florence

Francis Brown was born in Scotland about 1878. He married Mary Miskelly of Dumfries, Scotland, and worked as a salesman in Gateshead, England

after his marriage. Two daughters, Frances and Florence, were born to them.

About five years later he moved his family to the grandparents in Dumfries, Scotland and he em-



Francis, Florence, and Frances Brown, 1916.

igrated to Isabella. He worked for Mr. Wm. Iverach for two years to learn about farming in Canada. He purchased a farm in partnership with Ernie Lawn. This farm was located south west of Isabella, and he later bought the farm outright.

During that time his wife, Mary, died suddenly from pneumonia in Scotland.

In 1915, Mary's sister, Jean (Mrs. Norman Ball) brought Frances and Florence out to him in Canada. During their voyage their ship was chased by a German submarine and they had to hide behind an iceberg for two weeks without communication of any kind. This was a hard time for their families.

Francis died in 1920 from a brain tumor caused by a brick from a chimney falling on his head while he was helping to move a house. His daughters lived with a neighbor, Mrs. D. Wright, for a short time, and then with their aunt and uncle, Jean and Norman Ball.

see . . . Alex and Frances Hannah and Charlie and Florence Ellerington histories.

Stuart and Clara Browning by Clara Browning

Clara Bernice Reid, the second child of Clarence and Lucille Reid, was born in Miniota, Manitoba, on May 24, 1933. She lived on the farm, 9-15-25, one half mile south of Isabella, with her parents and sister, Geraldine. She commenced Grade I at Isabella.

In 1939, the family moved to Roland where Clara

attended school for Grades I and II. They moved to Winnipeg in the spring of 1941. Clara graduated from Grade XII and then took nurses' training for six months. Since that time, she has had various places of employment, ranging from a finance company, to a church secretary, to the medical field, where she is presently employed as a receptionist in the Medical Arts Building.

Clara and Stuart Browning were married in the Westminster United Church in Winnipeg, on August 31, 1957. They have three sons: Michael, Ronald, and Mark.

Michael David was born on August 2, 1958. Michael married Elaine Hill in Thunder Bay, Ontario, on February 28, 1981. Michael works for C.N.R. as a Radio Electronic Communications technician. He is an accomplished pianist, having attained his grade nine standing. He enjoys composing his own music and is a valued member of his Christian organization where he contributes very much of his musical ability.

Ronald Stuart was born on November 12, 1961. Ron farms land at Ogilvie, Manitoba, and also works for the Highways Department. Ron has, for many years, been active in Christian Camp activities, as a counsellor, and now is leader of a youth group in the church where he attends.

Mark Raymond was born on May 29, 1963. Mark has his Bronze Cross for life-saving and has been active as a lifeguard at Christian Camps and in the summer of 1981, at Adam Lake near the Peace Gardens. He has just completed his course at the Technical Vocational School and has recently been hired by Motor Coach Industries as a welder. Mark is also a member of the Medical Corps of the Reserve Militia.

Stuart is a traffic inspector for the Department of Highways and Transportation where he has been employed for the past twenty-three years. He owns and operates (now along with his son, Ron) a farm at Ogilvie, Manitoba, an activity that he enjoys immensely and is looking forward to spending more time on this hobby in his retirement years.

All of the family reside in Winnipeg.

Jack and Irene Bryant **by Linda Clark**

The sixth child of Elmer and Evelyn Clark, Irene Joyce was born on May 30, 1953 at Hamiota. She received her schooling at Isabella, then Miniota, and graduated from grade XII at Birtle in 1971. Irene was a member of the Isabella Explorers and C.G.I.T. and the Miniota Calf Club. In July 1971 she won a 4H exchange trip to Huron, South Dakota. Irene acted as a C.G.I.T. leader at Miniota.

Following graduation, Irene was employed by the

Royal Bank at Miniota. In 1976 she was promoted to Branch Administration Officer.

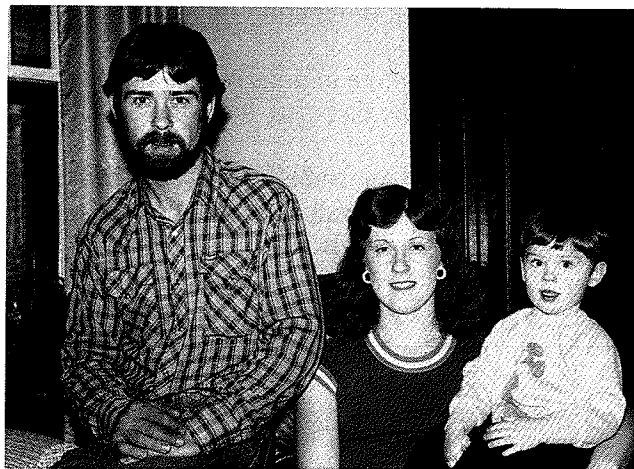
On December 13, 1975 Irene married Jack Bryant of Miniota. At this time they bought an older home in Miniota. Jack, having worked as a carpenter, has remodelled their home and farms with his brother Les.

Irene acts as Secretary-Treasurer for the Village of Miniota beginning this duty in 1980. Jack serves with the Miniota Fire Brigade.

In 1976 Jack and Irene purchased the E½ 20-14-26 from Wm. Kelly and in 1981 purchased the N½ 17-14-26 from Fred Foster. They will be moving to their farm this fall. (Irene continues working for the Royal Bank).

Walter and Diana Brydon **by Diana Brydon**

Walter Hamilton Eley Brydon, second son of Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Brydon, Birtle, was born October 28, 1959, in Hamiota Hospital. His first two years of schooling were at Rothesay School. He then went to Birtle, graduating in 1977. He then took an Agricultural Mechanics course at Brandon Assiniboine College. In 1978 he travelled west. He worked on a horse ranch for a short while, and then on a grain farm before he went to Verdant Valley Ranch.



Walter, Diana, and Bobbie Brydon.

Diana Yvonne Doran was born October 21, 1959 in Hamiota Hospital. Diana lived in the Isabella district taking part in Explorers, in the choir, teaching Sunday School, and playing Ladies' Softball. She started her schooling at Isabella but went to Birtle for Grade IV when the Isabella school was closed and moved to Birtle. She completed her schooling at Birtle where, in 1977, she received a number of awards. She then attended Red River Community College in Winnipeg for a year, taking the Business

Accountancy course where she was on the honor roll twice. She then went to Calgary and worked in the Treasury Department for a major oil company until she was married.

They were married in the Isabella Church on August 11, 1979. They resided on the Verdant Valley Ranch in the Handhills east of Drumheller, Alberta. Their son, Robert Ivan, was born in Drumheller on December 1, 1979.

In August, 1981, they returned to Manitoba to take over Walters father's farm, 1-16-26.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Walker Buchanan

Robert Buchanan came to Canada in April 1953 from his home in Montrose, Scotland. He had served in the army during the war and for five years prior to coming to Canada had been assistant manager of the Careston and Stracathro Estates, Brae of Pert Laurencekirk, Scotland.

He spent the summer of 1953 on the Russell Clark farm, and in November of that year, came to the John Finkbeiner farm, where he remained until November 1955, when he returned to visit his home in Scotland.

On his return to Canada in January 1956, he obtained a position with the R.C.A. Victor Company, and following a short course in Montreal, began his work with the Distant Early Warning lines. He was stationed for a little over a year at Senneterre, Quebec, but his work of erecting microwave towers has taken him to all parts of Canada, and as far north as Alaska. He spent three months in Brazil where his work took him quite close to the famous city of Brasilia, and also Africa.

He was married in Isabella United Church in October 1957 to Mary Walker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walker of Agassiz, B.C.



Robert John Buchanan, Gordon and Grace Henderson, Robert and Mary Buchanan, 1981.

They made their home in Montreal, and had two children, a daughter Grace Mary and a son, Robert John.

Update by Grace Henderson

In the spring of 1967, Bob, Mary and children received a company move to Winnipeg. They lived here until they were moved back to Montreal in December 1973. Bob has worked for RCA Victor Company for twenty-five years.

Grace Mary was born September 28, 1958. She completed her schooling in Montreal, then attended the University of Winnipeg, 1978-80, where she graduated with a degree in Education. On August 1, 1981, she married Gordon Campbell Henderson. They reside in Ste. Genevieve, Quebec.

Robert John, born April 14, 1961, graduated from Lindsay Place High school in 1978. He now works for Provigo Stores.

Mary has managed the home and family during Bob's work in northern Canada, Africa, and South America. She is a talented needleworker, and an enthusiastic gardener. She also worked as a salesperson in a book store.

On visits to the Finkbeiner farm, nothing was more fun than riding in the blue half-ton to John Coxworth's store, or helping Johnnie feed pigs. There was always plenty to do. We joined in the parade and festivities of the Isabella Centennial celebrations. We all enjoy our visits to Isabella.

Mr. and Mrs. Buchanan

Mr. and Mrs. Buchanan were some of the first residents of Isabella. They built the house later known as the United Grain Growers residence. He carried on a butcher business as well as managing the local beef ring.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Butler by Doris and Jack Butler

My father, J. S. (Sid) Butler, was born in Dublin, Ireland on February 10, 1883. He received his education in the public school at Rathgar. He became a telegraph operator, and worked for six years in the Southern and Western station. He met Miss Elizabeth Conron who was born on October 13, 1880, one of a family of five brothers and four sisters.

Sid also had two sisters. Not liking the city, and as one of Miss Conron's brothers was already living in Winnipeg, Canada, they decided to emigrate to the west.

He sailed on the "Carpathia", which was destined to pick up on that trip, some three hundred survivors of the ill-fated Titanic, which sank on the 12th of April 1912, fifty years ago.

Mother came over one month later, and they were married in Winnipeg on June 22, 1912. Dad worked with the C.P.R. as dispatcher until the strike. They came to Brandon, where in the following spring March 4, their only son Jack, was born. They came to Hamiota and worked for Mr. Henry Drake, then to Mr. Dave Bedford's for the winter.

In the spring of 1915 they came to work for C. J. (Jim) Collingwood, a bachelor living on the Bill Palmer farm, two miles northeast of Isabella. Five years later in 1917, they worked for Fred Bedford, who had gone overseas in the First World War. The next year, in 1918, they went to T. E. (Ed) Dorans. Another couple, Mr. and Mrs. Wolfe and small son Tom were also employed there. However, I have never seen any of them since.

My Dad and Mr. Wolfe, helped Mr. Doran haul many loads of stones, as well as one carload of cement (six hundred) bags, to build the flooring and the footing for the barn which was built the following spring 1919. This barn, being over one hundred feet long, at that time was considered and still is, quite a barn.

That harvest was quite an event. The Doran wheatfields yielded quite well, 10,000 bushels in all, beside a considerable crop of oats and barley. The following spring, they moved to the farm of R. D. L. Warren four miles northeast of Isabella and farmed on their own. I went to Rothesay School.

In 1930, we moved across the road to the S. P. (Pete) MacPherson farm, which was homestead land. These years were not too fruitful, as many who read this will know, a far cry from the mode of living we so enjoy today, with conveniences and luxuries unknown to our parents.

My dad's health failed at this time and he passed away at Ninette on January 18, 1933. He was also buried there.

My mother and I continued here and on October 8, 1939 I was married to Doris Daniels of Hamiota and Grandview. She had taken a course in tailoring earlier, and did much sewing for people in the district.

In 1943, we moved to the A. L. Strachan farm southwest of Hamiota, near Pope, where we enjoy life very much.

Grandma Butler will be eighty-two in October. After a long series of positions at various places as housekeeper, the last one for five years with the late John Norton of Brandon, formerly of Decker, she is still with us, well and happy. After a trip by air to her native home in Ireland, where she spent one year, she finds the Manitoba surroundings and climate much more pleasant and tolerable than the old home land, which had become strange in ways and peoples.

Our two chosen children, Joyce nine, and John eight have helped to fill in the dull moments during the past few years.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Calder

by Robert Calder

I, Robert Calder, was born September 18, 1872, on a farm in a big rambling red brick house in the country of Worcestershire, one of the Midland counties of England. I was the seventh child in a family of eleven — eight boys and three girls. There were fifteen rooms in the house, seven down and eight up. All bedrooms had a fireplace and on cold winter nights mother used to warm all the smaller kids' beds. She had what is called a warming pan, something like a large frying pan with a cover and a handle about five feet long. To use it she would rake the hot coals out of the kitchen fire into the pan, close the lid, then push it into bed between the sheets, pushing it up and down till it was all good and warm. When she gave the signal there would be a rush as, "last in bed puts out the lights".

My father had a 500 acre farm on an estate of 12,000 acres. I don't remember much about the farm life, as my father retired and moved to the city when I was only seven years old. However, there is one thing in particular — there were no top buggies. We had a small two-wheeled rig called a "trap" with just room for two, which had a big umbrella that stuck into a socket at the back of the seat. The umbrella was also used for another purpose. There were four of us boys going to school at the same time and we walked the four miles each way. On wet days, Mother made us take the big umbrella. She didn't know, but we took it



Emily and Jack Pope, 1980.

just once. The kids sure made fun of it. They took possession and marched around the playground with the umbrella, singing in the rain. That night going home we decided what to do. There was an old oak tree, which was hollow in the centre, a good hiding place about 100 yards from the house; so that's where the umbrella rested on rainy days. At night we would take it out, drag it along in the wet grass to avoid suspicion and I guess the secret of the umbrella is still in the old oak tree.

After leaving school I was around the home wearying for something to do. I had a school chum who had come out to Manitoba, whose letters were very enticing. My father had a friend who had visited in Canada and after coming home had written a book about Manitoba. I read it, and still having the country blood in my veins, decided right away, that was where I was going. So, like most young boys, I talked the matter over with my mother. She was very much opposed to the idea, saying Manitoba was too far away for a young boy to travel alone, much too cold and only fit for wolves and Indians. We used to talk a lot about it and it was a long time before she gave way to my way of thinking. However, I won out in the end, and started preparing for my journey.

I left home April 19, 1891, for Birtle, Manitoba. It was a lovely day with many friends, both old and young, at the station to see me away, this being the first time for me to leave home. Among the many people saying farewells and goodbyes was one old friend who had to spill the beans. He took my hand saying, "Goodbye Bobby, it will likely be a long time ere we meet again, so if you have tears, prepare to shed them now." I sure could have given him a farewell kick. However, I boarded the train, trying to forget the past, looking into the future. It was a six hour journey to Liverpool and after arriving, getting tickets and baggage checked, which was quite a job, I was beginning to feel tired and a little lonesome. But as everybody on board seemed to be happy, it didn't take long to get acquainted. Most of the passengers were bound for the prairie provinces and a few of them for British Columbia.

We had lovely weather for the first three days; we got lots of exercise walking the decks — but then it turned cold and rough and all the happy faces disappeared. Some of them could be seen feeding the fish. I was one of the ones who had that miserly nature of not giving away anything for nothing, but I was awfully glad when we came in sight of land.

We were fourteen days on the water, being held up two days with ice drifting in the mouth of the St. Lawrence. It was mid-day when we docked at Quebec on the second of May. The trip to Winnipeg was anything but pleasant. There was a bunch of boys

on board being sent from the Barnardo Home to the Farm Home in Russell, Manitoba. They stayed for two years and were hired out to farmers in the district. They were a wild bunch. Some of the passengers took their eats with them, others got out at certain stops to satisfy their hunger but they didn't give you much time to eat.

After three days' travel it was a treat to get to Winnipeg and a good bed for two nights. Then we boarded the train for Birtle, wondering what it would be like at the end of the road.

Well, here I was at the Rosen Hotel, Birtle, after a good night's rest and sitting down for breakfast. I was talking to a nice gentleman, a Mr. Waugh, editor of the "Nor-West Farmer," who after hearing I had just arrived from the Old Country gave me some good advice which I certainly appreciated. And now I think the fifth day of May was the most venturesome part of my journey. So far it had been boat and rail — this time it was to be "shank's pony" for sixteen miles. Blaris was my destination, where I expected to meet an old school chum. He was partly the means of bringing me here, Percy Hemming by name. So leaving Birtle behind, I climbed the hill and headed south. I hadn't gone very far when a man with a team and wagon caught up to me. He offered me a ride, which I gladly accepted, but it wasn't for long as I could see his shanty in the distance. It was certainly a desolate looking place. We unhitched the team, put them in what is called a "stable", which consisted of a few green poles covered with straw. It was then around ten o'clock, so he asked me to stay for dinner, but when I saw what the inside of the shanty was like it made me feel more sick than did the ocean. Its contents were a bedstead made of poles covered with straw and horse blankets; a table, a packing box and a rusty stove on which was a frying pan full of once-fried potatoes. So I thanked him for his kind invitation with the excuse of having a long way to go. I didn't like the idea of being out all night on the prairie. I think he saw my point and didn't persist so now it was back again to "shanks ponies" and wondering if I hadn't made a mistake in not taking my mother's advice.

It was a lovely day — meadow larks singing and gophers all chirping kept me company on the way. I was beginning to get a little tired when I saw another shanty quite near. On enquiring the way, the lady told me, just two more miles south. She gave me a drink of water which pepped me up. The Wilson house (that is where my friend stayed) was a cozy little place surrounded by bluffs. It was the first house I had seen since leaving Birtle. I introduced myself to the lady, telling her my business and she said that Percy was expecting me but didn't know when. I guess she must

have seen the hungry look on my face, for in a few minutes I was sitting down to a big plate of ham and eggs which I thought was the best meal I had ever tasted. Mrs. Wilson thought she would have a joke on Percy, so when she saw him coming in for supper she told me to go and sit on the stair and then shut the door, later sending him upstairs for something. When he opened the door and saw me he sure got a shock. There was so much to talk about we didn't get much sleep that night.

The next morning I started out to look for work. The first place I struck, the man looked me over as though he was buying a horse, and asked a few questions and then turned me down. He didn't think I was strong enough to stand the work, so that was that. However, he said, there was a Mr. Taylor about three miles north needing help. The day was young and so was I, so I struck north looking for the Taylor house. There were so many bluffs you couldn't see far ahead and presently the trail was cut off by a field of wheat, lovely and green, about two inches in height. There was a log house farther on. I started to walk across the field when the thought came to me, "I might be trespassing", as in the Old Country you see so many notices stuck up warning people to "keep off the grass", "trespassers will be prosecuted" etc. etc. So I turned back and walked around the field to the house thinking if the man saw me tramping down his wheat there wouldn't be a job for me here.

My knock at the door was answered by a gray-haired lady. She was making butter and her daughter was making bread. She asked if I was lost. "No", I replied, "I'm not lost, just out from the Old Country, looking for work". She said her son would be in shortly and I would have to see him. After a while he drove into the yard and I went out for an interview. He asked me a few questions and looked at me with a questioning look the same way the first man did; so, thinks I, "Here goes for another turn-down". However, he suggested that I come for a month on trial at \$5.00 to see if we suited one another. "When can you start?" Well, the clothes I had on were not suitable for farm work and my possessions were at the hotel in Birtle. So we had an early dinner and drove to Birtle with a team and wagon. It was a rough drive and we didn't get back till late evening. Next morning I awoke to find myself a "hired man". When my month expired, I was rehired for two years for the big wage of \$5.00 a month.

This was really a free country — everyone kept an open house and never a week passed without someone dropping in for a meal. One day I remember a man coming in for dinner who was on his rounds visiting boys belonging to the Russell Farm Home.

Mr. Taylor told him I had just arrived from the Old Country, "Oh," said he, "Are you a Barnardo Boy?"

"No", said I, "Are you?"

He drove away without answering my question. The boss tapped my shoulder saying, "Smart boy, Calder." We learned later that he was the minister from Birtle.

Blaris District contained some 28 or 30 sections. There were twenty-one residents, all homesteaders except one and a more kindly and neighborly class of people would be hard to find. Their school was built in the late eighties. To build it the municipality borrowed the money from one of the homesteaders, a Mr. Simpson. They named the school "Blaris" after the name of his home in Ireland. Another homesteader was the first teacher, Mr. T. Stevenson, I believe his salary was around \$300.00 per year. Church services were held in the school, which was packed every Sunday, rain or shine — Methodist one Sunday and Presbyterian the next. Mr. Hodnett was the first Presbyterian minister. He had three appointments — the Indian Reserve, Beulah and Blaris. He drove from his home four miles south of Birtle every two weeks in a one-horse toboggan. The Methodists built a church a little later on and Mr. Sutherland, another resident, drew the plans and directed the work which was all done voluntarily. Mr. Sutherland was the only one in the district that did not homestead. He bought his farm "sight unseen" while living in Ontario. The man he bought it from said he could stand at his door and see the steamers going up and down the Assiniboine River. He got quite a surprise when he came to take possession.

There wasn't much road work being done at this time. Each landowner was supposed to put in one day a year with a man and a team on the road. The work was credited on his taxes. This didn't amount to very much.

I well remember one piece of work. It was putting in a crossing in a ravine north of the school. A wooden culvert was put in, then graded up about four feet, just wide enough for two horse teams to cross on. One Sunday in the early winter just after a big snow storm, four of us were going to church and crossing the grade the sleigh slid off into the ravine and left us all sitting in the box. Away went the team. The women scrambled up the bank, trudging through the snow to the service, while the men went hunting the horses which were found tangled up in a bluff near the school.

Some of the earliest settlers would put their plowshares in a bag, sling it over their shoulder and walk to Birtle to get them sharpened. They thought "shanks pony" was quicker than oxen.

There was also a cheese factory in the district,

built by Mr. Marsh, the storekeeper at old Beulah. The farmers who supplied milk got their cheese at cost price. Milk was collected every morning and empty cans returned at night. The teamster on our route, returning one night, saw a little black and white animal running ahead on the trail. He jumped off the wagon and catching up with it, gave it a crack with the whip and suddenly discovered it was a skunk. But that wasn't enough, he threw it into the wagon and we didn't use our milk cans for two weeks. Mr. Marsh ran the factory for only a short time and then sold out to Mr. J. L. Thompson who moved it out to his farm.

In the fall of 1893 I went threshing, earning one dollar a day. I worked from daylight till dark and slept in the stable. It was a lovely fall and threshing finished up early as there was no break in the weather. With my hard-earned threshing money and a little added, I bought a ticket for the Old Country and arrived home in time for Christmas. There was quite a change in the three years I had been away. My sisters and brothers were scattered to different places in England. However, I managed to see them all. I spent a very pleasant holiday and as the days went past the spring with its balmy breeze came along. I began to think it was time I was getting back to my adopted country, so the end of March saw me back on my old job.

In April I rode horseback to Minnedosa to apply for my homestead. I built a shanty and lived there six months in each year for three years. During the summer months I stayed with my old job in Blaris. The skunks kept me company in the winter. Mrs. Skunk made her home under the shanty and brought up a family of six. On sunny days the wee ones would come in, pick up the bacon rinds off the floor and carry them away. No one would know they were there unless they saw them; they were too pretty to destroy.

In the early days goods were cheap and money was scarce. Farmers would take their butter, eggs, poultry and dressed meat to the store and trade for groceries. There was very little fresh fruit. Dry goods were cheap — overalls, \$1.00; boots, \$1.00; socks, 25¢. Front quarters of beef sold for 2½¢ per pound, hind quarters for 3½¢. Frozen fish came from the north and were peddled around for 5¢ per pound.

Sloughs didn't seem to hold water in those days so by the first of July cattle were all taken to the wells. We cut hay in every slough and crops were good as far as moisture was concerned. Frost was the big drawback. I remember one year there was a big writeup in the papers, "How to save the crop from frost". The idea was to draw out the stable manure and dump it in heaps on two sides of the fields, north and east. When frost threatened you lit the smudges

and the smoke drifted over the fields and it would save the crop. A number of us tried it once, but only once.

In the year 1897 Blaris crops were wiped out by a terrible hail storm. It only lasted a few minutes. People were in church at the time. It tore the bark off trees, killed birds and the fields looked as if they had been harrowed. Mr. Taylor had just finished building a stone house. It was all finished but the roof. On reaching home after church, we got a surprise; the whole thing was in the basement. Instead of starting harvest the next day as planned, we set to work cleaning away the rubble and planning for another house on the same foundation, which was built the next year.

In the year 1908 Mr. Taylor went back to Scotland for a visit and I took over the farm. Miniota built its own telephone system in the year 1908. This, I believe was the only "municipal built" telephone system in Canada and it sure was a boost to the district. I guess it cut down some of the visiting and brought people closer together. Everyone knew: when a mouse got drowned in a cream can, when the cat had her kittens, when Susan lost a tooth, when Johnnie got his tonsils out, and other things of interest, such as the day I tried to put out a prairie fire. I had nothing to work with except the branch of a tree which I was trying to cut. My knife slipped and cut the main artery of my wrist. The blood spurted into my face and I struck for home, where they put on a small bag of flour to stop the blood and phoned the doctor. It took about a dozen stitches to close the wound. That was one time we benefited by having the phone.

Putting in the winter wood was a big chore, and for that we had to drive five or six miles north where settlers were few and far between. On this school section anyone was free to cut wood. I didn't know where the school section was but I found out later to my sorrow. It was a nice day in the early fall, just after the first snow, when I started out for my first load of wood. After driving some distance a great big bluff loomed up ahead. I drove in along side and started to chop. I got my load on thinking I was making good time when I got a surprise. As I came out on the opposite side of the bluff, I found myself in a man's back yard. I kept going but he caught up to me and asked where I got it. I was speechless. He said, "That belongs to me and you know it. Dump it off and get out of here." So I dumped it off a lot quicker than I put it on and started out looking for more. It was after dark when I got home cold and hungry with only half a load of wood; wishing it was the last instead of the first.

Isabella district lay to the north of Blaris. It didn't settle up as quickly as Blaris. The first homesteaders

to move in, sometime in the middle 1880s, were Mr. W. Iverach, Mr. D. Iverach, Mr. J. Irwin and Mr. J. Renny. In 1893 I took up the last homestead in the district. Settlers who moved in later bought their land. They had a long way to go for the mail so got together and applied for a Post Office. It was opened in the home of Mr. W. Iverach and named after the oldest lady in the district, Mrs. Isabella Taylor. In the year 1905 there were enough children of school age to entitle them to a school. Church services were also held in the school until the Presbyterian church was built. Later a manse was built. The Presbyterian Church later became the United Church. In 1909 the C.N.R. came through the village of Isabella and Isabella appeared on the map.

In December 1898 I was married to Christine Taylor. We had three children — two boys and 1 girl. Our elder boy died when six years old and four years later my wife died, leaving me with twins, a boy and a girl seven years old. Being unable to get help, I was in a rather awkward position; the only solution I could see was to take on the job of housekeeping myself and it didn't take long to find out it was no easy job. There seemed to be so many things that needed to be done at the same time. However, I managed to keep going for another five years and was then rewarded in finding a housekeeper who stayed with us until my daughter finished school and took over.

In 1919 we sold out and moved to Victoria. The young folks didn't like the city life. They missed their friends and longed for the prairies. In two years we were back again in Isabella. To make things habitable we put up a shanty, built a barn, bought another half-section and settled down to work for another six years. Then my son got married and took over the farm and my daughter and I moved back to Victoria.

My son Hector is still on the farm and my daughter Mrs. J. R. Pope is living in Burnaby, B.C. I am still in the beautiful city of Victoria. I get out for a stroll every day, which keeps me fit at the young age of 89. I can hardly realize that I have a great granddaughter — Lynn Harrison in Kamloops.

1982 — Mr. Calder died in 1965.

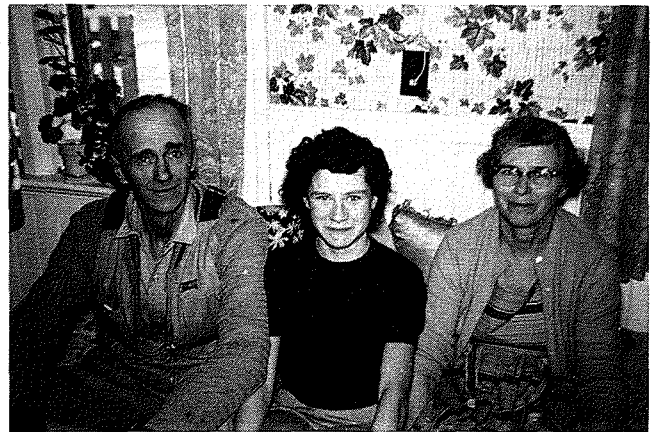
Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Calder **by Mrs. R. H. Calder**

Mr. Hector Calder was born in Isabella of Scottish-English parents on August 30, 1903, on the William Taylor farm 6-15-25, (Mr. Taylor being his uncle). His mother died when he was seven years of age. His father, uncle and sister lived here until the fall of 1919 when they moved to Victoria, B.C.

He remained there, working in a grocery store for

several years. He missed the farm and prairies, so came back to work on a farm at Moosomin, Saskatchewan for a year.

He then came to Isabella until the fall of 1922,



Hector, Lynne Harrison, and Florence Calder.

returning to the coast for the winter. In the spring of 1923 he returned to Isabella and took up land, the east half and south-west quarter of 16-15-25.

His father and sister came to live with him. They farmed together until the fall of 1927 when he married Florence Gray, of Crandall, Manitoba. Florence was the daughter of the late Mrs. Gray, and Mr. George Gray of Crandall.

They lived on this farm until 1958, when they moved to 9-15-25, where they reside at present.

A daughter, Verna Christina May was born, attended Isabella School, and taught music for a time. She played for Sunday School for a number of years. She later married Charles Harrison on December 6, 1947. A daughter, Barbara Lynne was born, and when her baby was almost two years old, Verna died of cancer.

Mr. and Mrs. Calder now specialize in poultry and have many customers who call for eggs, and stay for a friendly cup of tea.

Update **by Lynne Dunitz**

In the summer of 1965, Grandpa and Grandma travelled to Burnaby, B.C. to visit Grandpa's father, Robert, who was living with his daughter Emily and her husband Jack Pope. This was their final visit as Great-grandfather Bob passed away later that year at the age of 93. He had enjoyed reasonably good health and kept active doing handicrafts. I still have an afghan he crocheted quite late in life.

Jack and Emily Pope are now residing in Victoria, B.C. I, Lynne Harrison, moved to Isabella from Kamloops, B.C. in 1966 and stayed with my

grandparents until finding employment with the Royal Bank in Shoal Lake, where I worked until 1971. That year I married Walter Dunitz of Shoal Lake. Walter's wife and elder son had passed away accidentally the year before, leaving him with a young son, Michael, who had just turned four. Grandpa and Grandma had an instant great-grandson whom they were forever spoiling.

Grandpa and Grandma continued farming until ill health forced Grandpa to retire. They moved into Isabella to a house owned by Stan and Ruth Teasdale. This was the old Don Iverach home which at one time was a nursing home and later the Post Office.

Grandpa became ill in the spring of 1976 and spent the rest of the year in Birtle Hospital; Grandma came to stay with us. Grandma's health was starting to fail and in February of 1977 she moved to Morley House in Shoal Lake and Grandpa was able to move there also in May of the same year. We were very thankful they were able to be together after a year of separation.

They sold their farm in 1977. One quarter, which Doug Harrison had rented for many years, was bought by Craig Harrison. The remaining two quarters and twenty acres south of town were bought by Ron and Joanne Huberdeau.

On December 24, 1977, Grandpa and Grandma celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. Celebrations included a tea put on by Morley House, a dinner on the 24th attended by relatives and a few close friends and a presentation of some beautiful gifts from the Isabella community.

Grandpa and Grandma were members of the United Church and Grandma is a life member of the Women's Institute.

Grandma was an avid crocheter and I have many samples of her work. Grandpa, during his stay at the Morley House, took up leathercraft, the proceeds of his sales going back into the Morley House.



Lynne, Michael and Walter Dunitz.

Grandpa passed away on May 19, 1981, at the age of 77 and is buried in the Isabella Cemetery near my mother, Verna.

Grandma, now age 79, still resides at the Morley House.

Walter and I had been living on the farm, 31-17-22, since our marriage but we had the farm rented out and Walter had been working on heavy construction and driving highway tractors, when in 1977 we decided to return farming. We have a mixed farming operation, leaning toward Hereford cattle and to poultry.

Michael, fourteen, is now in Grade IX and quite heavily involved with the Air Cadet League.

At present, I am Postmistress at Menzie, Manitoba, two miles north of our farm. Menzie is a small community, no larger than Isabella, but with the distinction of having two general stores.

It is sad to think that with the amalgamation of rural schools, track abandonment and the trend toward larger and corporate farms, many of our smaller towns are gradually disappearing and a life known to our parents and grandparents will soon be a thing of the past.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Campbell by Mrs. Frank Campbell

Frank Campbell, oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Campbell, was born in the Blaris district in July, 1921. He received his education at Blaris and Isabella schools. In 1940, he joined the Canadian Army, training at Portage la Prairie and Winnipeg, Man. He served overseas until 1945. He then returned to the farm at Blaris.

In 1952, he married Ivy Douglas, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Douglas at Crandall, Man. Their sons, Bobby and Malcolm were born while they were on the farm. Early in 1959, Frank left the farm and trained to buy grain for the National Grain Elevator Co. at Dauphin, Man. In March of that year, he became manager of the National elevator in Roblin, Man. Their son, Neil, was born in April, 1959 and their daughter, Donna Lynne, was born in September, 1960.

In the fall of 1961, the National elevator in Roblin was closed and since then, Frank has been machinery salesman for Keast Bros. in Roblin.

1982 no update.

Gordon and Vivian Campbell by Vivian Campbell

Gordon Thomas Campbell, second son of Reginald and Violet Campbell, was born on the family farm, site of Lucas Post Office, in October, 1922. He received his education at Blaris and Isabella schools.

In 1952 he married Vivian Little, daughter of Vere and Sybil Little of Decker. At this time they took ownership of the Will Grey farm and Vivian continued her career in public health nursing.

Patricia, the first child, was born in 1955. She attended school at Isabella and Hamiota and obtained her degree in nursing at the University of Manitoba. She is now married to Alex Martin and has one child, Alexander. Pat and Alex are both presently engaged in their respective careers of teaching and public health nursing.

Ronald, born in 1956, obtained his Diploma in Agriculture and has returned to the family farm.

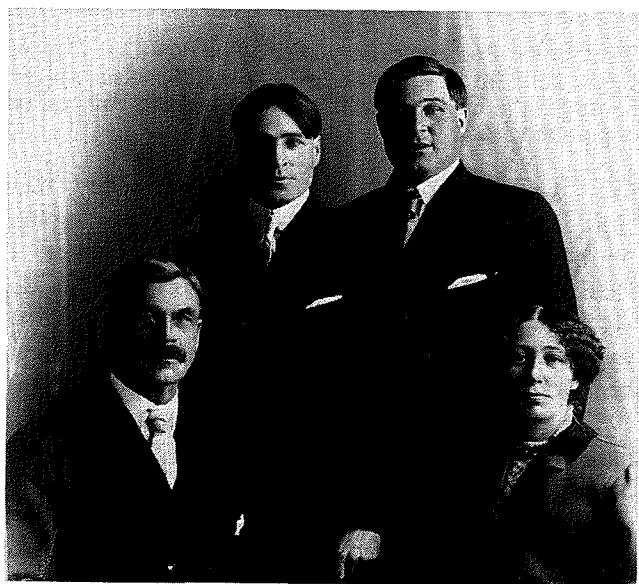
Tanis, born in 1957, completed her degree in social work and is presently director of developmental services at the Y.W.C.A. in Winnipeg.

Scott, born in 1964, is completing his grade XII at Hamiota Collegiate. He intends to attend the University of Manitoba to obtain a degree in engineering.

Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Campbell written by Mrs. R. Campbell

"The Campbell family has been in Canada for many years. Mr. Campbell's grandfather fought in the war against the Americans in 1812-14. For his services, the government granted him and his six sons, one thousand acres of land in the bush in Chingacousy Township, in Peel County, the village of Campbell Cross being named after the family then living in Lincoln County. They moved on the land in 1820.

Mr. Campbell came west in 1882, settling on E $\frac{1}{2}$ -20-14-25. He later bought the homestead of John Cunningham, the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ on the same section. The



Francis, Reg, Seth and Mamie Campbell.

Cunnington house stood for many years on the bank of the ravine. He came back after some years as Doctor Cunningham, a veterinary. Mr. Campbell built a house with logs hauled from the Assiniboine Valley. He was instrumental in getting Lucas Post-Office, and was the postmaster there for many years. There was only mail one day a week and that was on Friday. The mail was brought by stage from Elkhorn to Parkissimo Post-office just west of Miniota, and then to Arrow River. Mr. William Tennant, Senior, brought the mail to Lucas, then Arrowton, and on to Orrwald. When Isabella Post Office opened, he came there too. Mr. Campbell married Miss French. She came from Brandon to Doyle's Landing, west of Beulah, on a steamboat.

There were three in the family Seth (Seddie), Reginald, Mamie.

The two boys homesteaded near Humboldt, Saskatchewan. Water Hill went at the same time. Walter and Seddie married sisters. Sed. had six children, five girls and one boy. They are living in Saskatchewan and British Columbia." (Taken from D. Harrison's letter.)

Reginald, better known as "Reg" married Violet Grey in 1914. There were four girls and five boys; Anne — Mrs. Egilsson, married to Reverend E. Egilsson of the United Church in Ontario, Mamie — Mrs. Cliff Shurvell — lives at Sioux Lookout, Ontario, Hazel is Mrs. John Kelly of Rathwell, Manitoba. Vivian is Mrs. Evan White and lives in Winnipeg, Man. Frank lives at Roblin. Colin is at Brandon and has five children. Crawford is a professor at the University of Winnipeg. Rodney lives in Clanwilliam. There are 28 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren. Gordon lives on the farm which was once his grandfather Grey's, then his uncle Will's.

Reg. lived on the farm until 1952 when we moved to Isabella. Frank took over the farm, until he moved to Roblin in 1959. The first house that grandpa Campbell built was burned down in 1897. He rebuilt in 1898 near the old site and it was burned down in 1960 by a prairie fire. With it went many fond memories. Reg passed away in 1954.

Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Campbell

Mr. Campbell owned all of section 27-15-25. He bought it from Rev. H. Crozier. He never lived on the land but rent it to other farmers. He died in 1930 leaving the west $\frac{1}{2}$ to his daughter Mrs. Gilbert, and the east $\frac{1}{2}$ to his other daughter Mrs. Robertson. Mr. John Pollock started to buy from Mrs. Gilbert but lost it as times were hard. George Lawn bought the west $\frac{1}{2}$ and Cecil Wall bought the east $\frac{1}{2}$, later owned by George Phillips.

Donald Carnegie and family

by Don Carnegie

I was born on a small farm two miles west and one and a half miles south of Beulah, August 3, 1914. Our home, built on the north bank of the Minnewashta valley, gave us a beautiful view of the CNR bridge across the end, and the Assiniboine valley in the distance. We, as youngsters, spent a lot of time in the valley, chasing cows most of the time from the bushes along the creek. In the winter on the hills we went sliding with anything that would slide; i.e. sleighs boughten and sleighs homemade, scoop shovels and about the best and most adventurous, an old cutter gear with just platform and runners. Bill and I got a real thrill out of the cutter gear until we persuaded



Don and Thelma Carnegie, 1966.

Dad to take a ride with us. That was the ride of all time, as the extra weight increased the speed about half as much again. I was in front, Bill in the middle and Dad on the back. Bill and I, having been down the hill a few times, thought this was really something, but poor Dad, first time down was yelling "Wo, Wo, Wo"; but the old team of horses weren't in front and I think we went faster as there were no brakes. We hit a large bunch of Saskatoon bushes at the bottom of the hill and the cutter gear took off over the top of them. Our first airplane ride, no engine, no wings. We stopped on the top of the bush about ten feet off the ground. All Dad said was "Lord Almighty", though it ended our cutter gear rides.

I attended school in Beulah and at an early age, decided that best I go to work.

On leaving school, I went to work first on a farm, then the garage in Solsgirth, then the farm again at Decker, then the garage again, in Isabella for two years, with Alex Clarke. The thirties had taken over

by this time and Bill and I decided the West may be better than Manitoba, so we rode the freights along with thousands of others. We worked on farms in Alberta for a few years, then Bill returned to Manitoba. I stayed in Alberta, then moved to Vancouver Island where I worked in a service station before joining the RCNVR. Our family, at this time, consisted of five boys and four girls; i.e. Bill, Mary, Bob and myself in the Armed Forces, Jean in Ottawa, Effie in Calgary, Betty, Jim and Murray at home in Arrow River. Bob lost his life in a bombing expedition with the Tiger Squadron over Germany, January 12-13, 1945. He is buried in the Soldiers plot at Abenras Denmark.

It was while on leave that I met Thelma Norrie, a lovely young lady and we were married in June of 1945. Thelma was born at Decker, Sept. 15, 1924, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Norrie and received all of her education at Decker. Thelma had two sisters, Cora (Mrs. Ted Shier of Crandall) and Eleanor (Mrs. M. Begg of Winnipeg), seven brothers, Bill, Geordie, Charlie, and Frank in the services, Archie, Cyril and Gordon at home.

Thelma and I started out in Birtle working with



Bev, Gordon, Bob, Ernie, Gary, Donny. 2nd Row: Don, Debbie, Linda, Lori. 3rd Row: Scott, Leslie, Wes, Michelle, Maurea. Missing: Lyle, Linda and family, Wilf, Diane and Wanda Carnegie, 1981.

the Co-op. Our first little girl was Beverley, then Bob, Linda and Gordon, Gary and Ernie. During this period of time we had moved to Arrow River, to Beulah and back to Birtle again to work with CCIL. Not being satisfied to continue being on a payroll, we were on the lookout for something of our own, and heard of the station in The Pas. Moving to The Pas in 1957, we operated Carnegie's Service and by "we", I mean brother Bill and his family and Thelma and I and ours.

I must say, we had to work long hard hours and very little time off, but we were keeping out of debt and getting along well. Our family had increased to eight with Lori and Donny. Thelma was kept very

busy looking after the family, but in 1966, very suddenly she had a severe stroke and passed away. She is buried in Crandall cemetery and is ever remembered by all of us.

Looking back, I have to admire the family as I tried to explain to them that Mother would not be with us any more and we would have to work things out ourselves. Beverley, working for MTS and helping at home had her hands full. Linda, getting her education with home work and looking after the smaller children had her hands full as well. The boys, with paper routes and helping in the station, were getting along well and just taking everything as best we could. Moving to a larger home was a big improvement. A year and a half later we were to receive another shock, as brother Bill died from a most unfortunate highway accident December 28, 1967.

Our boys had some fast changing to do from then on and they turned to men in a short time. They had to help in the station, as well as at home and also get their education.

Though we had our problems, we certainly had our good times as well and the family was holding together.

During the year 1968 I met a young lady Ann Anderson, widowed by a tragic mine accident in 1967, with four children; Helen, Steve, Joanne and Wayne. We enjoyed each others company for a time and on November 10, 1968, Ann and I were married. We lived in The Pas area until 1972, when for reasons of health after I had a stroke, we moved to Kamloops, B.C. hoping for a warmer climate.

Our family, in the meantime, had developed into young men and women, and of course, girl friends and boy friends, hence young married couples and more families and grandchildren. Bob was first to be married — to Dianne Frechette of The Pas. They have two children, Leslie and Wanda. Linda married Lyle Smith of Emerson where they live with their four children, Kristin, Justin, Kelly and Kerri. Ernie married Linda Fulmore of The Pas and they live in The Pas with three children, Scott, Michelle and Wes. Beverley married Wilf Monkman of Winnipeg where they presently reside. Gordon married Debbie McLenehan of Lenore and they live in Thompson. Steve is married to Kathy Taylor of The Pas and they live in The Pas with their son, Troy. Lori and her little girl, Maurea, live in Kamloops where Lori is presently advancing her education. Gary is still single, living in Kelowna. Helen lives in Snow Lake, employed by HBM & S. Joanne lives in The Pas and is furthering her education at Keewatin Community College. Wayne and Don are at home finishing their Grade eleven and twelve.

This brings us pretty well up to date except that

Ann and I moved back to The Pas October, 1981, for how long, we are not sure, but alot of our old friends are still here and the family are mostly in Manitoba. We have an awful lot to be thankful for and thank our good Lord for the blessings that have been ours over the years.

G. Lorne Carscadden

by Lorne Carscadden

I was born at Virden, March 16, 1916 and went to Montgomery School. I moved to Birtle with my parents in 1933 and helped on the farm. I worked at the Birtle Indian School for one year as boys' supervisor and then I joined the army in June, 1941.

I married (Peg) Margaret Johnston on September 22, 1941 and went overseas in early 1942. I served in England, Italy, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany and returned home in October 1945.

In the spring of 1946 Peg and I moved to S.W. 7-16-25 known as the George Ireland farm. We purchased the farm from Veterans Land Administration that fall.

Our daughter Ione Frances was born at Birtle Hospital on September 6, 1948. She went to Rothesay School and later to Birtle High School. She decided to take up nursing as a profession.

Peg and I boarded the school teachers for Rothesay for many years and I served on the Rothesay School Board for nine years.

In 1966 Peg and I celebrated our 25 Wedding Anniversary with open house and tea served by the Rothesay Ladies. On January 9, 1967 Peg passed away after a lengthy illness.

On June 5, 1971 Ione married Ed Weslowski of Foxwarren and they made their home in B.C. Ed is with Hydro. They have two children, Karen born July 2, 1974 and Kevin born September 10, 1975.

Addie and I were married on July 30, 1971 and are still living on the farm. We had an auction sale on April 16, 1981 and disposed of most of my machinery, etc. as I rented the farm to Jim and Ron Lawn. I had farmed for 35 years and saw many changes. My first new tractor cost \$1200.00, my last \$21,700.00 (1975).

We hauled grain to Isabella most of the time but later had to haul to Solsgirth. I curled at Isabella and enjoyed many friends. In later years Addie and I have both curled with the Isabella Club.

Mr. Champion

Mr. Champion was manager of the Royal Bank in Isabella for a time. His father was partner in the firm of Alloway and Champion, prominent brokers in Winnipeg in the early days.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Chapman **by Mr. and Mrs. John Chapman**

Mr. Joe Champman, with his wife, daughter Elizabeth age four and Ida six months, came to Manitoba from Ontario in 1882. His father was English and his mother Irish. It is not definitely known how they came from Winnipeg. Some settlers came in covered wagons. There were no bridges over the Assiniboine River. Mr. William Lynch had a small house on its banks where he lived with his small daughter. She became Mrs. Abel Hawes of Beulah. Mr. Lynch who ran a ferry took people and their belongings over the river for a fee. Some came up the river by boat to a place called Herkemer's Landing. That name was still painted on the underside of chairs sold at W. T. Preston's sale in 1942.

The Chapman homestead was the S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of 24-15-26. The north half of the same section was bought later. Still later the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of 23-15-26 was bought for the younger son, Arnott.

The first house was made of logs which were later boarded over with lumber. The stable was sod. A framework of poles from the bluff was built and thick pieces of sod were cut from the prairie. They were about a foot long and a few inches wide. They were packed against it to make a wall. The roof was poles with straw cover. They had no fences at first but built pole-enclosures called corrals to keep the cattle in at night. Lack of water was a problem. Several wells were dug and later a dugout was dug. There was a creek nearby, but it was often dry. At one time about fifty head of cattle were driven slowly to a spring at Beulah, a distance of six miles. They were headed home in the afternoon. The first grain was broadcast; i.e. thrown by hand onto the land which had been plowed by oxen. The first threshing was done with a flail. It was a big event when a reaper was procured to cut the grain. Nearly twenty cows were milked at one time. The milk was put in flat tin pans and left overnight for the cream to rise. Later, tall milk cans were used. They had a tap and narrow glass to tell when the milk was all out and the cream left. The first churn was called a cradle. It was long and narrow and was rocked by two people, one at each end. The first cream separator was a big heavy Melotte. The first grain separator was run by horsepower. A man stood on a platform and drove six or eight teams of horses around and around all day. That ran the grain separator. Usually there was a stack at each side. The neighbors exchanged work. There was always the engineer, separator man, fireman to feed the engine and straw man to keep a load of straw ready, the tank man to draw water to make steam, a bag man to put the grain into bags and to keep track of the amount. Other men drew the bags to a granary or to town.

The first school attended was Gnaton. Lizzie drove Ida, Lottie and Johnnie. Bertha and Arnott were too young to go. The second school was less than half the distance. It was held in a lean-to on the east side of the house on the Charles Evans farm. The furnishings consisted of a long table, benches with no backs set around the table. The next school was in the Adam Boyce house three miles west of Isabella. One day the teacher drove to see Mr. Chapman at noon. He was chairman of the school board. While she was away the children heard a noise in the attic. They put the teacher's table under the trap door and a chair on top of that. Hulda Marshall stood up on it and looked up, but not for long. A man's head appeared and he made a loud noise. She fell and so did the chair. They all ran away until the teacher returned. That night some men went to investigate but he had broken the lock on the door and was gone. It was believed that he had escaped from Brandon. Then they got a real school a half-mile north of the telephone building. Mr. Chapman named it "Shamrock". They got their first blackboard. It was three wide boards painted black. One day Mr. Bryce, the teacher, bet his boots he could take the girls and beat the boys playing shinny, a game like hockey on the snow. The boys won and tried to take his boots. He fought like a tiger and kept his boots.

J. D. Marshall known as Captain Hinch spent his time between Jack Young's place at Rothesay and Chapman's place. One day Jack Young met Joe Chapman in Birtle. The old man Captain Hinch had started for Chapman's place two weeks before. The men on horseback found his body a quarter of a mile from his destination. His grave may still be seen in Beulah cemetery. At its head is a field stone with his name chiseled into it. He died March 31, 1899.

About 1900 a barn 100 feet long was built. A windmill on its top crushed grain for feed.

Mrs. Chapman passed away in 1902 at the age of 48. Mr. Champman died a year later. Elizabeth married Jim Thompson. They had three children. Olive who married George Dibblee lives at Arrow River. They have two daughters. Mr. Thompson died at Beulah in 1935 and his wife at Edmonton in 1950. Jim and Harry live in Edmonton. Each have a son.

Ida married Joe Evans. They have a son Leslie who is married and lives at Saskatoon. Mr. Evans' first wife had two daughters, Nina and Janet, and they live at Kelowna, B.C.

Lottie married Will Preston but died at the age of 36 at Beulah.

John married Margaret MacPherson and they have three daughters.

Bertha married Harry Finkbeiner in 1912 and they had two sons: Clarence who gave his life for his

country as a navigator in the Air Force, and Lorne who married Shirley Head and teaches school at Pine Falls. They have two daughters. Mrs. Finkbeiner was buried at Isabella on her 64th birthday.

Arnott, who married Florence Carr, lives at Birtle. They have three daughters: Wilma, who married Murray Simmie, has four children and lives at Calgary; Irene, who married Dennis Knight, has two children and lives in Winnipeg; Joyce, who married William Simmie, has two children and lives in Winnipeg.

John and Margaret Chapman by Mrs. Ken Warren

John Chapman married Margaret MacPherson. Margaret was a school teacher. Of this union there were three children: Jean, Helen and Phyllis. Jean and Helen were both school teachers and Phyllis was in the R.C.A.F. for three years, half of this time at head office in London, England. Later she was with Trans Canada Airways.

Mr. and Mrs. Chapman lived on the home farm at Isabella until they retired and moved to Hamiota, in 1955, where they spent pleasant years, making new friends and enjoying visits from old friends in the surrounding districts. In 1962 they celebrated their 50th anniversary, a happy occasion, but marred by the fact that Johnnie, as he was affectionately known, was not in good health at the time. He passed away Sept. 3, 1963, and will always be remembered for his kindly humor and the good fun to be had in his company.

Mrs. Chapman continued to live in Hamiota until 1973, when she moved to the west coast to make her home with her daughters, — Mrs. Phyllis Turner in Vancouver, and Mrs. Jean Warren and Mrs. Helen Wyllie in Prince Rupert. Mrs. Chapman was in failing health for the last year of her life, and she passed away Jan. 14, 1976. She and Mr. Chapman are buried in Hamiota cemetery.

Phyllis and Cliff Turner have two children, Lorraine and Brian. Lorraine is married to Norman McGrath. They have two children and live in Delta, B.C. Brian is unmarried and lives close to his parents in Vancouver. Cliff is now retired, after working for National Drugs for many years.

Ken and Jean Warren lived for 35 years in Prince Rupert, B.C. They have three children, Gwen, Robert, and Murray. Their infant daughter, Marney Jean, lived for only a few hours. Gwen married Wayne Bell, and has three children. They now live in Sidney, B.C. Bob married Anne Pugh of Victoria. They have three boys and make their home in Victoria. Murray lives in Langley, B.C. but his work is

in Aldergrove, where he is manager of part of a Co-op shopping mall.

After being foreman of the Canadian Fishing Co. in Prince Rupert for many years, Ken retired in 1979, and he and Jean now make their home in Victoria, close to their children and grandchildren.

Helen and Jack Wyllie also lived in Prince Rupert for over 30 years. Janice and Craig are their children, both living in Prince Rupert. Jack was an electrician and worked for B.C. Hydro for many years. Upon retirement they continued to make their home in Prince Rupert. Helen passed away suddenly in May, 1979, leaving her husband, Jack, Janice, Craig, and little granddaughter, Crystal.

Mrs. Chapman's sister, Nan Emerson, who wrote a number of poems which appeared in Vol. 1 of Rural Reflections, passed away in May, 1968.

The following is a poem I would like to include, as she wrote it for my mother, in memory of my father, just shortly after he passed away.

A Melody Will Bring Him Back

Blessed, blessed memories that bring him
swiftly near.

Hallowed, healing memories that keep him close
and dear.

A melody will bring him back: a scent, a sound, a
sight;

The distant bleating of a lamb; the quiet rain at
night.

The tinkle of a cow bell and I see him once again
Caring for his creatures with water and with grain.
Or with foaming milk pail coming down the yard,
The old dog beside him, ever faithful guard.

The hum of distant tractor, the smell of fresh turned
loam

The scent of new-mown hayfields, the lamp-lit
door of home.

Fair time in the village brings him quickly back
Proudly driving Lady, the swiftest on the track.

When I hear small children's laughter I still see
them at his knee

Eyes wide and smiling at his tales, his magic
wizardry.

When I hear the old time music or I see his violin
The curtain of the years rolls up and memories roll
in.

And we're back again at Shamrock with our
neighbors and our friends

Where the music and the dancing and the laughter
never ends

Until the sun is rising and the East is all a-glow
Then we carry sleeping children to the sleighs and
homeward go.

When snow is softly falling I feel the tear drops
start,
I can hear the sleigh bells ringing, still ringing in
my heart.
I remember, I remember driving slowly down the
lane,
He wraps the robes around me, and we both are
young again.
Oh, blessed healing memories that bring him back
to me.
That keep us close together until immortality.

By Nan Emerson, Written for my dear sister in
memory of her husband, Jack Chapman. Oct.
1963.

Bill and Connie Choptuik Family **by Bill and Connie Choptuik**

The Choptuik-Ashcroft-Turnbull connection moved to Isabella from Solsgirth in November 1968 to the Robert and Jessie Scarth farm. In the spring of 1972, the family moved to Lorne and Beatrice Wright's farm.

At the time of arrival into the Isabella Community, Peter, John, Merrideth Ashcroft and Matthew Choptuik were attending the Birtle schools. Karen Ashcroft had begun her post secondary education at Winnipeg University.

1981 sees the family now widely scattered in the United States and Canada.

Karen and Ken Klemm with children, Peter, Sarah and Ian are in construction in Baraboo, Wisconsin. Peter, Jean (Bamford) and Christine are at home in Stoney Rapids, Saskatchewan, where Peter is a Conservation Officer with the Department of Northern Saskatchewan and Jean shares the responsibility of home and office. John and Tina (Kwan) live in Hay River, North West Territories, where John is a welder for Northern Arc Limited and Tina is a telephone operator for Canadian National. David and Merrideth (Ashcroft) Staples live momentarily in Regina, Saskatchewan. David is a computer programmer-analyst for Saskatchewan Co-operative Insurance. Merrideth works in The Bay. They anticipate an early fall move to the Toronto, Ontario area. Matthew Choptuik, who is in the University of British Columbia, will call that province "home" while he continues his studies in Physics and Computer Science.

Barry James Clark **by Linda Clark**

Barry was born the seventh child of Elmer and Evelyn Clark on October 26, 1956 at Hamiota. He took his schooling at Isabella and Miniota, graduat-

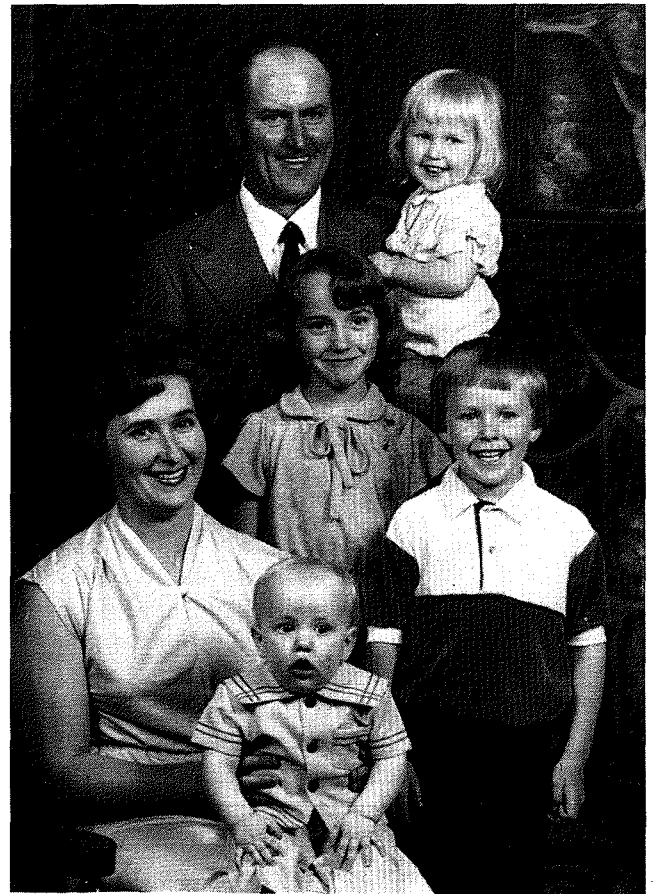
ing from the Birtle Collegiate in 1974. Barry was a member of the Miniota Calf Club and won an exchange trip to Huron, South Dakota in 1971. Barry was a Scout with the Miniota Pack, was chosen a Queen Scouter, and acted as a Scout leader.

Following collegiate graduation, Barry worked for Manitoba Hydro for two years. In 1977 he rented the Al Clark farm. Since 1978 Barry has spent the winter months working on the oil service rigs at Coronation, Alberta, and in the summer is employed with Rowan's Construction of Elkhorn.

Bill and Linda Clark **by Linda Clark**

William John was born on July 11, 1945 at Miniota, the third son of Elmer and Evelyn Clark. He received the majority of his education at Isabella, and graduated from grade twelve at Miniota.

The day he finished school, he and his cousin Kevin Lelond of Arrow River headed west to Alberta to seek their fortunes. He worked for Don and Margaret Campbell on their farm near Eckville in 1964, and was employed by the Red Deer Meat Packers in 1965-66. Upon the death of his father in 1966, Bill



Bill, Cherilynn, Julie, Linda, Daryl, and Trevor Clark.

came home to farm the home farm. He rented the NE and SW quarters of 35-14-26 from his mother until he purchased it in 1973. In 1969-71 he rented the N½ 28-14-26 from Wm. Merry. Then in 1971 he bought the SE¼ 35-14-26 from R. Lawrence Stevenson and S½ 36-14-26 from Frank Stevenson.

Hearing that men sometimes forget their anniversaries and afraid that this might happen to us, Bill and I, Linda Joann Reid of Isabella, were married on his birthday, July 11, 1970 in the Isabella United Church. I was born on March 24, 1950 at Hamiota, the second daughter of Frank and Hannah Reid. I received my education at Isabella and Birtle, took my teachers' training at Brandon University in 1968-69 and taught the following term in the Virden Junior High. Following our marriage I taught until 1973 in the Birtle Elementary school.

My parents encouraged our family in any endeavour we attempted, placing special emphasis on our education and music. I belonged to the Isabella Explorers, C.G.I.T. and 4H Sewing Club. Music has played an important part in my life. I took piano lessons from Margaret E. Heise and Mrs. Donna (Stuart) Johnson gave me my start in singing, — training me for festivals as well as leading our Junior Church Choir. To these two ladies, I would like to pay special tribute for the help they gave to me as well as to the many other Isabella people they instructed. My musical association still continues with Margaret, as she's always near by and willing when I need a pianist for a wedding or concert.

Bill enjoys working with cattle. He got his start showing cattle in the Decker 4H Calf Club. He received Grand Champion two years at the McConnell Fat Stock Show for his commercial Pen of 3. In 1979 Bill took cattle to the Toronto Royal Winter Fair. He also enjoys showing at the Brandon Winter Fair. Milking cows was a part of Clark farm life until 1973 and then Bill decided to sell his dairy herd and build up his commercial herd. He maintains a herd of 60 cows and calves and finishes approximately 100 steers each year. Gone are the days of housing all a farmer's cattle in the barn. Bill has built three loose housing sheds to shelter his cattle.

Bill served as councillor for Ward 3 of the Rural Municipality of Miniota from 1972-80. During this time, he acted as Chairman of the Vet Clinic from its opening in 1975, and served as chairman of the Road Patrol committee. Bill took a course in Governmental Procedures. The third session in 1974 gave Bill and me the opportunity to go to the Ottawa Parliament Buildings for a week — giving us a first hand look into government affairs.

We have been blessed with four healthy children. We are proud that our children are the fourth genera-

tion to live in the house built by their great grandpa Sam Clark. Julie Adele was born on December 4, 1973; Daryl Ryan on June 26, 1975; Cherilynn Joann on December 13, 1978; and Trevor Andrew on August 30, 1980. Julie has completed grade 1, and Daryl kindergarten at Miniota. They are involved in Brownies, figure and speed skating. Our children enjoy music also. Julie started her singing career at the age of four, taking part in the festival, concerts, and our Isabella Sunday School choir.

Our family enjoys life in our small community. Bill has served on the elevator, hall and rink boards; I am a member of the Isabella United Church Women, having served as President, and also am leader of the junior choir. Our children attend Sunday School at Isabella.

As a family we enjoy camping and Sunday drives when relaxing from farming. Bill and I were pleased to be able to host a Clark reunion in July 1977 when family members came from Victoria, Edmonton, Red Lake, and various points in Manitoba. The home farm will always have an open door for our family and friends as it did in the days of our parents and grandparents.

Clare and Doreen Clark

by Linda Clark

Clare Edward was born on October 21, 1942 at Miniota, the first son of Elmer and Evelyn Clark. He received his education at Isabella. Following his schooling he worked out on local farms, and with a paint gang in Saskatchewan. He farmed the home farm in 1965-66.

Clare married Doreen Sharon Sutherland on November 18, 1967. Doreen was born on May 11, 1947 at Shoal Lake, the only daughter of Geo. and Helen Sutherland of Isabella. She received her education at Isabella and Birtle. Doreen worked for a year in the Royal Bank at Birtle prior to her marriage.

In 1966 Clare bought the NW ¼ 35-14-26 from George Ringland and rented SW¼ 35-14-26 from R. L. Stevenson. At this time he worked with Murray Bell. He drove the school van during 1967-70 to Miniota.

Clare rented N½ 34-14-26 from his mother. He also rented land from Geo. Ringland for two years and in 1973 bought the Ringland farm.

Clare and Doreen have two children. Kevin John was born on April 21, 1968 and Linda Darlene was born on October 27, 1970 at Hamiota. Their children attend school at Miniota, and are involved in hockey and figure skating, Cubs, 4H, and Guides. Clare has just completed a two year term on the Miniota Com-

munity Centre Board, one year acting as chairman. He enjoys hunting, fishing, and sports.

Doreen is a leader of the Miniota Brownies, and also enjoys sewing, crafts, and outdoor life. Their family enjoys camping.

In 1975 they built an addition to their house and have done some remodelling to their home.

Clifford Allan Clark

by Linda Clark

Cliff was born on November 13, 1943 at Miniota, the second son of Elmer and Evelyn Clark. He received his education at Isabella and Miniota. Cliff was a member of the Decker Calf Club and was fortunate in catching a calf in the calf scramble at the Brandon Winter Fair. Following Grade 12, he took a business and bookkeeping course, then worked in Brandon, Winnipeg and Victoria.

On October 8, 1968 he married Dolores Wiebe of Winnipeg in the Isabella United Church.

Following a lengthy illness, Cliff passed away on January 1, 1970 in the Winnipeg General Hospital. At the time of his death he was employed with the Federal Government at Fort Churchill.

Cliff was buried in a Winnipeg cemetery.

Elmer and Evelyn Clark

by Linda Clark

As I continue the Elmer and Evelyn Clark family history as begun in the "Sam Clark history", we have experienced good and bad times since 1962.

On September 11, 1965 the Elmer Clark home was broken into by three men. Kathy and some friends driving home from a dance were forced to the side of the road by a convertible. Feeling that the occupants of the convertible were up to no good, they fled at high speed to the Elmer Clark farm yard. Kathy and her friends ran inside, locked the door and aroused her family. When the door was not opened at the intruders' threats, they broke the door down with a cream can. Clare was struck on the forehead with a rifle butt which knocked him out, and a second rifle (butt end) was used on Elmer.

Following this traumatic ordeal, Elmer's health failed and on November 28, 1966 he passed away at his farm home where he had lived his entire life. Mrs. Laura Clark wrote of Elmer at the time of his passing: "Elmer was devoted to his home and family. They were the mainspring of his life, and he will always be remembered by them as a loving husband and father. He laboured for their well-being, and now that he is

gone his sons are taking up the task, grateful that they are able to do so."

Farming was Elmer's life. He loved animals, and encouraged his family to work with animals also. His eight children all took part in the 4H Calf Club. The biggest and busiest year was when five children had calves ready for the McConnell Fat Stock Show. Bill



Barrie, Bill, Kathy, and Ron, Clare, Irene, and Bob Clark, 1977.

with his Hereford steer won the Supreme Championship, the Grand Championship for the Decker Club, and a special prize for the Herefords, donated by the Hereford Association. Kathy had the Reserve Champion, Cliff's steer placed third, and Clare and Ron were showing also. It was certainly a red letter day for the Clark family, and credit must be given to Elmer for raising such fine Herefords, and teaching his children the art of showmanship and good sportsmanship in competitions.

Clare and Bill farmed the home farm with their mother following their father's death. Evelyn loved the outdoors, and although busy raising her eight children, always found time to lend a helping hand outside.

In the fall of 1969 Evelyn with Irene, Barry, and Bobby moved to Miniota, and took up residence in the Jed Lelond home.

On January 1, 1970 our family experienced death and grief once more. Cliff passed away following a lengthy illness at the young age of twenty-seven years.

On April 9, 1973 our mother married Wes McKenzie of Miniota. They enjoyed golfing, dancing, gardening, and camping together, but were not to know this happiness for very long. Tragedy again

hit our young family on February 23, 1976 when; after a short battle with cancer, we lost our mother, Evelyn Clark McKenzie. Our mother throughout her life was a woman who worked hard, loved life, and faced the world with a smile no matter what the circumstances might be. Her life revolved around her home — always an open door for her children and their families, relatives, and friends. “She gave as one who did not even know that she was giving. She gave as a flower breathes its fragrance into space.” from the Prophet by Gibran.

Elmer and Evelyn are laid to rest in the Isabella Cemetery.

Individual histories of the eight children of the late Elmer and Evelyn Clark are in this book.



Evelyn and Elmer Clark.

Mr. and Mrs. Allan Clark by Vera Clark

Allan was the son of John and Isabella Clark. He took over his father's farm in 1916, after his father and mother moved to Isabella. This consisted of N half 36-14-26 and NW quarter 26-14-26. He later acquired SW quarter 5-15-25 and SW quarter 1-15-26. He worked the land with horses until 1938, when he bought a John Deere Model D tractor. He bought his first combine in partnership with Bob Kirk in 1943. 1916, when he first started to farm, was the year of the rust, so he didn't get much for his work. He bached in the winter, and hired a married couple for the summer, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bingham and family.

In 1919, he bought his first car, and on October 11,



Louis Quinn, June Clark, Betty Barnhart, Gail and Brenda Smith, Valerie Clark, and Glenn Quinn. Middle Row: Carol Quinn, Al, Vera, and Ken Clark. Front Row: Timothy Barnhart, Kelly Quinn, and Darren Smith, 1979, 60th Wedding Anniversary.

we started out to go to Crandall to a concert. Coming out of the lane the car gave a twist, then righted itself, and we went a mile farther, then the front wheels twisted completely around, and threw the car upside down. We were both thrown into the back seat. Al was free so he knocked out the back window, and got out. I was half in and half out, with the car on top of me. A Ford car wasn't very heavy in those days, and Al was able to lift one side, and I dragged myself out. The engine was racing all the time and Al had to pull off the choke wire to stop it. We walked back to Warren's and phoned Dad. I went to Brandon to the Bigelow Clinic, an X-ray showed that my hip was cracked.

Al and I were married on November 11, 1919. We had two children: Kenneth, born December, 1920 and Carol, July 31, 1923.

Here is a story about animal behavior. When Ken was 5 years old, we bought him a Shetland pony. After a few years, she had a colt. When the larger horses saw it, they were quite excited. The little colt got under the fence, into the field with the large horses. The mother was running up and down along the fence, calling to it. We went to see what all the confusion was about. Among the horses was a big grey horse, he was standing still while the other horses were running around him. Where do you think the little colt was? It was under the big grey horse, standing between its front legs, quite safe.

We continued to live in the old house until 1928. By that time the rats had invaded the country. The

older house had no foundation, as it was built on flat stones, there was no way the rats could be kept out of the house. We tore away the older parts, and that left the new 20' x 20' house. We put a basement under it and enlarged it to 26' x 26'. The livingroom extended all across the front, making a good room to hold card parties and dances. At Blaris, there were 5 or 6 large houses that could be used for parties. At one time we had an oyster supper at our place. There were one hundred and ten people there. Did you ever try to swallow a raw oyster? We also held dances in the schoolhouse.

In the winter there was also curling. Al played on Mr. Thompson's rink in the first bonspiel held in Isabella Rink. They won the Grand Challenge and the prize was a small cake plate.

Al raised his race horse, and we spent the summer going to race meets and fairs. Al drove his horse to Viriden, got first in a race, and was given \$1.25 as a prize. Al later lost his horse with sleeping sickness.

We survived the "thirties". It was a good time to be on the farm. We had our own wheat, which we took to Hamiota to the grist mill to be made into flour, shorts, bran and grits. We had our own cattle, pigs, sheep, turkeys, chickens, geese, ducks, and all the by-products that went with them. They supplied us with food as well as a little cash.

When Carol finished school, she went to Winnipeg with Sarah Stevenson. They both worked at

Eaton's, and roomed together. During the war, Carol joined the Royal Canadian Navy Auxiliary Force, and served at Prestwick, Scotland. After returning to Canada, she worked at McGregor, where she met her future husband, Louis Quinn. They have two children: Glenn Allan and Betty Marlene.

Ken helped his father on the farm until he bought the Bob Kirk farm. Ken continued to help his father in the busy seasons.

We have had some interesting trips. We took the Canadian National Railway trip to the Toronto Royal Winter Fair, with the different side trips. We had two trips to Victoria, B.C. We took a tour of Co-ops in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Al was born on his father's farm, and lived there for 67 years. In 1960, he rented to his nephew, John Clark. We lived in Isabella for three years, which we enjoyed very much. We had a house built in Hamiota, and have been living there ever since. We celebrated our 60th Wedding anniversary in 1979. We have now passed 63 years of married life.

Mr. and Mrs. John Clark

by Vera Clark

John Clark was born in the province of Quebec, on March 31, 1858. His parents were Sam and Mary Clark.

While still a young boy, his father decided to seek land in Ontario. He set off with his two elder sons,



Standing: Jim, Sam, Maggie, Robert, and Allan. Seated: Isabella and John Clark.

Sam and Jim and found land in Huron County. Leaving the two boys to clear enough land for a house and garden he returned home for the rest of the family. They had to walk twenty miles through the bush. His father carried one hundred pounds of flour on his back, and his mother carried fifty pounds on her back. She never weighed more than ninety pounds.

The parents and older sons remained in Huron County, where the sons took up land. John stayed home until he was twenty-four, then he decided to come to Manitoba. He left his home at Fordwich Ontario, and with his friend Tom Stevenson, arrived in Manitoba on March 16, 1882. He could come as far as Brandon by train. From there they walked by way of Rapid City to Arrow River. There was so much water, that sometimes instead of trying to go around the sloughs, they took off their clothes, and waded through them. One day, the only thing they had to eat was eggs from a hawk's nest.

Arriving at Arrow River, he met a neighbor from their home district of Ontario, Mr. Donald McKenzie, who had come to Arrow River on April 28, 1882. Mr. McKenzie asked John if he would work for him. John replied, "You remember that licking I promised you back in Ontario? I'm big enough to give it to you now". Back in Ontario Mr. McKenzie had caught a bunch of boys stealing apples from his orchard, and as John was the smallest, he was caught and given the licking. When he got away he turned and said, "I'll pay you back for that some day."

But now Mr. McKenzie said "Let bygones be bygones and come and work for me". So John did, and the first land-breaking he did, was the corner field as you turn to go from Arrow River to Miniota, just east of Mr. McKenzie's buildings.

The two friends found their own land on Section 36-14-26, John taking the northeast quarter and Tom the southeast quarter. Later they got the quarters just west of their land. There was a ravine running through their land, which no doubt reminded them of the streams on Ontario.

The first winter they lived in a dugout on the east bank of that ravine. The first sod was turned with oxen. Mr. Clark used to put his plough shares into a bag and walk to Birtle to have them sharpened.

The first house was built on the west side of the quarter, but later when he married Isabella Taylor in 1886, he built a two-storey house fourteen by sixteen on the east side. Here, he built the first barn in the community, size thirty-six by by seventy-two, the lumber came from Ontario. The lower part was of stone construction. This barn is still in use, although some of the stonework has been replaced by frame and the roof has been reshingled. Later a new addi-

tion twenty by twenty was put on the house. In 1928 the older parts were taken off and the twenty by twenty section was enlarged to twenty-six by twenty-six.

A shallow well was first dug in the ravine, and the water was good. A well is still kept there with a pump in it. It has come in handy for the neighbors too. Mr. Bridge hauled water from it for years. Later, Mr. Clark had a well dug near his barn. This well was seventy-five feet deep and was dug by Mr. Tom Ariss. This well was pumped by a windmill on the roof of the barn. It was attached to the barn pump by a long rod that went through the side of the barn. This mill also ran a chopper in the loft of the barn. In 1917, after his son Allan had taken over the farm, he had a well drilled just six feet south of the dug well. This well was drilled by Frank Lapoint, and there has been an abundance of water ever since. It was pumped by a gasoline motor. There was a handle on it, in case the engine stopped. Then a windmill was installed, and it is now pumped by an electric motor.

Mr. Clark brought his first team of horses from Ontario, and they are buried in the little one-acre field east of the house.

In 1890 he bought, along with his brother-in-law, William Taylor, the first threshing machine. It was a Champion separator with a Pitts twelve horse power mounted engine. Eight horses were hitched to the cross-bar that turned the gears of the number three straw cutter and carrier and grain crusher. This was a great boon for the district, as he threshed his neighbors' crops as well. The agent was John Speirs of Virden. The Clarks still have the contract in their possession.

In 1907, he bought the first gas engine and separator. This was a Portable International, with an Aultman-Taylor separator. They were both pulled around by horses. This must have been the first gas engine in the community because an awful lot of people came to see it.

In 1912 he bought the first car in the community. It was a four-door Ford. It had presto gas lamps and a rubber hose attached to the horn.

Mr. Clark was able to add more land to his original homestead. He acquired the northwest quarter of 36-14-26 by pre-emption. He bought the southwest quarter of 5-15-25. He bought from J. Thompson the northwest quarter of 35-14-26 which he gave to his son Sam. He bought the south half of 21-15-25 which was taken over by his son Robert. He bought the northwest quarter of 26-14-26. In 1916 he sold out to his son Allan, and built a house in Isabella, which was later sold to Mr. Dave Wright.

In 1921, he built a building for the Northern

Crown Bank which was later owned by his son Robert.

1915, which was the last year Mr. Clark farmed, was the year of the largest crop. A hail storm came that year, but not before most of the crop was taken off.

Mr. J. Clark always supported everything that would further the growth of the community. He served as councillor on different occasions, helped plant trees, and was always willing to help his neighbors and friends in any way. He lived in Isabella until his death in November 1936. Mrs. Clark lived in the home in Isabella for a time, then moved to Winnipeg where she made her home with her daughter Margaret. She died there on July 10, 1945, at the age of eighty-four years and six months.

Mr. and Mrs. John Clark had five children: Sam, Robert, James, Allan and Maggie. Samuel Gould married Katherine Stewart and their children were: Edna, John, Elmer, Clarence, and Mabel. Robert Taylor married Laura Heise and their children were: Roberta, James, and Russell. James William, died in his fifteenth year while he was going to school in Hamiota. John Allan married Vera N. Heise, they had two children, Kenneth Allan and Carol Marie. Margaret Christina married Milford Drummond and their children were: Lawrence, who died in infancy, Clare, Clark, and James.

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Clark

Kenneth Allen Clark was born at Miniota, Man. on December 7, 1920, with Dr. Chalmers as physician. He was educated at Isabella school and lived with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Clark, on their farm (36-14-26).

In 1943, Ken. rented, for three years, the farm formerly operated by Mel. Bridge. In the spring of 1946, he bought a half section of land from Robert Kirk. This farm was first worked by George Little. In 1882, the land was purchased by Reuben Pangman, who later sold it to James L. Thompson in 1892. The story was told by Mr. Pangman, of one of Jim Thompson's trips to make a farm payment. On his arrival at the Pangman farm, one winter day, just before dinner, Mr. Thompson threw his fur coat over a board fence. After unhitching the team, the men talked in the barn for awhile. While there, the wind started to blow and the snow to drift. Andy Pangman, a son, was the last one to leave the barn. As he was going to the house, he glanced at the coat hanging on the fence, and saw below it, a corner of something sticking out of the snow. On picking it up, he saw that it was Mr. Thompson's purse, with the payment money in it. Mr. Pangman said that in a few more

minutes, it would have been completely hidden by the snow and couldn't have been found until spring.

On the west half of the section, Mr. Thompson built a large house, barn and granary. The house was later burned, and the loft of the barn is today used as a cattle shed on Ken's farm. This building was brought over by two tractors with a wagon under each corner. The bottom of the barn was torn down by a past owner, John Kelly.

In 1921, the east half of the section was bought by Robert Kirk under the Veteran's Land Act. Mr. Kirk brought a house over from Decker and lived in it until 1946, when he moved to Tod Inlet, B.C., where he now resides.

Ken Clark lived with his parents until the time of his marriage to June Edmunds, a telephone operator from Shoal Lake. This event took place on October 25, 1947. Ken and his wife then took up residence on his own farm. The Hydro had not come into the district as yet, so coal oil lamps and sad irons had to be endured for awhile. A turn for the better took place in 1949, when the Hydro was installed. At this time, there was only a prairie trail on which to travel to the farm. A great change took place within the next few years. The correction line was built up and Ken made a road from the buildings, running south to the correction line. In 1959, the road was made higher and gravelled again.

In 1949, Ken built two rooms on the house. During the summer and fall of 1954, with the generous help of his neighbors, he built a new, modern barn. The barn is equipped with a bale conveyor system. The lumber for the barn was trucked from Roblin, Man.

In 1954, Ken purchased the N.W.¼ of Sec.1-twp.15-R26 from John Kelly. In 1960, he rented the S.W.¼ from his Dad, enabling him to operate a section on the square. Ken. has recently registered his farm under the name of Kay-O-Lea. The farm has an ample supply of water, derived from a one-hundred-and-fifteen foot well which was drilled in 1950. Due to the drought of 1961, Ken had a dugout made in the fall of the same year.

Ken. operates a mixed farm, sowing wheat, oats, barley, and occasionally, rye. He got his start in the cattle business, when as a calf club member his Dad gave him his first calf. He now keeps a herd of seventy or more purebred Hereford cattle. The beginning of this herd dates back to 1942, when he purchased some purebred females from Watson Dunn of Russell, Man. In April, 1962, Ken was a guest contributor to the first production sale of Lee Bank Herefords of Miniota, Man.

Ken has been a director on the Manitoba Pool Board for several terms and in 1961, became assistant

leader of the Decker Calf Club. In 1962, he was elected to the executive of the Manitoba Purebred Beef Cattle Sales at Virden, Man.

Ken and his wife are blessed with three children: Gail Carolyn, born September 16, 1948; Wanda Darlene, born June 12, 1951; and Valerie Jean, born September 2nd, 1955. Another daughter, Penny Maureen, was born November 20, 1949, and died November 27, 1949.

Update

by June Clark

On September 16, 1963 our new home arrived and after many hours of laying tiles and painting we moved in on December 14.

Wanda and Gail were active in the Decker 4H Calf Club. Ken was assistant leader of the club for some time. Gail, Wanda, and Valerie were members of the Explorers and later of the C.G.I.T. They were also members of the church choir. After the closing of the Isabella school, they continued their education at Miniota and Birtle.

Gail went to Assiniboine College in Brandon to take a hairdressing course. She was first employed at Portage and later in the Wig Section of Woolco. Gail was married to Wayne Smith of Brandon on July 31, 1971. They reside in Brandon and have two children, Darren Alexander born Aug. 17, 1975 and Brenda Louise, born October 24, 1979. Wayne is a National Representative of the Canadian Union of Public Employees.

After completing her Grade XII at Birtle, Wanda took a Commercial Course at Assiniboine College. She worked for a few years in Winnipeg where she met Ron Forshaw whom she married on July 30, 1972. Wanda now resides in Calgary.

Valerie took a Commercial Course while attending high school. She moved to Brandon in 1973 where she worked for Brandon Auto for two years. Since then she has been working for the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation for five years.

Valerie married Ken Carton of Brandon on September 13, 1980. The wedding took place in the new home which Ken built along the Grand Valley Road in Brandon.

Ken is control room operator at the Brandon Hydro Generating Station.

We still farm two sections but sold most of the cattle. Our new interest is attending antique and collectors auction sales.

Robert Gordon Clark

by Linda Clark

The eighth child of Elmer and Evelyn Clark, Bob was born on April 4, 1960 at Hamiota. He took

grades one and two at Isabella, grades three to nine at Miniota, and graduated from Birtle Collegiate in 1978. Bob was a member of the Miniota Calf Club. He also enjoyed his years with the Miniota Cubs and Scouts, later acting as an assistant leader. He was chosen to be a Queen Scouter.

Bob is a keen golfer, and at the early age of fourteen he made a hole-in-one at the Miniota Golf course. He also enjoys curling.

In September 1978 Bob was employed with the C.N. He worked with the extra gang until September 1979 when he wrote his Signals apprentice papers. His work is taking him to different parts of Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Taylor Clark

by Mrs. Robert Clark

Robert Clark was born in 1889 on his father's farm, NE¼ 36-15-25, the second son of John and Isabella Clark. He grew up there, going to church and school in the community centre of Blaris.

When he was twenty-three years old he bought the south ½ 21-15-25 from his father and went there to live, baching for three years. The sixty or so acres that had been broken had "gone back" to couch grass, and this presented the first problem, together with the need for more acres. So the first years were spent pulling bluffs, tree by tree. The horses became so skilled that they would work all day with the lines draped over their hames — circle and pull, circle and pull, with one man hitching the logging chain, and the other man releasing it from the fallen tree. I have heard Rob tell of how one June, they trampled down a wonderful crop of wild strawberries — a pioneer treat which has now disappeared.

Only in recent years I have learned that the south half had had two different sets of buildings on it, in earlier times, about one-quarter-of-a-mile east of the present site. When Rob first went on the place, he said there were traces of these old locations, but the buildings were gone. The people were unknown to us and only one family remembered now. Mrs. Scarth recalls a family named "Lothian" who lived there at least one summer, for during that time they experienced one of the dreaded hazards of pioneer days, when a prairie fire threatened their home. The men from the Iverach farm all went to help save the home and buildings, which they succeeded in doing. The whole event had made a vivid and lasting impression on Mrs. Scarth's young mind. The Lothian family had later lived on the Bishop farm, now owned by Mr. James Ross.

In 1906 the records show that the S½ 21-15-25 was owned by Jim Drummond. In 1907 it had come into Dr. Fraser's possession. In 1910, Mr. Clark

bought it from Dr. Fraser, and in December 1912 Rob bought it from his father. This section 21, had been part of the land grant to the Scottish Ontario Land Company.

One of the first improvements that Rob put on the farm was the perimeter fence of woven wire. The prices of material used will be of interest now, nearly fifty years later. The seven-strand galvanized wire cost 19½¢ per rod and is still in good condition. By the spring of 1918, Eaton's catalogue quoted this fencing at 48-52¢ per rod, number nine gauge. A carload of cedar posts, six inches in diameter were 12½¢ each laid down at the loading platform here in Isabella. When later the NW¼ of the same section was added to the farm it was also enclosed with the same type of fence.

On April 26, 1916, Rob and I were married in the church at Isabella, the second wedding in our church. The ceremony was performed by the Reverend Walter Ross. We have been in touch with the Ross family over these many years, and he has always teased us a little, saying "That was one good job I did, the day I married you".

We built our cottage home that first summer, Mr. Paul Beveridge directing the work. The next spring Rob started to plant trees, putting in over six thousand altogether. The first deep well was drilled seventy-six feet by Bert Cole. It was not necessary to use it over one summer, and in the fall sand had shot up into the pipe. Frank Lapoint came to clear it, and worked all winter until he had gone through nearly two hundred feet of sand. This well served us well for about forty-five years. Only then did it have to be replaced. Three children came to our home, Roberta, James and Russell. They all went to church, Sunday-school, and day school, and grew up in a happy home and community environment.

Roberta left home to become a stenographer with the T. Eaton, Co. Winnipeg and later married Nesbit Patterson of Shellmouth, Manitoba. They both worked for the T. Eaton Company for about two years then came to Decker, Manitoba to take over Mr. William Cumberland's store. While in Decker their two children Robert and Marguerite, were born. The family now lives in Flin Flon, where they are in the wholesale business.

Jimmie was with us on the farm until the second World War broke out, when he enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force. He graduated, (at Dauphin Training Center) as a commissioned pilot, and went overseas in the spring of 1943. After nearly another year of intensive training he went on operational duty and had about one-half of his first tour finished when the invasion of Normandy took place. (June 6, 1944). The squadron to which he belonged was ferrying

supplies to the landing troops, when on their return his airplane was hit by a German shell. None of the crew escaped. Jimmie's grave is in an English cemetery on the coast of France near Hermanville-sur-Mer.

Shortly after Jimmie enlisted, Russell did too, and also graduated as a commissioned pilot from Brandon Training School. His overseas posting order was changed at the last minute and he was detailed to Summerside, Prince Edward Island, where he helped train navigators, flying about one thousand, one hundred hours out over the Gulf of St. Lawrence. He had just received orders to go to the far East when the War ended. He then returned to the farm to help us. On October 21, 1948, he married Eileen Ebell of Oak River and in the fall of 1950 moved on to the home farm. In the spring of 1951, Rob and I moved into the village of Isabella, from where he was able to spend much time on his beloved farm. But his health was failing, and after several years of semi-invalidism, he passed away on June 24, 1961.

Over the years a consistent program of general farming had been practised, the main cereal grains being, wheat, oats, and barley. A herd of between thirty or forty Shorthorn cattle were kept along with some pigs and poultry. Until near the end of the thirties horses provided the power, then the first small engine, a 10-20 International was bought. In 1938 the W30 McCormick-Deering came to the farm and is still there and in working order. By the end of the forties all of the work was done by mechanical power.

Rob had always taken a keen interest in the welfare of the community and had helped in local activities as much as he was able. He served one term as school trustee with the Municipal School Board. He was vice-president, then director of the Agricultural Society. Always interested in sports, he not only played himself, but encouraged his own and other boys to take enthusiastic part in the hockey, curling, and baseball, and in the earlier days, the tennis. Win or lose, the game was always the thing.

For myself, I will, just say that church, and school, Women's Institute and Women's Missionary Society, Agricultural and Horticultural Societies, the Red Cross and the Community Club, all claimed years of service and responsibility in their various offices. For thirty years the Community Club record book was in my care and meetings were attended through all imaginable kinds of weather from sparkling moonlit evenings, through rain, to winter blizzard. But no one else gains as much as do those who serve.

Rob's story would not be complete without mentioning the chestnut driving mare he owned when he was a young man. "Nettie" was known far and wide.

She was becoming an old beast before he thought of putting her in the show-ring, and then he showed her seventeen times, winning thirteen firsts and four seconds. She knew the show-ring procedure as well as any judge.

She had endurance too. Rob told of the time they took her out of the pasture where she had been all summer with her colt, to drive to Miniota for the doctor (when Willie Calder took sick). She made it over the shortest route they could travel from the Clark farm to Miniota in twenty minutes.

And another time, on a cold winter night, hitched to the cutter, she took Rob home from the old Johnson farm south of Oakner, Manitoba. They left at eleven o'clock, and Rob was home and in bed by one o'clock. He said that she wanted to go, that he would have frozen his hands if he had tried to hold her, so she took her own pace over all those miles, I do not know how many.

"Nettie" was injured (another horse kicked her) when she was twenty-three and she had to be destroyed. She could hardly walk, but when the men led her out of the barn for the last time, her head was high, proud and gallant, to the very end.

And in some way, that last little summary of Nettie's life seems typical of the lives of the many thousands of men and women who have built (who are still building, young and old together) this western country. Despite the buffetings of life they are staunch and proud, and gallant — to the very end.

No update 1982.

Ron and Irene Clark

by Linda Clark

Ronald Stewart was born on October 21, 1949 at Hamiota, the fifth child of Elmer and Evelyn Clark. He took his schooling at Isabella and Miniota, and was a member of the Decker Calf Club.

In 1969 Ron began his career in the lumber business, first working for North American Lumber at Birtle. Then from 1971 to 1974 he worked as a traveling relief manager throughout Manitoba and Saskatchewan. In 1974 he took a position with Brandon North American Lumber.

On August 31, 1974 Ron married Irene Grace Campbell of Rivers. In the fall of 1975 he became employed by J. & G. Supply in Brandon.

Ron and Irene have bought their home at 860-15th Street. They have two daughters, Kimberly Dawn, born on August 25, 1978 and Michelle Leanne on March 8, 1980. Ron is an avid hunter. They are an outdoor family enjoying golfing, camping, fishing and sports.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Clark

by Mrs. Russell Clark

Russell Taylor Clark, youngest child of Robert and Laura Clark was born in Isabella in 1922. He received his education in Isabella and Miniota schools. Following Grade Twelve, Russell spent a year helping his father on the farm. He joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in November, 1942, and after training at Saskatoon, Regina, Virden and Brandon, he received his wings and commission. He was then posted to Summerside, Prince Edward Island, where he took a special course in water navigation. He, and several of his classmates, were kept on here as pilots and remained in Canada until he received his discharge in September, 1945.

Russell returned to Isabella and assisted his father on the farm. On October 21st, 1948, he married Eileen Clara Ebell of Oak River, who had taught in Isabella during the 1947-1948 term.

During the first few years of married life, Russell and Eileen lived in Isabella. Russell worked his two quarters SE 17-15-25 and SW 22-15-25 and helped his father farm section 21-15-25. On April 7, 1950, the oldest boy, Brian James, was born. During these years Russell played baseball with the Isabella baseball team. No wonder Brian's first words were: "hit ball — run fast".

In 1951, we came to live on the farm on Section 21-15-25, as Russell's father was unable to continue farming due to his health.

Our second son, Donald Robert, was born on November 2, 1953, at Hamiota Hospital, and our daughter Linda Julia was born February 11, 1956.

Our children attend school in Isabella. Brian, now in Grade Seven, is kept busy with 4H Calf Club, Scouts, baseball, and hockey. Donald is in Grade Four and Julie starts school with a class of thirteen beginners.

Farming has changed over the years. In the past ten years the "price-cost squeeze" has forced many farmers to leave the community. During the past four years to supplement our income from a half section, we have tried our luck at raising turkeys. Constant care is needed when the poults are small, and still in the brooder house. Once they are on range, with big hoppers for feed, and running water, they are not so much trouble.

For a few years, around 1957, many acres of farm lands were under water due to excessive rain. Russell and several farmers in this locality blasted with dynamite to form drainage ditches so the water would escape. Then in 1961, this area was the driest in the history of the area. The better crops went 15 bushels to the acre, but straw, hay and feed were in short supply. This one dry year cleaned up most of the

surplus grain and the quota was lifted for that one year.

1982 no update.

S. Clark

by Mrs. E. Clark

Samuel Clark was the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. John Clark. He lived with his parents until he took a farm of his own — the N.E. ¼ of sec. 35-twp. 14-R26 and the S.W. ¼ of the same section.

He married Miss Catherine Stewart who had come out from Scotland and had worked in several homes in the Blaris district. They had five children: Edna, John, Elmer, Clarence and Mabel. Their first house became too small so about 1921 they built a nine-roomed house. However, tragedy soon struck the young family for in 1923, Mr. Clark died. The boys were too young to work the farm alone, so Mrs. Clark's father, Duncan Stewart, and her brother Peter Stewart, moved in with them. Mr. Stewart lived only a year and Pete was left to carry on, which he did for five or six years. He then married and moved to a farm of his own.

In 1941, Elmer took over the farm on his own. He didn't back for long for in December of the same year, he married Evelyn Lelond. They have eight children: Clare, Clifford, Bill, Kathie, Ronald, Irene, Barry and Bobby. Only Clare, the eldest is out of school and when not helping at home, works out on other nearby farms.

In 1959, Elmer purchased the former Webster farm — the N½ of sec. 34-twp.14-R26 from Tom Stevenson.

Mr. and Mrs. Alec Clark

Alec Clark was born and raised at Holdfast Sask. He served overseas in World War I. While there, he met and married Miss Bella Clark, whose home was in Aberdeen Scotland.

Late in the winter of 1928, Mr. Clark purchased the local garage, and he and his family took up their residence in town. The garage was burned a year or two later, but was soon replaced by a new one.

Their family consisted of two daughters, Anne and Emma. A third daughter Eileen, was born shortly after their arrival.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark quickly became a part of the community, and willingly took part in it's activities, in church, school and entertainment. Times were hard in those days, but they were good days, and pleasant memories still linger.

Mrs. Clark was a valued member of the W.M.S. and the W.I. She was also a teacher in Sunday school for some years.

In 1938 their daughter Eileen was killed in a motor accident. Mr. Clark sold the garage in 1941, and the family moved to Winnipeg. He worked at Stevenson's Airport for some time. Some years later he received a position at the airport at The Pas, and he and Mrs. Clark sold their residence in Winnipeg and moved to The Pas.

In 1958 they took a trip to Mrs. Clark's home in Scotland. Shortly after their return home, Mrs. Clark became ill and passed away suddenly. Mr. Clark passed away a year later.

Their eldest daughter Anne is married to Wm. H. Beveridge only son of Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Beveridge formerly of Isabella. They reside in Flin Flon and have one son and two daughters;

Emma, is Mrs. H. Schultz. She has one son. They reside in Winnipeg.

1982 no update.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Clubley

by A. Clubley

I came from Easington, Yorkshire, England, in the spring of 1910 with Port Perry as my destination. I came out with a Mr. Bishop and his wife who lived in a little village where my girl friend lived. You had to have a place at which to work before you could come to Canada, and our place was Port Perry.

In England, in the little village of Weston, there lived a man, a Mr. Suddaby, who was about seventy years of age. He was supposed to have come to Canada when he was twenty years old with a Mr. Smith and a Mr. Tenninson, but he backed out at the last moment. They came to Canada, one to Ontario and one to Sskatchewan. They corresponded at this time.

He said to us, "If you ever see them, remember me to them".

In Yorkshire, the villages are only one, two, or three miles apart and you get to know so many people. I guess he thought it would be the same here.

I had a friend, a butcher, in Scarborough, Ontario, who had come home to England for a holiday that winter. We were on the same ship coming to Canada. He had to get off at Toronto. We had to get off at Whitby Junction to get a branch line to Port Perry. It was Sunday morning about eight a.m. when we arrived, and there was no train out till Monday morning. As Bishop and I were walking on the station platform, he kept saying, "Whitby!" He said, "This is where Smith and Tenninson live!" He had their addresses in a book and he was so excited, I doubt if he's found that book yet. We went into the office and asked the station master if he knew any Tenninsons around here. He didn't know anyone by that name. But when we asked if there were any

Smiths, he said, "Yes". He was sitting facing a window. He said, "Do you see that large house and big barn over there? An old gentleman named Smith lives there. What country are you from?"

When we said, "Yorkshire", he said, "He is an old Yorkshire man. I will phone him up and tell him there are some of his countrymen here". I had met another young chap on the train and we decided we would not go out to the farm.

Mr. Smith lived about one mile southwest of the station, so he came over with the horse and buggy. That was the same old Mr. Smith who had come to Canada over fifty years before, and we were dropped off at his back door three thousand miles away.

Just Bishop and his wife went to the farm. Mr. Smith was to bring them back in the morning to catch the train, but as the train backed in to load up, the boy got on but no Bishop came down the road. They put on our "not wanted" luggage for Port Perry. I was not going without Bishop, so away the train went. By and by Mr. Smith came with Bishop and wife in the buggy. We found out after that Mr. Smith had missed the train on purpose, as his wife's brother wanted a married man to work on the farm. One of his sons wanted a young chap like me to work on his farm. He took us to these places to work. Bishop, a big, strong chap, about forty years of age said, "Port Perry we are booked for, and to Port Perry we are going". So we went on the train on Tuesday morning and got to Port Perry at night. Nobody looking for Clubley!

A neighbour of the man for whom Bishop was to work met him at the station. He left his wife in town at the hotel. I went out with them. It was quite dark when we drove into their yard.

He said, "There is a light in the stable", so we followed him there. It was a large cattle and horse barn. I left them talking business as I looked over the horses and cattle.

By and by I heard them talking pretty loudly, so I went up to see what the trouble was.

Bishop said to me, "What did Mr. Smith offer you a month?"

I said, "\$15.00 per month, board, washing and room".

He said, "This chap wants to give me less than that and board ourselves". So I will tell you there was some great talking in that barn for a while. He would not take us back to town. When we got to the gate, I struck a match to see from which way the buggy wheels had come into the yard.

We got back to town and took the train back to Whitby and I started to work for Mr. Smith. Bishop and wife went to Mr. Smith's wife's brother's place.

C. Waddingham, my girl friend's brother, came to Pope, Manitoba, in August, 1910. He worked for

Mr. P. Warren that winter. He lived six miles south of Crandall.

Mrs. Waddingham was coming out in the spring to Crandall, so I asked my girl friend to accompany her to Canada. We planned to be married and live on my friend's farm at Hartney.

I was to meet the women in Toronto. First I went to visit my friend in Scarborough and stayed too long, so missed the train to Toronto. Annie, my girl, went to Hartney. She got there on a Friday night but no Clubley was there. She did not know the farm to which we were going, so she phoned her brother at Crandall and he told her to catch the train in the morning and come to Crandall.

I got into Winnipeg sometime Saturday but was too late for the train so had to go to Hartney Monday morning to claim my "not wanted" luggage. I went to Crandall on Tuesday which was in March, 1911. Mr. Robinson, a school teacher, met me at the station. His sister was P. Warren's wife. My girl friend was at the home of her brother and his wife, six miles south west of Crandall. That spring there was lots of snow and the roads built up high. Before I arrived there had been a soft spell and the horses' legs sank right in. One night it froze up like a rock and left such a lot of holes. The farmers walked to town after some of their horses had broken their legs in these holes. I had to walk out to P. Warren's. They wanted us to be married there but Charlie said, "I think you had better go in to the manse at Crandall to be married".

I had to go to Hamiota to get a marriage license but had to walk to Crandall to catch the train. It was bad walking and I missed the train. So I walked down the track to Hamiota. Not knowing anyone, I was kind of lonesome so I did not wait for the evening train. I walked back down the track to Crandall.

We stayed at Mrs. Rowles' hotel for supper and then went to get married. I do not think the young fellows would walk twenty-five miles to get a marriage license today. Next day we went to work for the summer for Mr. M. Forrester, one mile north and one mile east of Crandall. E. Kirk bought that farm in the fall. Ted Bolton, who worked for Mr. T. Rowles, the butcher, returned to England that winter to be married, so I got his job.

My son Maurice, was born in Crandall on December 29, 1911, on one of the coldest nights I have ever seen in Canada. I think it was about fifty below zero. I had to go to get Mrs. Forrester and Dr. Fraser.

I went to live in Isabella in the spring of 1912. Mr. Rowles had put up a butcher shop and I looked after it for him. Those days, I went around to all the farms with the team and democrat four days a week. Every farmer in those days, bought ten, twelve and fifteen pounds of beef at one time. I killed three and four

year olds, those days — real beef — better than today. In my killing shop, the sky was the roof for quite a few years. Isabella was a lively town then.

T. Kennedy was blacksmith and Massey Harris implement agent. Iverach Bros. had a hardware store and lumber yard. There was a bank. Mr. Palmer was jack-of-all trades — hotel owner, grain buyer, mail and school van driver, operator of an implement business and also operated a farm north east of town.

Those boys from Blaris, A., R. and S. Clark, B. Bell and brothers, R. Campbell, H. Harrison and the Greys — appeared in town some on horseback, some with horse and buggy, some with team and buggy. You should have seen them! Sometimes when they were ready to go home, they would line up against Scott's store. My! What a race they used to have! Those were the good old days.

Norman Clubley was born at Isabella on September 5, 1913, on the hottest day while I was in Isabella. Mrs. D. Iverach was the nurse and Dr. Fraser had to come from Crandall. My son, Norman, lives at Rossburn now and runs a butcher shop and groceteria.

Isabella had a good cricket team in 1912 and 1913. Rothesay had a good team, too. They used to come to Isabella to play.

My wife, Annie, passed away some years ago. I make my home in Birtle.

1982 — Mr. Clubley died in June 1968.

The Collins Family by Mel and Mick Collins

The Collins brothers, Melvin and Milton, came to Isabella from Darlingford, Manitoba. In Darlingford they had farmed and worked for the rural municipality of Pembina. Melvin came in the fall of 1968 and Milton in the spring of 1969. The farm, 27-15-26, they settled on was formerly owned by Donald and Elizabeth MacInnes, and Bert Hawes before that.

In 1977 Dad (Jarvis) passed away, Mother (Mary) moved to Isabella and now makes her home with us on the farm.

John Coxworth by J. Coxworth

I, John Coxworth, was born on a farm which had been my grandfather's homestead four miles east of Dand, Manitoba, which is half way between Hartney and Deloraine.

I went to school at Westhall, the Coxworth school, when it was built and to St. John's Technical School in Winnipeg for grades 10 and 11. I then returned to Dand to make my home with an uncle and aunt.



John and Margaret Coxworth.

In 1922 I married Christina Muldoon of the same district and in 1925 started farming at Melita with horses and equipment I bought and four cows given to us by Mr. Muldoon.

The following four years were good and we were able to pay for our equipment and had a herd of cattle and extra young horses.

The next four years were total crop failures due to drought and grasshoppers but we were able to stay on the farm by milking cows and raising turkeys, and by selling young cattle and extra horses to buy necessary feed and seed.

In the fall of 1932 I spent a week looking for a farm between Hamiota, Shoal Lake, Birtle, and Isabella to where Mr. Brad returned after having a business in Melita for one year.

In the winter I had a letter from Mr. William Iverach with a lease enclosed for a half section, known as the Collingwood farm, which I signed, and returned in the next mail, and moved in the spring of 1933.

My brother and I left Melita on Monday morning with horses and wagons in an April snowstorm. A neighbor, Bill Hall who later had a business at Decker, Manitoba, loaded cows and machinery in a C.P.R. boxcar and left Melita on Wednesday, all arriving at Arrow River Thursday at noon. William Tennant had us put our teams in his barn where they had the first feed of oats for a long time. Mr. and Mrs. Wiggins gave us lunch before we unloaded the cattle. We arrived at Isabella at dusk where Mr. Iverach met us and directed us on to the farm where he had Mr. Satterthwaite and Jack meet us.

My wife and daughters Kathleen and Jean arrived in a couple of days by car, driven by her brother Bill Muldoon.

Mr. T. Ariss advanced seed for the first crop, which was good. We had a good garden, free fuel for the house which we had never had before and although our wheat sold for 38¢ per bushel we were satisfied in our new location. We hoped to be as good neighbors as we had found and also the good neighbors we had left with regret.

From 1933 until 1949, we lost one crop only and that was due to a bad hailstorm.

In those years we had become members of the United Church, took part in most of the Community organizations. I served two terms on the Miniota Municipal School Board. Daughters Kay and Jean had gone through public and High School, after which Kay worked in C.P.R. offices in Brandon. She married Cameron Williamson and lived there. Jean went into the Bank of Montreal, Brandon after she had finished Grade Eleven.

About 1940 I bought the farm and had a quarter rented from Ken Warren until in 1949 I had to decide whether to buy all new power equipment on the farm or buy the store business that Mr. Brad had offered to sell. In harvest time I sold the farm to Mr. J. F. M. Johnston and after having a good auction sale, moved into town, and the store business.

In September 1950 my wife passed away in Brandon General Hospital, after a three months illness, and is buried in Isabella Cemetery.

Jean then returned from Brandon to be at home and help in the store; being married to Frank Stevenson in November 1951, and going to live on his father's farm in the Blaris district. In 1952 Margaret Iverach and I were married in Portage la Prairie by Reverend H. I. Bowman.

In 1960 Kay, after an unhappy first marriage was married to Donald Biddle and is now living in Vancouver. Margaret and I attended the wedding, the first time we were through the mountains.

In 1961 Frank and Jean and their two daughters Lorinda, age 8 and Bonnie, age 6, moved to Dominion City where Frank is manager of the North American Lumber Company.

At the present time Margaret and I hope to continue to serve the Isabella community in the store, the church, and other community organizations.

John Coxworth update by John Coxworth

There have been a lot of changes in the last twenty years, but the spirit of a good community is still here, with young families taking over the farms and having a keen interest in all activities. We have tried to keep

our community alive by providing the services in the store, and helping whenever called upon.

We have both served on the Wider Parish Board of the United Church. Lately I was made president of the Virden Conservative Association, in that district which has been enlarged considerably. Margaret has been a worker in the church, member of U.C.W. and W.I. and a member of the history committee. We both like to curl and play a bit of golf for amusement. Since retiring we joined the Shuffle Club at Hamiota and shuffle once a week. For the last five years I enjoyed curling with the seniors at Hamiota. A few years ago I received a plaque from the Decker Curling Club for participating in their bonspiel for thirty consecutive years. In 1975 Margaret skipped the rink that was the runner-up in the Provincial Ladies' Senior playdowns in Flin Flon. That was a highlight in her life. I am Past Master of Birtle Masonic Lodge. Last year Birtle closed and I affiliated with Foxwarren. Margaret is a Past Matron and I am a Past Patron of the Order of the Eastern Star in Birtle. We find this has added a new dimension to our lives. We have enjoyed some good trips, to the western and eastern coasts of Canada, Las Vegas and California. While travelling we met some fine people and still keep in touch with them.

My daughter Kay, with husband Don MacElrath, live at Las Vegas, U.S.A. Jean, with husband Frank, lives in Birtle. They have written their own history. I have three grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

This October we sold the store to Mr. and Mrs. Ray Still. We trust the store and post office combined will be a benefit to the community. On October 25 the community had a delicious pot luck supper and program for our retirement. A gift of money and a lovely engraved silver tray was presented to us that night. We also received many cards from our friends and relatives with best wishes for our retirement. It was with heartfelt appreciation that we thank the Isabella Community for the social evening and for the kindness extended to us during our thirty two years in the store. We have a great community spirit here at Isabella and everyone feels responsible to keep it alive.

Margaret and I have been blessed with good health for which we are truly thankful. We have a lot of living to do yet, now that we have the time to do things together.

John Craig **Mrs. H. Harrison**

My grandfather, John Craig and his wife (Mary



Back Row: Mary and Agnes, Maggie, Charlie, Esther, John, Jane, and Kate Craig, 1910.

McPherson) Craig with their six daughters and three sons came to Manitoba from Wellington County, Ontario in March 1889. Prior to this they had farmed and my grandfather was a tailor by trade. One of my early memories of him was that he always made his own suits.

After coming to Manitoba they farmed for a very short time near Miniota. Then Grandfather filed a homestead, the northwest quarter of section 32 and my father the S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$. The southeast quarter was later bought from Mr. Doig. My uncle John did homestead the northeast quarter of the same section. Later he disposed of his homestead and went to work on the railway as a section hand. He worked at Rea, Avonhurst, Saskatchewan and Regina where he began as a foreman and later retired.

The soil of section 32-14-25 is black loam and very stony, fairly level with the exception of several ravines and numerous sloughs. My father was a grain and livestock farmer. He began with oxen but later acquired horses. They had no trouble obtaining water from shallow dug wells. Earliest fences were barbed wire. The earliest house was very small but just before he married, my father built a four-room house which was later made larger. The present house was built in 1907, also the barn and the loft added in 1908. The groves of trees at the present house were planted a few years before. In the early days the grain was hauled long distances and the firewood from 3 or 4 miles north of Rosburn. My father was president of

the local United Grain Growers Association which obtained apples and other supplies. He also was councillor of Ward Three for 14 years.

In the winter of 1895 my father visited in Ontario with his friend Phillip Harding who lived at Arrow River. The next winter he went back to Ontario and January 1st 1896 he married Jane Harding, daughter of Edward and Agnes (Wright) Harding, thus becoming a brother-in-law to his friend Phillip Harding.

As newlyweds they came by train to Manitoba and settled on section 32 in the house which my father built for his bride. Their first crop was hailed and all they had was feed from the second growth.

They were staunch Presbyterians and attended church at Blaris in the school built in 1885 and later in the new church. My mother was always devoted to her church and when the family grew older took an active part in W.M.S. and W.I., teaching in the Sunday school for years.

My parents had 9 children, 3 of whom died in infancy and Esther, who underwent an operation for appendicitis in the home, doctors and nurses coming from Brandon. In spite of devoted nursing she died at the age of five.

I, Mary, the oldest daughter, attended Blaris school, took my high school at Isabella, Miniota and Hamiota. After attending normal school I taught for two years at Carlingville and two years at Valley School north of Rosburn. In 1919 after the close of

the War I, I married Harry Harrison. From 1920 to 1924 we farmed on the Craig farm.

Agnes attended Blaris, Isabella and Crandall schools and normal school. She taught at McConnell, Maple Shade, Sylvester Hill, Ethel and Salem Schools. In 1922 she married Arnet Thompson of Lavinia. They lived at Adanac, Sask. where Arnet was grain buyer. Their daughter Hazel was born there. Later they returned to Lavinia and farmed and Arnet also was grain buyer at Lavinia. Hazel, now Mrs. Cliff Runchey, lives in Winnipeg. They have four children. In 1945 Agnes and Arnet moved to Brandon where they now live.

Maggie attended school at Blaris and Isabella, attended normal school and taught at Oberon. In 1920 she began her training as a nurse in the Winnipeg General Hospital. For 37 years she led an active, happy, dedicated life as a nurse. She nursed at Henry Street Mission in New York. She spent several terms at Vita and Fort Qu'Appelle Sanitorium, and a year at Nelson House and several years at Virden and Brandon Hospitals, where she was shortly before her death in 1960.

Kate attended school at Isabella and attended business college at Brandon. She worked at home till her marriage on November 26, 1924 to David Bell of Blaris.

John attended school at Isabella and later took a mechanics course in Winnipeg. He farmed with his father at Arrow River. After his father's death in 1939, he farmed there until 1941 when he went to Flin Flon to work in the mine. In September 1938 he married Mabel Stewart, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John G. Stewart of Hamiota. Five years later they moved to Vancouver where he works in the oil tank installation business. They have two sons Ronald and Wayne. Ronald is married to Marcia O'Donnell and they have a son, David and a daughter Lisa Jo.

In January 1944 mother died in Brandon, where she had been since my father's death. Agnes, Kate and I inherited the three-quarters of section 32 and Mr. Bardwell who had rented it since 1924 continued to do so until his sale in 1946. Charlie Harrison worked the west half, buying the southwest quarter in 1949 and renting Agnes' quarter. The Bells worked Kate's quarter. When Charlie moved to Vancouver he rented his quarter to Archie Norrie and Agnes also rented hers to Archie.

John and Mabel Craig

John and Mabel moved to Blaine, Washington U.S.A. from Vancouver in September, 1964. John passed away in August 1965. Mabel moved to White Rock, B.C. in December, 1980.

Ron and Marcia now have six children; David, Lisa, Bonnie, Robert, Danny and Bennie. They all live in or around the Vancouver area.

Ron is a broker, Marcia, Lisa and Bonnie all work in research laboratories. The three eldest are also taking courses in university. Marcia hope to start on her Master's degree soon.

Wayne is married to Corey Colombe and they have four children; Jacquie, Wendi, Warren and Jason. Their home is near Cultus Lake in the Chilliwack area. Wayne is a superintendant for a logging company on Vancouver Island.

Maynard and Marion Crookshanks by Marion Crookshanks

I am writing about my Isabella history of which I know very little. I remember our home on the farm and have driven to the lane and sat and looked over the farm yard.

I really don't remember much of my schooling. I do remember some of the Christmas concerts held in the United Church. I also remember going to and from school in a van, driven by horses and there was a wee wood stove in the van to keep us warm.

My father, Murdock Morrison Smith, passed away October, 1921 on our farm. We moved to Birtle then. Mother married Wesley Strong in Rosburn. Glen, myself, and Mother moved to Rosburn. Wesley Strong was a farmer and then a grain buyer.

Mother passed away in Eastview Lodge in Neepawa in 1967.

I took my schooling in Beulah, Isabella, Birtle, and Rosburn.

In February 22, 1932 I married Maynard Grant Crookshanks. Maynard passed away January 8, 1957. We had three children: Robert Morrison, born December 14, 1935; Gordon James, born September 26, 1941; Marlene Joan, born December 13, 1945.

Robert and Diane Munroe were married on December 21, 1959. They had two children: Ronald Grant, born August 2, 1963; and Carla Grace, born May 10, 1966. Robert and his second wife, Della Lawrence of Teelin, Yukon, were married October 10, 1978. They have no children. Robert has his own auto body shop in Red Deer, Alberta.

Gordon James married Deanne Nielsen of Bashaw, Alberta, on December 3, 1966. They have a family of two: Grant Russell, born June 9, 1970; and Chrystle Dawn, born May 10, 1973. Gordon is a mechanic at Bashaw.

Marlene is a hair dresser in Snow Lake, Manitoba. She married Carl Wayne Gingera, Snow Lake, on November 20, 1965. Cathy Jean, their only child, was born November 8, 1969. Carl is a miner in a mine in the Snow Lake area.

After Maynard (Bob) passed away in 1957, I worked in Rosburn Hospital for fourteen years.

I remember that my brother Allen, Maynard and I farmed in the Log Valley district in depression years; years I'll never forget. There wasn't a tree on our farm and I used to bake my bread with cow chips as we had no wood and couldn't afford coal. We moved back to Rosburn in the fall of 1934 and I have lived there ever since.

Reverend Crozier

Rev. Crozier, a Presbyterian minister, came to Hamiota in 1905 and a year or two later bought the Sec. 27-15-25 North East of Isabella. He never resided on this land and sold it to R. L. Campbell.

Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Cuffe by Mrs. Wendell Weeks

Dad came to Canada in 1912 from Ireland. He was overseas in the First World War with the Fort Garry Horse regiment and saw plenty of action in France. Fortunately, he suffered no injury. Mother was born in Winnipeg and lived all her life in Canada. Her parents came from Sweden.

Our family lived in the Isabella district for eleven years from 1933 to 1944. We owned section 36-15-26. The soil was black loam. When Dad bought this land in 1933 from Mr. Arthur Doig of Birtle, it was nothing but acre after acre of twitch grass and stones. It was a very hilly section, with many poplar and willow trees. There was a creek running through it from corner to corner. After it was broken up, it was a very picturesque farm to see with the grain standing tall and golden, ready for harvest.

Dad was a man of great determination and could in no way be discouraged from clearing his land and making it yield good crops, — weather and nature permitting. He spent many and long hours on his John Deere tractor, tilling, cleaning and persistently overcoming the twitch grass. How many hundreds of barrels of distillate were used in the tractor will never be known, but every spare cent went to buy distillate. It paid off eventually as he sold a very good section of land to George Wierer when he retired from farming. Our dear Mother and Dad sacrificed everything to get the land in shape. He had a good deal of land broken and cleared of twitch grass and stones by the spring of 1935. I can remember that year so clearly, lots of moisture at night and very hot during the day, ideal weather for rust. Dad had great hopes that year of a good crop. He had promised mother and us children new clothes and new things for the house in the fall. He had one field of wheat, one-hundred and twenty acres in extent, so tall and beautiful, that the yield should have been good. On July 31st, 1935, dad set a

match to his lovely dream. The rust had destroyed it. He nearly went out of his mind for the next few weeks with heartache and worry, his efforts and money all gone up in smoke. The next year came the drought, but in 1939, the weather co-operated and from then until 1944, he was able to see part of his dreams come true. Dad loved the soil and was a good farmer, but he believed in hard work for himself and all those around him — no loitering.

As far as I can remember the creek always had water in it for daily use for the cattle while grazing. We had a good well at the end of our lane about a quarter of a mile from the house. It had plenty of water at all times, good for both drinking and washing. The cattle and horses used to drink at this well too. Every morning and evening after the cows were milked and the horses finished for the day, I can remember well, how many hours mother and we kids had to pump water to satisfy the wants of the livestock, and we always had to leave the trough full. I remember having to haul water for the home use by team and stoneboat — a couple of barrels at a time.

The fences were of barbed-wire and hickory posts. We kids used to help fence and pick stones on Saturday and school holidays.

The buildings were in dreadful condition when Dad bought the farm as it hadn't been occupied for a long time. The house was about forty years old, a two-storey log structure with lumber over the logs. It had two bedrooms upstairs and a kitchen, living-room and bedroom downstairs. Mother and Dad built on a good-sized summer kitchen which we used as a shed in the winter. The cellar was a tiny dugout under the living-room. It held a wagon-box of potatoes. Mother built shelves over the potates, away from the walls for her preserves as they would freeze during the winter. The kitchen was frightfully cold in winter as it was built on the ground and heated by a cook-stove. I can remember having to put all perishables on the living-room floor on cold winter nights so they wouldn't freeze. We had a Quebec heater in the living-room to heat the rest of the house. When I think of it now the building was a real fire-trap, with the arrangements one had to have with stovepipes, but Mother and Dad were constantly cleaning them. Dad always said that he wasn't going to spend a great deal of money on the house. We would make it clean, cozy and liveable and if farming improved he planned to build a beautiful new modern home in a different location on the farm. Mother had the happy knack of making something out of nothing. With fresh wall paper and paint, curtains and a general homey atmosphere, she made that old house look like a palace.

Dad was a commercial traveller, and tops in the

field, I might add as he took his apprenticeship in Ireland. Consequently he was on the road most of the time, except for about four years. Mother had to oversee the hired help and see that we did our work before and after school and on weekends. It meant that Mum was kept at home a good deal of her farm life, especially in winter. She went nowhere from the end of October till April. Dad always loved to come home weekends after a hectic week on the dusty roads of Saskatchewan to Mother's clean home and wonderful cooking.

The barn and chicken house were made of lumber but in need of repair. Dad built a large machine shed where he crushed grain for livestock and treated grain for seeding. He also built numerous granaries, an ice-house where we kept all our cream, milk, butter and other perishable foods. In the same yard about fifty feet away was another house built of lumber. It had two rooms and was used for the hired help, if they were married.

Mother always had about an acre of garden and grew everything possible. We also had about an acre of potatoes. Mother used to haul water for the garden in the dry years and did most of the weeding herself. There were always the potato bugs. Mother spent hours picking them and after school we took over the picking of the slimy bugs, each with a tobacco can filled with coal-oil and water into which we dropped them.

Mother canned about one-thousand quarts of vegetables, fruit and meat, enough for a year's supply. Mother always had a few flowers around the house. We would harvest two or three wagon box loads of potatoes per year, keep one and sell the others for "peanuts". Every 24th of May, a school holiday, we knew what kind of a holiday it would be for us. That day we "planted spuds", put them in by plow and we had to keep busy or else! To this day the 24th of May is "potato day" to me. Likewise come Thanksgiving Day, we took them up.

Dad grew hay for our own use, wheat, oats, barley and some rye. We had a lot of livestock in the thirties; twenty-four cows milking. Mother used to milk twelve herself night and morning. My job was turning the cream separator. Gradually they got rid of their cattle until they had just enough for their own use, for butchering, milk and cream. Dad always kept a few pigs, some to sell and some for our own pork supply. Mother cured the bacon and hams herself with hickory salt and brown sugar. She packed them in barrels of oats. Mother had a lovely flock of Barred Rock and Hampshire pullets as well as a good-sized flock of turkeys. We sold eggs all the time and a few dressed turkeys in December.

We kids can well remember the good old thresh-

ing days with all their excitement and large crews of men, long hours of work, lunches and hot coffee, and wonderful meals. Mother was tops at preparing meals in no time, and with very little variety to choose from. My job when I was old enough, was to shovel grain in the granary. I loved it, even if it was dusty and hot, except for the barley, which made me itch all over. This job was handed down to the others when I finished high school. At harvest time, Dad always had his grain hauled away by truck, but from then on it was done by team and wagon. Many a load I hauled to town.

Mother used to churn all of her butter, but jobs being so numerous, she switched to selling cream to the creamery, and buying her butter from them. As for marketing eggs, how can I forget that; I used to take eggs daily to school (packed in ten pound syrup pails), to take to Brad's store, at the noon hour. The high school boys used to tease me dreadfully. "Here comes Dorothy with her cackle berries". I remember they sold for 8¢ a dozen. It took three dozen to buy six cakes of P and G soap. Not too long ago, I paid that much for each egg. "Times have changed".

Dad used his John Deere tractor for all farm work, except in the busy season horses were used as well. Mother had all the necessary utensils and furniture of that time.

I have wonderful memories of the days on the farm, happy ones and sad ones. We all worked hard together, but especially Mother and Dad. It makes me weary just to think of how hard Mother worked, how she could spend endless hours day after day, driving the school van with the car morning and afternoon, taking hot meals out to Dad and the hired help, in the busy season, milking cows, gardening, canning, cooking, washing heaps of dirty clothes, for seven kids. Dad with his endless trying to make a good farm, his disappointments in crop failures, and his ceaseless trying with renewed hope for the coming year.

Both Mother and Dad took an active interest in their church and community.

In 1944 Mother and Dad and the rest of the family moved to Calgary, where they had a beautiful home. It was a small compensation for their years of hard work, especially mother's, but they did not live long to enjoy it. Dad died on August 3rd 1954 at the age of 70 from a cerebral hemorrhage, and mother died on February 9 1956, at the age of 57 years. They were both at the age when they could have enjoyed the fruits of their labor, but we do not know our destiny. Our heavenly Father gives us life, and likewise takes us from our earthly cares.

Florence, lives in Shoal Lake, Manitoba, where her husband is editor of the Shoal Lake Star. They

have no family, their only child, a boy, died at birth, in the fall of 1946. She is Mrs. Elgin Hurst.

Brett, and his wife Maxine live in Brandon. They have nine children. Brett served overseas in the Second World War, where he met and married Maxine.

Dorothy, happily married and living in the gold mining town of Bissett, Man. known as San Antonia Gold Mines. She has been married for 20 years, all of which has been spent at Bissett, where husband Wendell is mine superintendent. He has lived in Bissett for the past 28 years; a wonderful country, one of the best in the world. There are three children. Darlene, age 18, attended United College in Winnipeg during the past year, and goes into nurse's training in the fall. Dwight; age 15 passed to Grade 10, and Wade 9½ passed to Grade 5. Dorothy is Mrs. Wendell Weeks.

Mabel; married and living in Calgary. She is Mrs. Reg Mallet. Her husband is a private investigator. They have a boy and a girl.

Shirley: is Mrs. John Kozoriz. She lives in Edmonton, where her husband has been in the RCAF since 1942. They have two boys and a girl.

Yvonne, not married, lives in Montreal and is employed by Revlon Cosmetics.

Hugh lives in Calgary, is married and has one son.

1982 no update.

William and Ruby Cumberland by Rose Finkbeiner

This first part of this story is found in the J. T. Finkbeiner history:

Ruby and Bill still reside in Penticton. Since retiring, Bill keeps himself very busy taking care of their beautiful grounds and growing enough vegetables for themselves and their neighbors.

Ruby's special interest is helping to manage the Thrift Shop, collecting antiques, and sharing the friendship and activities of the neighbors. Their hospitality makes their home a favorite stopping place for many visitors. Ruby and Bill both golf, and Bill curls all winter.

Their elder daughter Gail married H. Leigh Durland of New York whom she met while she was a member of the nursing staff at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California.

Their first home was in New York, where Leigh was a staff member of the International Banking Association. Their elder son, William, was born there.

Leigh was later posted to Hong Kong where he was the European Representative for International Banking. Their second son, Mark, was born there. They remained in Hong Kong for three years, Taiwan for one year, then back to New York, and then to

Tokyo. Here the family spent three happy and interesting years before moving back to New York where Leigh is now world Traveller for International Banking.

Lynne Cumberland, younger daughter of Bill and Ruby Cumberland, after completing high school, graduated from the Vancouver General Hospital. She worked on staff of the Intensive Care unit for a number of years. She is now a member of the nursing staff of the Children's Hospital in Vancouver, B.C.

Mr. Cunningham

Mr. Cunningham came from Ontario and homesteaded the N.W. ¼ 20-14-25. He was very popular at local gatherings as he played the violin and sang. As soon as he proved up on his homestead he sold it to Mr. F. A. Campbell. He returned to Ontario, went through college as a veterinary surgeon, and took up the practise of his profession in Flint, Michigan, U.S.A.

Mr. and Mrs. Alec Curtis

Mr. Alec Curtis came from Cirencester Gloucester, England to work for Alec Angus at Pope, on August 15, 1924. He worked around Crandall for several years.

In 1929 he came to work for Mr. W. E. Bardwell. Rose Phillips came from England in 1930, and they were married at Crandall on Nov. 12.

The next spring they went to Wilbert Irwin's and farmed there for three years. From there they went to Frank Harrison's for one year, and the next summer went to Dan Cowling's.

In the spring of 1936 they took up farming on their own, five miles north of Isabella for four years. While there their only daughter Maurine was born. She was baptized at Blaris by Rev. H. I. Bowman. She took her elementary schooling at Rothesay and then went to Birtle to high school. She worked in the Royal Bank in Birtle for five years. On April 12, 1958, she was married to Dick Lamb of the Oakburn district. They have two sons Kelvin and Kenneth. Her husband is employed with the Manitoba Power Commission.

From the Isabella district Mr. and Mrs. Curtis moved to the Sutcliffe farm 13-16-26 in the Birtle district, where they do mixed farming and are still residing. Mrs. Curtis went to England in 1954 to visit her home and renew acquaintances there.

Update by Maurine (Curtis) Lamb

In September, 1962 Maurine and Dick moved to Oakburn on to a farm where they still reside. In 1963 their third son, Kirk, was born. In 1966 their only daughter, Heather, arrived and in 1974 a fourth son,

Jason, was born. In 1970 Maurine took a trip to England to meet her relatives for the first time.

Mr. and Mrs. Curtis moved to Pioneer Lodge in Birtle, in June, 1972. They have made several trips to England. Their most recent visit was in 1980 when they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary among relatives and old friends. On their return they had a celebration at Pioneer Lodge.

Mr. and Mrs. Curtis enjoy living in their suite in Pioneer Lodge and taking part in the social activities.

John and Merle Dagg

by John and Merle Dagg

John Dagg was the fourth son of Mr. and Mrs. James Dagg. He was born at Bethany, Manitoba on November 29, 1901. He went to school in Bethany up to Grade Eight. They moved to Alonzo, and took up homesteading from 1914 to 1921, when they moved back to Clanwilliam where he farmed with his brother, Tom.

Merle Dagg is the fourth child of Mr. and Mrs. John Moad. She was born on January 25, 1913. She attended school at Clanwilliam up to Grade Twelve. Then she worked in the bank until her marriage to John Dagg in April 1932.

They farmed for ten years and then moved to Clanwilliam where John was employed by the Canadian National Railway Company. He first started on a discer and then on permanent. He became foreman in 1955, during which time they lived in Inglow, Cordova, Franklin, Langbank (Saskatchewan), Angusville, and Isabella.

He retired in 1966 and moved to Neepawa, where he has resided since. He keeps busy mowing lawns and cutting hedges. Since moving to Neepawa, Merle has worked for eleven years at East View Lodge. She is now retired.

Merle and John had six children.

Mervyn, the eldest son worked for the C.N.R. as fireman, then as labourer then as brakeman. He then worked as a mechanic in Neepawa. He is married and has seven children, four of them are married and they have seven grandchildren.

Becky attended school in Clanwilliam. She had her leg amputated when she was twelve years old and then passed away the following year, 1946, with cancer.

Nelson, after attending school until Grade Twelve, worked for the C.N.R. as labourer and now works in Brandon with Hydro. He spent some time in Churchill with the Hydro. He married Francis Switzer and they have one son, Terry.

Bruce has his Grade Ten and is employed with the Good Roads in Minnedosa. He is married to Susan Norton and they have two little girls.

Lionel, after receiving Grade Ten, started working with the C.N.R. as a labourer. He then worked in a store in Russell, then in the Co-op in Dauphin. He married Nettie Mushmanski of Angusville and has three daughters. They moved to Neepawa and he now works at Provost Signs.

Sharon passed her Grade Ten in Isabella. She worked for Mr. Coxworth in his store. She married Bob Attwood of Isabella. She lived in Minnedosa, in Virden and now on a ranch south of Calgary. She has one son and two daughters.

John and Merle have seventeen grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. In April 1982, they will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Mr. Thos. Daly

Thos. Daly was of Irish descent and came to this district from near Durham, Ontario. He bought the east half of sec. 19-14-25. He only stayed a few years then he sold to Mr. J. E. Harrison and homesteaded in the Millwood-Marchwell district, later selling again and becoming a forest ranger.

Mr. Daly was very popular at social gatherings for his recitation and readings at a time when people had to depend on themselves for entertainment.

Mr. and Mrs. James Day

Mr. and Mrs. Day were the first settlers to live on the southeast quarter of sec. 30-14-25 which they bought from Rev. T. B. Beynon.

Mr. Day was a bricklayer and stone mason by trade and worked at his trade as well as farming.

They had four sons; Horace, Delbert, Hedley and Charles.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Davis

by G. Davis

George Davis was born at Treherne, Man. in 1916, the second son of William and Mary Davis. There were three brothers and three sisters. One brother died when very young.

George received his education at Treherne, later joining the R.C.A.S.C. in which he served for five years, seeing action on the western front in the Second World War. It was during his army training that he met Frank Gardham of this area which was the main reason for his coming to Isabella to live.

While serving overseas, he met Gerda Nederloff of Hengelo, The Netherlands, who joined him in Canada after his discharge from the army. They were married in Kelwood United Church, Kelwood, Man. on June 28, 1947. They came to Isabella the next day where they attended church and they remember hear-

ing Mr. Bowman's farewell sermon to this congregation that day.

For a while George worked with R. Young at carpenter work, later working on a B. and B. gang with the C.N.R. In the meantime, Gerda (Gerry as everyone called her) made her home in Isabella where she became a real friend with everyone she met. Although she could speak but a few words of English when she came, she proved to be a quick learner, and in four short years had mastered the English language.

In May, 1951, they bought a cafe in Decker and a little later on added a grocery department which has grown into a thriving business.

They have two children: Gary Adriaan who was born September 20th, 1950 and is in Grade Seven in Decker school, and Shirley Corine who was born September 15th, 1957.

1982 no update.

Allan and Margaret Dickie **by Margaret Dickie**

I, Margaret Evelyn, the eldest child of Harry and Mary Harrison was born September 21st, 1920.

I attended school at Isabella, remembering teachers Olive Thompson, Genevieve Hills and Ross Vasey, who made school a happy time.

I took Grade XII at Miniota and Normal School Training in Brandon — later teaching at Hiawatha (Ninga), Lavinia and Dand.

In 1946 I married Allan Dickie of Dand and became a farmer's wife.

We have two children, Robert Keith and Heather Jean. They attended school at Dand until 1970 when the school closed and they then transferred to Deloraine. Keith spent a year at Assiniboine College and graduated from Heavy Duty Mechanics course. He worked for several years in Winnipeg and Calgary — then came home to farm with Al. In July 1980 Keith married Wendy Bridger of Brandon. They presently reside in Deloraine. Wendy is employed as Branch Administrative Officer with the Royal Bank.

Heather attended Assiniboine College for two years graduating from the Social Services Course and as a Licenced Practical Nurse. In July 1976 she married Ron Cockerill of Roblin. They have one son Kelly. They reside in Stonewall. Heather works part-time at St. Joseph's Nursing Home and Ron works with Ducks Unlimited.

In 1967 Al joined the Sun Life Assurance Company. This he has found a most interesting career. He has continued to farm — so life at times has been a challenge. However as retirement from farming seems near he will continue with Sun Life to keep the days interesting.

Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Dillon

Mr. Dillon was manager in the bank in Isabella from December 1910 to May 1911. They were especially remembered by the young people of Isabella who were invited to their home for parties.

Mr. Doherty

Mr. Doherty lived on the Hector Calder farm, NE ¼ 16-15-25 and was the first to break the land. He moved to the Shoal Lake district.

The Casper Doran Family **by Casper and Viola Doran**

Casper Doran was born in 1908 at Crandall, Manitoba, and at an early age moved with his parents Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Doran, and older brother, Russell, to the farm at Isabella.

He attended Isabella school. As there were no vans when he started school, his father drove him and Russell to school. Later he often drove the school van.

After leaving school he helped on the home farm for a number of years. At that time the social life of the community centred around the skating and curling rink, and dances which were held in schools, small halls or homes. As Cap was musical he often played the accordion at these dances.

In 1935 he rented the Allingham place and began farming on his own.

In 1936 he married Viola Mayer at Gilbert Plains. In 1938 their daughter, Mavis, was born in Birtle hospital.

They farmed for three years, but as times were hard just before the second world war, they decided to give up farming and move to British Columbia. So, in September of 1939, Viola and Cap, with small daughter Mavis, set out in a big truck loaded with most of their possessions. They also took some bags of flour, potatoes and canned meat. They travelled along with Eric and Jean Randall, who were going near Cranbrook to visit Jean's mother. After spending a few months near Cranbrook, where Cap had some work, they went on to Winfield near Kelowna. There they bought a lot and built a house and lived for five years. Cap worked at whatever he could get; orchard work, and work in a packing house and in a lumber mill. He often worked for 25¢ an hour. Their second daughter, Gloria Fay, was born in 1943 in Kelowna. After leaving Winfield, they made several moves in and around Kelowna, where Cap was partly self employed building houses. They bought a small acreage with buildings, four miles from Kelowna, where they lived for ten years.

As a young man, Cap, was stricken with rheu-

matoid arthritis, which was quite a drawback. Viola taught school for several years and did a lot of substitute teaching. As Cap's health improved somewhat, he got work in a cabinet shop, in a millwork plant. This was the kind of work he enjoyed and after retirement at the age of 58, he had a shop in his back yard, where he carried on some of this work.

Both Viola and Cap helped with church work, Viola with Sunday School and U.C.W. and Cap on the building committee and doing volunteer carpenter work.

Mavis and Gloria received their education in Kelowna schools, both graduating from Grade XIII. Mavis went to New Westminster Royal Columbian Hospital and trained to be a medical record librarian. Gloria took her training for a laboratory technologist at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver.

Mavis married Colin McLean of Melbourne, Australia in 1965 and they live in Vancouver. They have two daughters, Alison born in 1967 and Karen born in 1969.

Gloria married Tony Jones of Vancouver in 1964. They have two sons, Brian born in 1970 and Kevin Edson born in 1973. They live in Terrace, B.C.

They (Viola and Cap) have now lived in the same place in Kelowna for seventeen years and enjoy a comfortable home with flowers and fruit in the yard. They have found B.C. a good place to live but they still enjoy going to Manitoba for a holiday.

Ed and Beverley Doran

by Ed Doran

I, Edson P. Doran, was born September 11, 1932 in the stone Hatch house which still stands across the river in Birtle. I lived with my parents, Russell and



Edson, Beverley, Ruth, and Kevin Doran.

Ina Doran, and two sisters, Bernice and Margaret, on the east half of 30-15-25 for nine years. It is now owned by Stan Teasdale. I started school at Isabella and can remember two of the van drivers, Tom Kennedy and Jean Preston. In 1941 we all moved to Kelowna, B.C. where Dad worked on a ranch and farmed a small acreage. In 1944, after the death of Grandma Doran, we returned to the home farm. I finished school at Isabella, worked at home, and in 1956 bought a half share of the farm. On October 30, 1957, I married Beverley Sunley who was born on the farm at Blaris, 25-14-26, on March 15, 1935. She took Grades I-VIII at Blaris and Grades IX-XI at Isabella. She belonged to the Blaris United Church until its closing and then transferred to the Isabella United Church. She taught school for one year, 1952-53, at Chipping Hill, then worked for the Manitoba Dairy and Poultry Co-op at Miniota as egg grader for a short while and then as bookkeeper.

Our elder daughter, Diana Yvonne, was born on October 21, 1959. She married Walter Brydon on August 11, 1979. They have submitted their own history.

Our second daughter, Margaret Ruth, was born on January 16, 1963. She started to kindergarten the year the Isabella school was moved to Birtle. She took all her schooling at Birtle, graduating from Grade XII in 1981, receiving awards for athletics and academics. For three years she competed in Provincial Badminton Playoffs. In 1980 she pitched for the Hamiota Midgets in the Provincial Fastball Playdowns — they won and Ruth won the MVP award (most valuable player). She played with them again in 1981, — again they won the Provincial Championship.

Our son, Kevin Edson, was born on November 8, 1965. He has had all his schooling at Birtle, presently taking Grade XI. He participates in school sports. He played hardball with Birtle for four years and now plays fastball with the Isabella Men's Team. He has played hockey with Miniota for the past nine years, playing in many tournaments and provincial play-offs.

In 1962 we rented Alex and Bill Spark's farm and in 1963 we bought it. The next few years were spent bulldozing and picking roots. In 1965 the barn was renovated for more pigs, a pit was dug and a slatted floor installed, the walls insulated and a new cement floor poured. In 1973 I purchased my dad's half of the farm. He still worked on the tractor during the summer and delivered our mail during the winter. This continued until four days before his death on October 11, 1980.

In 1974 Beamish Drilling of Hamiota drilled the eighth well on this farm, reaching water at 230 feet.

The well was drilled in harvest time and time didn't allow for the installation of pump and pipe, etc. The following spring the pump, trenching, pipe, etc., was put in and water flowed from the new well for about twenty minutes, then, as for the last sixty odd years, "dry-hole". Beamish returned and the sand in the bottom of the well was so fine that when the sand was stopped the water stopped, too. The only way to get water was to pump water and sand together which was no good in a water system, so the pipe was pulled and the hole filled in.

In the first part of March, 1978, E. and M. Drilling of Langenburg, set up a rig about 400 feet north of the house and started well, number 9. They drilled 200 feet the first day, then quit for the night. The next day they started in the afternoon. At five o'clock they were 360 feet and trying to get through a large stone. After coffee, sand was coming up from 370 feet. From there to 410 feet there was coarse sand. After developing, putting in casing, etc. at 11 p.m. March 17, we had a well producing 200 gallons per minute, 410 feet deep, with the water 80 feet from the top; enough water for whatever this farm needs.

In 1981 I rented the NW ¼ 9-16-25 from Bill Whyman.

In summing up, our family has had a good life in this community. We have participated in sports, curling, fastball, sportsdays, bonspiels, etc. Bev has taught Sunday School, been on the church board and choir, secretary-treasurer of the Ladies' Curling Club and has served on the prize committee in bonspiel time. I have served on the Rink Board, Pool Elevator board, Pool councillor, Masonic Lodge offices, coached the Boys' Ball Club, and the young Girls' Ball Club.

The Glen Doran Family by Dorothy Brown

Glen William Doran, the youngest son of Edson and Clara Doran, was born on May 27, 1917, in



Bill, David, Donna, Dorothy, Glen, Linda, Lois, and Bob Doran, 1980.

Isabella, Manitoba. He was raised and educated at Isabella, and helped on his father's farm.

In March, 1939, Glen married Iola Moir, only daughter of Dave and Sarah Moir of Isabella. Glen's oldest son, David Glen, arrived on December 10, 1941. Two years later, they were blessed with twin daughters, Donna Hazel and Dorothy Kathleen on April 4, 1943. Tragedy struck, when Iola died suddenly on April 11, 1943, only a week after the twins were born.

In August of 1944, Glen married Evelyn Hickman, only daughter of Bill and Pearl Hickman of Birtle. Their son, Robert John (Bob), was born June 17, 1944. Linda Joyce was born March 4, 1947, Lois Beth was born February 20, 1955. William Roy (Bill) arrived on August 16, 1952.

Glen worked at various jobs through the years. He farmed at Isabella, and then he moved to Foxwarren where he owned and operated a cafe. The family then moved to Birtle where they were engaged in the same type of business. It was known as the Palace Cafe and closed in 1963 and is now the office for Bicknell Freighters. Glen also drove a transfer to and from Winnipeg for both Tom Fulton and Bicknell Freighters. In 1961, Glen was employed by the Department of Highways at Birtle. Tragedy struck again, Glen's second wife died following a lengthy illness, in Winnipeg, on October 24, 1964.

Glen has four daughters, three sons and sixteen grandchildren, whom he enjoys visiting whenever possible.

David left home at the age of six to live with his aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Graham of Port Mellon, B.C. When David finished his schooling, he worked in the Pulp and Paper Mill at Port Mellon, B.C. On August 10, 1968 David married Marlene Davidson of Birtle. They now live at Gibson's, B.C. where the television series, "The Beachcombers" is filmed. They have three daughters: Andrea Kathleen and Lisa Margaret (twins) born November 11, 1970 and Diana Lee born August 22, 1974. Donna finished high school in Birtle and trained as a Licenced Practical Nurse in Winnipeg. She completed her training in 1963 and worked at the Winnipeg Clinic. It was here that she met her future husband, Emile Gobeil. They were married August 6, 1966, and reside in Ste. Rose du Lac where Emile owns and operates an auto body shop and has a Chrysler-Dodge dealership. They have two children: Todd Edward, born April 12, 1970 and Sherri-Lynn, born June 12, 1972.

Dorothy, after finishing school in Birtle, worked at the Municipal Hospital in Winnipeg for a few months, then moved back to Birtle to help her parents run the cafe which they owned. Dorothy married

Wayne Brown, eldest son of Elmer and Edna Brown of Arrow River, on August 22, 1964. They live on a farm 34-12-27 in the Reeder district. Wayne and Dorothy operate a mixed farming operation, with the main emphasis on a PMU horse business. They have four children: Wendy Cathleen, born November 8, 1964, Darlene Faye, born June 6, 1967, a son Darryl James Moir born July 25, 1969, and a third daughter Erin Christine born November 6, 1975.

Bob trained as an electrician and worked for several years at the Inco Mines at Thompson. They then moved to Edson, Alberta, where he still works.

Last summer their family took the summer off to go north to pan for gold. I never heard if they struck it rich. Bob married Carolyn Edwards, youngest daughter of Mabel and Doctor Edwards of Birtle. They have four children: David, Charlotte, Jennifer and Heidi. Their eldest, David Barr, was born February 6, 1965; Charlotte Victoria Evelyn was born November 16, 1969; Jennifer Elizabeth was born January 29, 1972; and Heidi Kathleen was born August 22, 1979.

Linda, after finishing school in Birtle, took a watch repair course in Winnipeg. She worked for only a year in this field, then moved to Prince George, B.C. where she trained as a licenced Practical Nurse. For many years Linda worked in the psychiatric ward at the Prince George Hospital. This year she ventured into a different field of nursing, and now manages a Senior Citizens home. Linda has one son, Michael Jeffry, born March 5, 1972.

Lois after leaving school, joined her sister in Prince George. She is kept busy raising her two daughters: Dawn Marie, born March 23, 1972 and Marisa Evelyn, born March 17, 1977.

Bill was born and raised in Birtle. Upon leaving school, Bill took an interest in the auto body business. He has moved around a fair bit, working at Prince George, Ste. Rose and Thompson. Three years ago Bill moved to Flin Flon, where he still resides today.

As is evident, Glen's family is scattered across the country. The first two weeks in August 1980 was set aside for a family reunion at his home in Birtle. All members of the family were able to attend, the first time in twenty years that we had been together. A family dinner at the Fellowship hall on August 16, 1980 concluded this happy occasion.

On December 5, 1981, Glen retired from his job with the Department of Highways and was honored at a dinner and presented with a wrist watch and plaque.

Glen plans to make a permanent move to the west coast.

Harold and Melva Doran

by Harold Doran

I, Harold Doran, son of Nelson and Sylvia Doran of Birtle, Manitoba, was born December 7, 1946 at Russell, Manitoba. I graduated with a diploma in Agriculture from the University of Manitoba in 1967. I married Melva Lyn Widdicombe on November 13, 1971. Melva was the second daughter of Jack and Florence Widdicombe of Foxwarren, Manitoba. We lived in Winnipeg, Bowsman, and Brandon before moving to the Frank Reid farm, which we purchased in 1974.

Melva graduated with a Bachelor of Teaching degree in 1974, and taught at Miniota for three years. She then received her Bachelor of Education from Brandon University, and taught in Birtle school. She took a one year leave of absence when our daughter, Bronwen Emma, was born January 2, 1980. She continues to teach in Birtle.

At present we live on the farm at 29-15-25 W where we grow pedigree seed and operate a seed cleaning plant.

Nelson and Sylvia Doran

by Nelson Doran

Nelson Doran was born at Isabella at Mrs. Iverach's nursing home on a bright August day in 1915. Nelson's father, T. E. Doran, always remembered the event as he was cutting wheat on the land across the road on that day.

His schooling was received at Isabella, where some studies were not enjoyed, in fact a minus mark in French was the usual occurrence. The athletic pursuits were a better subject and one year he managed to win the boys' championship ribbon, much prized at the municipal field day.

As an adult, Nelson spent several winters away from the farm as field management was his part of the Doran operation. A shingle mill at Fanny Bay was a different spot to work but spring meant time to go home to Isabella.

After his marriage to Sylvia Hoover at Melita, November 10, 1945, he fully intended to build a home on the good land he owned. However a truck used for grain and gravel hauling, then a caterpillar tractor and more trucks, meant the establishment of a construction business based in Birtle. The land at Isabella was always retained and today is part of Harold Doran's farm operation.

Their children are: Harold, now farming at Isabella; Claudia, a teacher in Surrey, B.C.; Joyce, a photographer in Saskatoon; and Lucinda, an artist in stained glass in Winnipeg. Six grandchildren are now also a most enjoyable reality.

Nelson is a member of the Birtle Lions' Club and

is active in its many community improvements. He has done a lot of curling but now only curls occasionally. His main hobby has been planning and taking winter trips. He and Sylvia have been fortunate enough to see much of Canada, the United States and in the winter of 1981 took a long planned journey to Australia and New Zealand. Maps and an atlas are his particular and lasting objects of interest. Many planning jaunts, visits to borrow maps and exchange ideas are an enjoyable part of forthcoming trips.

Now, retired from the construction business, Nelson runs a tractor on his land at Isabella and on his son Harold's farm.

Russell and Ina Doran by Ina Doran

Russell Everett, eldest son of Thomas Edson and Clara Lucinda (Houck) Doran was born at Crandall on May 10, 1906. He moved with his parents and brother Casper to Isabella in 1908. Russell attended school at Isabella. His favorite teacher was Mrs. Russel Heise. He said she always took time to explain the work so one could understand it. Russell left school early and helped with the farm work, driving a four horse team while he walked behind the harrows.

On March 2, 1932 he married Georgina Guild, eldest daughter of Robert and Margaret (Stewart) Duke. I, Ina, was born on April 1, 1908 in Welbank, Scotland where I received my education. I worked at housekeeping in several homes near Dundee. I came to Canada with my parents in 1925 where I continued working — at Robbie Newsham's, Scarth's, H. Stewart's, Salmon's and Spark's.



Russell and Ina Doran.

After our marriage we rented the east half of 30-15-25 for eight years. Our three children were born while we farmed here. Edson Phillip, September 11, 1932, Bernice Lucille July 30, 1934 and Margaret January 15, 1937 were all born at Mrs. Hatches' nursing home in Birtle. In the fall of 1941 we had an auction sale and moved to the Okanagan Valley in B.C. where we bought twenty-five acres of land in the Ellison district. Russell worked on the Simpson Ranch. We lived there for three years before returning to Isabella in November, 1944 to take over the home farm. We continued to farm until November, 1962 when we moved to the town of Isabella. We purchased the Dave Wright house. Russell continued to do farm work up until he passed away on October 11, 1980. We sold the farm to our son Edson in 1973.

Russell served on the hall board for a number of years. I am a member of the United Church Women and Women's Institute (having held the office of president in the W.I.). I also belong to the Order of the Eastern Star at Birtle.

I still reside in my home in Isabella where I keep busy with knitting, crocheting, and needle-point. I try to help with all community projects and enjoy visits from friends, children, grandchildren and my two great grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Edson Doran by T. E. Doran

I, Thomas Edson Doran, was born on July 6, 1879, in St. Vincent Township in Gray County Ontario. I am of Pennsylvania Dutch ancestry. My great grandfather came to Ontario in 1783 as a United Empire Loyalist.

I was raised and educated with my four brothers. At the age of seventeen, I started the trade of blacksmithing, serving three years apprenticeship.

In the fall of 1901, at the age of twenty one, I came to Manitoba on a harvest excursion, my train fare being \$10.00. It was thirteen years before I returned to visit my family. I worked for Mr. Thompson of Oak River during that harvest. For the next two months, I drove the mail between Hamiota and Griswold. After this, I worked for eight months for Mr. Sheardown who had a blacksmith business, then I worked as a carpenter for a while, building on a house in Hamiota, and elevators in Arrow River and Crandall. I stayed in Crandall and worked for a while with Mr. Tom Saunders, in his blacksmith shop. In the fall of 1903, I went into partnership with George Levins, who also ran a blacksmith shop.

The fall of 1904 found me buying George's share and on Nov. 2, I was married to Clara Lucinda Houck, a girl from Hamiota, who had come out from

Ontario. We lived in Crandall until 1908 when we sold the business and moved to a rented farm at Isabella on the East half of 19-15-25, now owned by Bob Stewart. Two sons were born to us at Crandall, and a daughter in 1909.

There were 80 acres broken on the farm. We put up 40 loads of hay, seeded 80 acres and broke 70 acres on 31-15-25, which I began to buy.

In February 1908, I bought a house 7 miles south of Crandall, for \$27.00 from Jim Murray. We moved it to the rented farm, the site being on the ravine west of the present buildings. Breaking was done with horses, and that year I can recall buying a horse for \$125.00. After using it all summer, I traded it for a mower, rake, and enough twine to tie my crop.

In 1909, I rented Sam Andrews' farm with horses and implements on the north half of 18-15-25. Now renting 2½ sections I was kept busy. I took off 12,000 bushels of grain that year. Mr. Sim Heise and Mr. Wm. Iverach, did the threshing for the first two years. To feed the men, I bought 300 pounds of beef at 3¢ a pound. I bought the east half of 31-15-25, from J. G. Sutherland, all virgin soil. The west half I bought from Dr. Cartmell. Some of this land had been broken by Mr. Seales and Mr. Argyle. All the section was owned by the Scottish National Collective Co.

In 1909 I built a bunk house and stable, with lumber I received in part payment for my blacksmith business. When we hauled the lumber up from Crandall, the mosquitoes were so bad you couldn't see a square inch of horsehide. I dug a shallow well, the digging being quite easy, but when it came time to go home, I had a hard time getting myself out of the hole, as I had dug deeper than I thought. In June I moved my house up to 31-15-25, from the rented farm.

While we lived on the rented farm, I remember a prairie fire. While my hired man and myself were tying bags of grain, we saw the smoke billowing up in the distance. The man rushed to harness the team and hitch them to the plow. I started to plow a guard around the buildings and haystacks. One side had been plowed a few days before, when I had tried out the plow I had bought at Tom Kennedy's sale for \$35.00. When I had it all plowed but a few feet, one horse suddenly reared up and fell dead in its harness. We used water on the unplowed land and saved our buildings.

The second part of the fire came a few minutes later, from a different direction. There was I, with only one horse and a plow, but luck was with me, as that was the side I had plowed a few days earlier with my newly-bought plow. During this summer, my wife saw only one woman Mrs. W. Palmer.

After moving the house, we added a piece to it, also plastering it, as that seemed the only sure way to get rid of bed bugs. We kept hens and cows, enough for our own use.

In 1911, Frank Preston arrived on November 4, to thresh our grain. It snowed soon after and we kept on threshing in our corner until Christmas.

On going back after the New Year, everything was so badly frozen up, it was impossible to start the machinery, so we finished threshing in the spring. Mr. Preston left his outfit in our district so our crop was done first the next fall. In 1914 we bought our own threshing outfit. We lost the separator, when fire destroyed our new implement shed in 1916, also doors and windows and some of the lumber for our new house was lost.

The carpenters and neighbors took a day off from the housebuilding and erected a new shed. We bought a new separator that fall.

In 1916 we built a furnace-heated 10 roomed house, and in 1920 added a veranda on three sides and installed a Delco lighting plant.

In 1919 we built a large barn. When digging the root cellar, we found a large number of Indian arrow heads, so we named the farm Arrow Head farm.

Our family had now increased to eight. A daughter died in infancy and a son at the age of 11 months.

In 1917 I bought my first car, a Reo chain drive. I paid \$150.00 for it and bought it from Fred Houck. The next year I bought a 490 Chev. Fred Houck bought the other one back. As I was driving it back, I was concentrating so much on the turn, I turned it into the ditch, before reaching his lane. The Chev. ran well, and after a year or two, I thought the battery should be charged, so I took it to a garage, and was told it was worn out. I bought a second-hand one for \$40.00, and found it was not as good as the one I traded in.

In 1936 we bought our first tractor on rubber, a McCormick-Deering W-30. My son found it would not stop when he shouted "whoa" and the fence came out second best. In 1946 we bought a WD9 International tractor, it being one of the first diesel tractors in the district.

During the years 1914-1917 we experienced a lot of electrical and windstorms. I recall one hired hand John Willie. He and our eldest son were out haying, when a storm struck. As John was putting the horses in the stable, a bolt of lightning struck and ran down a row of nail heads, splitting a stone at the bottom, knocking down a horse, and also John. We told John the next time a storm struck, he was to come to the house immediately. When the next storm came along, John headed for the house, but fate had a surprise for him. As he stepped into the shed, the

wind blew the top off the chimney, the bricks rumbling down on the shed roof. Poor John must have thought his time had come. During those storms, we often had to hold pillows up to the window panes to keep them from blowing in. After one such storm, we found we had no hay left. It had blown from the field in which it was raked, to fences and telephone wires, miles away.

I served on the council for eight years, 1914-1921. I also ran as reeve, but conceded to Mr. Mitchell before election, thinking he was better equipped for the position. I was president of the Agricultural Society at Isabella. I helped build a rink at Crandall and at Isabella and was president of the Curling Club at Isabella and at Birtle later.

In 1918 I joined the Masonic lodge and have held the office of district deputy. I am now master of ceremonies. In 1956, I had the pleasure of initiating my grandson into the lodge.

In 1944 my wife passed away, and my eldest son took over the operation of the farm. In 1947, I married Alberta (Withrow) Houck. I bought a house in Birtle in which we are still living. Since moving here, I served twelve years on the town council, and six years as president of the sports committee.

Clara Lucinda Houck, my first wife, was born in Stratford, Ontario on October 10, 1882. She came to Manitoba with her mother in 1896 following the death of her father. They came to Hamiota district where her brothers were settled. Cindy kept house for a brother for a few years.

On our first date, we attended a dance which was held in the station in Hamiota. We were married on November 2, 1904 and she raised a family we are proud of. She played for the church at Shamrock and Rothesay and played the piano at dances. Dave Moir, Marcus Fitzgerald and my wife made a most efficient orchestra. She was a member of the Isabella Womens Institute until her death on September 27, 1944. My wife did not get out too much, as she was not able to drive the car, but her door was always open and a loving welcome awaited her many friends. For many years the Doran home was a favorite gathering place for young and old alike.

Our children are: Russell Everett, born May 10, 1906; Casper Melvin, born February 26, 1908; Gladys Eugenie, born May 10, 1909; Hazel Anna, born June 19, 1911; Edson Houck, born October 1913 and passed away at eleven months from pneumonia; Elbert Nelson, born August 15, 1915; Glen William, born May 27, 1917; and Clara Lucinda, born February 20, 1920 and passed away five days later.

Update of T. E. Doran

In 1964 Mrs. Doran (Bert) died at Birtle. She is buried in Hamiota Cemetery beside her first hus-

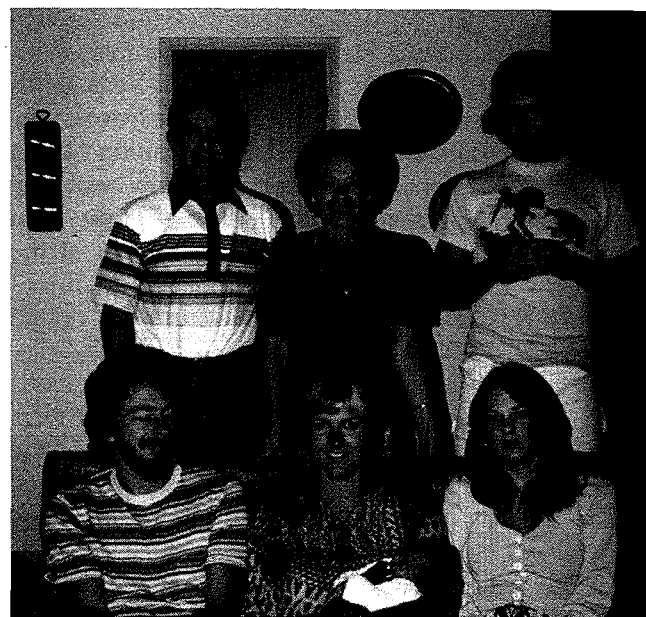
band, Phil Houck. Ed Doran sold his house to Hazel and Clarence Graham and moved into Pioneer Lodge. He remained there until his death in April, 1972. He is laid to rest in the Isabella Cemetery beside his first wife, Clara Lucinda.

Mr. Doyle

Mr. Doyle owned N ½ 7-15-25. He broke no land. Mr. Warren was the next owner. Mr. Doyle helped form the Beulah Mutual Insurance Company. It was later taken over by the Wawanesa Mutual Insurance Company.

Clark Milford Drummond and Catherine Ann Yaciw by Kay and Clark Drummond

602 Jessie Ave.; Fort Rouge, Winnipeg is the home I remember best through those adolescent years to teenage life, to the first home of married life. I was the third son (middle one living) to Milford and Margaret Drummond. I attended Earl Grey and Kelvin High Schools, and started my machinist apprenticeship at the Canadian National Railways on Dec. 1, 1941.



Back: Clark, Kay, Glenn, Ron, Debbie, Darcy, and Phyllis Drummond, 1980.

As soon as I was old enough I joined the R.C.N.V.R. and served on the corvette HMCS Kam-sack on the North Atlantic. Near the end of the war while in Toronto, Ont., I met Catherine (Kay) Yaciw at a roller skating rink. We went to Winnipeg where I was discharged and were married October 10, 1946. We skated together professionally for five years in

our spare time till our first son was born. Because of a chest condition that I got in the navy, winters didn't go too well with me in Winnipeg, so we decided to go to sunny California in August 1956. We settled in Hayward and I began working for The American Can Co. as a maintenance machinist.

In my spare time I have always been a hobbyist, from oil painting to building boats and furniture etc. As the kids grew up Kay got a little restless at home and for the past number of years has been working in the office of a large flower shop.

Ron was born April 30, 1952 in Winnipeg. He was only four when we moved to California. He was always had a great interest in running, water and snow skiing, and the great outdoors. He graduated from Sunset High School in 1970, and after serving 2 years in the U.S. Navy, attended Chabot College in Hayward. He was married August 10, 1974 to Debbie Stockel. Their love for the outdoors took them from the city to the mountains, where Ron is a logging truck driver and Debbie works for Lassen National Parks. At present they live on a wooded lot at the country club on the Peninsula of Lake Almanon, California with their daughter Darcy Sue who was born December 3, 1980.

Since moving to California we have had two more wonderful children. Phyllis was born October 6, 1960 in Hayward California. She finished her high school education at Sunset High School. At present she is living at home and is attending Chabot College and working part time for a little spending money.

Glenn was born March 2, 1962 in Hayward California. He graduated from Sunset High School. He has a great interest in making and repairing things plus riding and working on motorcycles. He is also a physical fitness buff. At present he is staying at home attending Chabot College and working part time at Sears Auto department.

Clifford Drummond by C. Drummond

My parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Drummond, and family moved from Lenore to Isabella in March, 1905. They farmed on section 15-15-25, which was previously owned by Archie Little of Hamiota.

I made the required number to open a school in Isabella that fall. Miss Fraser was the first teacher and I was the first pupil to receive the strap!

We moved to Alexander in the year 1908 and the two Finkbeiner boys, Harry and Jack, rented the farm until 1916, when my brother Bill and I returned to Isabella.

For the first few years all roads leading to Orrwold, Crandall, Hamiota, Birtle and Isabella passed through our yard. It was all horse and buggy traffic.

Bill left the farm in 1928 and moved to Vancouver. During our farming years we had the following people work for us: Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Hamblin 1916, Mrs. Mayer as housekeeper in 1917, Mr. and Mrs. W. Doran, 1918, Mr. and Mrs. O. Young 1920, Mr. and Mrs. Sid Riches 1925-1943.

We farmed until 1943 when we sold our farm. At present I am living in Winnipeg.

James and Helen Drummond by James Drummond

On a cold day in January, 1926, a fourth son was born to Maggie and Milford Drummond in Hamiota, Manitoba. They named me James Hunter. When I was quite small we moved to Winnipeg, living in



Back: David, Helen, Jim, Brian, Kevin, Rich, and Ian Drummond, 1974.

several areas before finally settling at 602 Jessie Ave. in Fort Rouge where I grew up with my two older brothers. I went to Earl Grey School for elementary and junior high years, and then to Kelvin High where I graduated in 1944.

It was at high school that I met the girl I would later marry — Helen Watson. We had also attended Crescent Fort Rouge Church and junior high school together, but in the 10th grade we became friends. I attended University of Manitoba studying pre-med and then went to Brandon, Manitoba, for two years of Lab and X-Ray training. In 1948, after graduation I was employed by the Manitoba Provincial Government at a Health Centre in Selkirk and a year later Helen and I were married.

Our first two sons, David and Brian, were born before we decided to broaden our horizons and moved to Garrison, North Dakota where I worked at the Garrison Hospital and Clinic. We spent nine happy years there and three more sons arrived — Ian, Kevin and Rick. Needless to say we had a busy and exciting household.

In 1963 we moved to Richfield, Minnesota — a suburb of Minneapolis. I worked at St. Mary's Hospital as chief x-ray technician for three years and then went to St. Luke's Hospital in St. Paul (later to merge with Miller Hospital to become United Hospitals) as Administrative Manager of Radiology. Once the boys were in school, Helen went back to nursing and now works at Fairview Southdale Hospital as a hospice nurse.

Life has been good to us — we are proud of our five grown sons, three daughters-in-law and one grandson. We are blessed with good health and love to travel when we can.

David graduated from Richfield High and M.I.T. in Cambridge Mass. with a degree in Chemistry. He spent six years as a chemical oceanographer in Boston and Halifax, N.S. He is now in Ottawa, Ontario with Atomic Energy Commission of Canada.

Brian graduated from RHS and Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn. with a BA in Math and French. He married Susan Cornelius, also a Concordia grad. and they now live in Hastings, Minn. with their son Marc Ryan, age three. Brian teaches at Hastings High and Susan teaches at Apple Valley High School.

Ian graduated from RHS and the University of Minnesota with a BS in Animal Science, and has been accepted for admission to the University of Minnesota Veterinary College. He is married to Susan Somers, a graduate of the University of Arizona who is a radio announcer for WCCO FM. Ian is employed at the U of Minn. Hospitals and they live in Crystal, Minn.

Kevin graduated from RHS and University of Wisconsin with a BA in Math. He married Donna Hemauer, also a U of Wisc. grad. and they live in Richfield. Kevin is a computer programmer for Burroughs Corp and Donna is attending graduate school in Urban Planning at the University of Minn.

Rick graduated from RHS and enlisted in the USAF in Sept., 1980 for a four year term of duty. He is presently based at Anchorage, Alaska.

Milford and Maggie Drummond by Clare Drummond

Milford was the youngest of six sons born to William and Mary Drummond. He was born August 30, 1886, in the family home, on the 7th line of Beckwith township, near Carleton Place, Ontario. He came out west when he was 19 as a result of a toss of a coin with brother Peter as to who would come west or stay home with the parents. Milford first came to work with his brother Jim at Alexander and



Clare, Milford, and Jim, Margaret and Clark Drummond.

eventually farmed a half section at Isabella, Manitoba. The only time he was ever home again was in 1916 to celebrate his parents golden wedding anniversary at Carleton Place.

Maggie Christina Clark, the only daughter, was born July 27, 1895 at Blaris, Manitoba to John and Isabella Clark. Milford sang in the church choir at Isabella and the story goes that Maggie went to church one Sunday with brother Allen and came home with Milford. She was only 17 then and Milford was nine years older and Mr. Clark made them wait till she was 21 years of age before allowing them to get married on July 27, 1916 at Isabella. They spent their wedding night at Crandall. Maggie said there was such a bad storm she couldn't call home. They took the train and stayed a week with Dad's brother Tom at Alexander.

Misfortune struck our parents soon after. Mother took typhoid fever and went home to her mother for nine weeks. In fact, it was a year later they went to Hamiota to get their wedding picture taken.

Their first son, William Lawrence was born April 7, 1919 at Isabella. It was the period of the deadly flu epidemic. In 1920 Mother had to be taken by heated van to Miniota, changing horses at Beulah. Dad was sick too and couldn't go with her. While she was in hospital, Lawrence had to be brought into Miniota hospital where he lived for 48 hours and died March 27, 1920. Mother never got home for the funeral, which Dad said was on the coldest day of the year.

Robert Clare was born August 13, 1921 at his grandparents' home on section 15 at Isabella. Dad was farming a half section near Reid's and suffered a mild heart attack. As a result, he was never too strong

and was forced off the farm. They moved to Hamiota.

Clark Milford was born September 18, 1924 and James Hunter was born January 24, 1926, both at Hamiota, Manitoba.

It would be around 1926 that the family moved to St. James in Winnipeg. Dad had been selling Fuller brushes but felt for health reasons he would be better off in the city.

We moved for awhile to Dudley Avenue but again father had the misfortune to break an ankle while working for Bryces bakery. Another time it was three broken ribs in a street car collision and again three more ribs pushing a car out of trouble.

Material things didn't come easy to the family in Winnipeg and yet ours was a very happy family life. We lived for awhile in houses on Ellesmere and Harrowby Avenues in St. Vital. Those were the depression years and very hard ones to bring up a family. It's difficult to imagine Mother preparing meals for the teachers at Glenwood School. Every day Dad would deliver hot meals at noon to the teachers. Price was 25 cents including dessert. Then there were the dozens of cookies and cakes baked by Mother and sold door to door. Life was difficult. Pride was retained by digging ditches to offset the taking of welfare. Through it all the welfare of the family came first. Wherever we moved the prime consideration was for a community that had good schools and churches close at hand.

The longest we stayed was at 602 Jessie Avenue, a huge double duplex that was old when we lived there and is still being used today. Our life centred around the United Churches of Crescent and later Crescent-Fort Rouge when they joined the two congregations. I think the highlight for my dad was when he was made a session member of the Church Board.

For 15 years Dad was a well known figure as he wheeled his bicycle with the side cart labelled "Watkins Products" through the streets of Fort Rouge. He took sick and passed away September 7, 1958 in Winnipeg General Hospital at the age of 72 years.

Their greatest pride was the little house at 919 Lorette Avenue that they bought and lived in for 20 years. It was home every time each of the family came back to Winnipeg and Mother's cinnamon buns were always ready for us.

Mother managed until July 1970 when she went into St. James Hospital for a gall bladder operation. In the fall, we put her in a home on Roslyn Road and put the house up for sale. Mother wasn't too happy there so she went to the Kinsmen's Senior Citizens Home on Point Road, Fort Garry, where she passed away quietly one morning on November 5, 1976. She

was buried beside her beloved husband in the Last Supper plot in the Chapel Lawns Cemetery, Winnipeg.

Robert Clare and Mary Drummond by Clare Drummond

I was born on my grandparents' farm at Isabella, Manitoba on 13 August, 1921, the second son of Milford and Maggie Drummond. My mother was born in Isabella and my father at Carleton Place, Ontario. My dad farmed a half section near Reid's farm. Unfortunately, the 1919 flu took its toll on my dad and as a result I didn't remain a farmer very long. I must say that some of my happier times were when I returned to Isabella for summer holidays. Most of my life was spent in Winnipeg where I grew up attending Glenwood, La Verendrye, Earl Grey schools and then graduating in 1938 from Kelvin Technical High School.

After leaving school, I started work at Eaton's and then joined the C.N.R. in 1941. The war came along and I joined the R.C.N.V.R. in 1942 and served as a wireless operator on the H.M.C.S. Battleford and H.M.S. Lightfoot and finally served in the English Channel on the H.M.C.S. Mimico.

I had met Mary Mowat in Young People's days at the church and we were married 4 July, 1945 at



Back: Bob, Adele, Douglas, Edith and Jim, Clare, Mary, Cheryl, and Darlene Drummond, 1980.

Riverview United Church in Winnipeg. Promotions in the railway took us to Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and finally to Edmonton in 1961. It has been a good move for all our family. My interests have been varied over the years, but I suppose the main interest has been singing in a barbershop chorus and working my way through family histories. We were fortunate in raising four fine children.

Jim was born 7 June, 1947 in Winnipeg and bore the brunt of early schooling in various cities. Football became his love and he spent several years in Arizona

and Tampa before returning to play for the University of Alberta. He decided on a career in real estate and presently is manager of A. E. LePage Melton Real Estate in Leduc and Beaumont, Alberta. He was married 28 July, 1973, to Edith Guhl. They presently live in Leduc with daughters, Kelley Dawn, age 3, and Jerilyn Anne, who was born 18 June, 1981.

Douglas was born 13 January, 1951, in Winnipeg. He finished his high school education in Jasper Place High School in Edmonton and settled for a credit career with Valemont Management Services. Today, he is manager of the credit offices at Campbell River and Courtney, B.C. He married Cheryl Bailey in Edmonton, 8 December, 1973 and they now reside in Campbell River with their three sons: Reid (4), Derek (3), and Kyle Ellis, who was born 18 June, 1981.

Robert was born 5 January, 1954, also in Winnipeg. He finished his high school education at Jasper Place in Edmonton and is working as a traffic agent at Pacific Western Airlines. He married Adele Boucher in Wilkie, Saskatchewan, 3 September, 1977 and they presently live in Edmonton.

Darlene, our little "bonus", was born 30 March, 1963 in Edmonton and is still with us at home. She graduated from grade 12 this year at Jasper Place Composite High School. Dancing is her first love and it may mean sending her east to further her dancing education as she would like to make it a career.

John and Hazel Edna (Irwin) Duffy **by Hazel Duffy**

The following is a skeleton account of the life and activities since leaving the Isabella district of the above.

1946-1947 — Took Grade 12 in Hamiota Collegiate.

1947-1948 — Six weeks teacher — training course in Tuxedo, followed by a one year teaching term "on permit" in Ekford one-room rural school south of Rosssburn.

1948-1949 — Normal School training in Tuxedo.

1949-1950 — One year of teaching in the rural school of Cracknell, between Russell and Inglis.

1950-51-52 — Two years of teaching Grades 5 and 6 in the village of Elkhorn.

1952-53-54 — Two years of teaching Grades 5 and 6 in the village of Foxwarren.

1954-1955 — One year of teaching Grades 5 and 6 in Hamiota, followed by one term in the fall of 1955 teaching Grades 7 and 8 in Foxwarren.

1956 — March to September in New Zealand, including 4 months of teaching in the rural school of Maramarua in the North Island.

1957 — One term from January to June of teaching Grade 4 at The Pas.

1957-58-59 — Two years of teaching Grades 5 and 6 in Gilbert Plains.

1959-60 — One year of teaching Grade 7 in Foxwarren.

1960-1965 — Four years of teaching Grade 4 and one year of teaching Grade 5 in Shoal Lake.

1965 — Married John Duffy, farmer, Shoal Lake.

1965 — Son, Timothy Gordon, born.

1968 — Son, Patrick John, born.

Michael and Rose Dushnicky **by Michael and Rose Dushnicky**

Michael is the son of Harry and Rose Dushnicky of Oakburn, Manitoba. He was born May 15, 1916. Michael obtained his education at Oakburn. In 1918 the family moved to a farm three and one half miles east of Oakburn, the north ½ of 19-18-22.

Michael worked with his father on the farm. In the years 1938 and 1939 he worked during the winter months at bush camps at Long Lac, Ontario. In the spring he came back to farm. In 1940 he worked for a construction contractor at the lakehead-Port Arthur, Ontario, now called Thunder Bay. In the winters of 1941 and 1942 he worked for the C.N.R. at Winnipeg, Man.

He worked with his father on the farm until March 19, 1950 when he bought his own farm at Isabella from Andrew Doig of Birtle, Man. He bought the W ½ of 30-15-25, the S.E. ¼ of 25-15-26 and leased the north ½ of 25-15-26 which he now owns. In the spring of 1959 he bought the W ½ of 27-15-26 from Lew Berwick and in 1964 bought the W ½ of 22-15-26.

On April 26, 1942 he married Rose Gerega, the third daughter of Wawro and Mary Gerega of the Roger's district of the municipality of Rosssburn. When we came to the Isabella district in 1950 we had four children. They are Eugene, Ernest, Lawrence and one daughter, Jeanette. Our fifth child, Leonard, was born in 1955. All of them received their education at Isabella and Birtle.

Eugene and Lawrence farm in the Isabella district.

Ernest is working with the agriculture Research Station in Ottawa.

Jeanette works for the Simplot Chemical Plant in Brandon, working with computers. She married Brian Brown in 1973. He also works for Simplot in Brandon. They have two sons: Dallas, age six years and Shawn, two years.

Leonard works at the University of Manitoba in Agricultural Research. He married Karen Jack of Gunton, Manitoba on March 21, 1981.

Jack and Margaret Dyrkacz

by Margaret Dyrkacz

I was born Margaret Alice, eldest daughter of Charles and Stella Ariss. I received my grades one to eleven at Isabella and my grade twelve at Miniota. Next I attended Brandon Teachers' College.

My first teaching position was in a one-room school (grades 1-8) at Cork Cliff School, just outside Winnipegosis. It was here that I met my husband, Jack Stewart, son of Frank and Phyllis Dyrkacz of Winnipegosis.

We were married June 26, 1965 at Rivers, Manitoba. We have two children. Jason Stewart was born in Hartney, Manitoba on December 24, 1969. Myrna Gayle was born here in The Pas on August 16, 1971. We have lived in The Pas since July of 1970.

At present, Jack is principal of Opasquia, (one of the three elementary schools in The Pas) and I am teaching grade six.

We thoroughly enjoy 'The North'! Jack enjoys hunting, especially moose hunting and goose hunting. I enjoy curling. We, as a family, do a lot of fishing which includes ice-fishing in the winter and trolling in the summer. We built a cottage on Clearwater Lake where we spend most of our weekends and holidays. Here we swim, canoe, water-ski, cross-country ski and ski-doo.

I have many fond memories of growing up at Isabella. I recall going to school in a van drawn by two horses, and all the excitement that happened when the van tipped over on a snow-drift. I also recall the fun I had when I played on the girls' fast ball teams, and on the ladies' hockey team. I especially admire the community spirit the people of Isabella still have, as shown when nearly everyone helps out at any social function.

Charlie and Florence Ellerington

by Florence Ellerington

I, Florence, daughter of Francis and Mary Brown, started school in Dumfries, Scotland. I then went to Isabella School, to Portage la Prairie for Grade Twelve and to Winnipeg Normal School. I taught at Ogilvie, Poplar Park, Marland and Glenlochar.

In 1933 I married Charlie Ellerington who farmed in the Glenlochar district. Charlie bought part of the Gerrand farm (S½ 22-13-26 and 9-13-26) and we built our home on 16-13-26 where we have lived ever since. He later bought the adjoining Elliott farm (W½ 23-13-26) and we spent ten years struggling through the depression. We had two events which will always remain in our memories. In 1947 Charlie purchased a bombardier and from then until

it was sold in 1953 our winters were filled with some exciting and worrisome trips in all kinds of weather transporting the doctor, patients, hockey players, etc. This was before we had all-weather roads. The other event happened June 16, 1953 when a tornado ripped through our yard missing the house but tearing off the top half of a large barn that was half full of wheat. The true rural spirit of neighborly concern was evident next morning when about twelve trucks were lined up ready to haul our exposed wheat to the elevator.

Over the years Charlie has been active in community affairs as a member of the school board, Virden Health Unit Board, Miniota Municipal Council and the local Wheat Pool Board. I have held offices in the United Church Women's Auxiliary, United Church Women, and Women's Institute.

We have two children, Tom and Betty Ann.

Tom attended Miniota School, then took a course in diesel engines at Winnipeg, Manitoba Technical Institute. In 1956 he married Betty Ann Brown of Reeder, Man. They lived in a trailer for a year and then built a home on S½ 22-13-26. Tom worked with his dad for some years, then bought the half section on which his house was located and the adjoining half section 23-13-25. He also rented the Bruce Thornton farm at Birtle for six years. He was a member of the 12th Manitoba Dragoons for three years, and it was through his associations there that he became interested in rifle competitions. He won the Greenshot Grand Aggregate medal in Winnipeg competition, and the trophy in the Vern Lelond Competition at Shilo. In 1964 he took part in the Manitoba Rifle Competition and won a place on the team representing Manitoba at the Dominion Rifle Competition in Ottawa that year. Tom's other interests are playing the accordion and hunting. He played with Elwyn Assestine's Rhythmaires for thirteen years, the Alex Frazer Combo for ten and a half years, and a new Combo group for three years. Tom and Betty Ann have four children: Karen, Linda, Michael, and Sharon. Karen attended school at Miniota and Birtle, then worked at Wetaskiwin, Alberta in a bakery for a year. She then married Larry Thompson of Virden. They now live in Brandon and have one daughter, Shauna, who attends nursery school. Larry works for Imperial Taxi and Karen works for Great Western Sportswear. Linda was born in 1960 and completed her education in Miniota and Birtle. She then worked for a short time for Imperial Taxi and now works for Cardinal Signs. She is very active in racquet ball and other sports. Michael and Sharon attend Miniota School.

Betty completed her education at Miniota and worked for a year at Barker's Drug Store in Birtle.

She was active in C.G.I.T. and 4H during her school years. She married Kenneth Baskier of Birtle in 1959 and they lived in Carnduff, Sask. for five years where Ken worked for Johnson Testers. They then moved to Estevan, Sask. where Ken became District Manager for Johnson Testers. They were there about seven years until they moved to Red Deer, Alberta. Ken is now sales manager for a company selling and renting heavy oil machinery. Betty teaches piano, is active in a United Church group, and belongs to a weaving group. They have three children: Terry, Wendy and Greg. Terry was born in Carnduff, went to school in Estevan and Red Deer, and to College in Red Deer. He is now Marketing Coordinator for the arena and creative arts building. Wendy went to school in Estevan and Red Deer and is presently attending Red Deer College. She works part time at the Dairy Queen. Greg is in junior high in Red Deer and keeps busy with his paper route.

Christopher and Ena Ellerington by Ena Ellerington

I, Ena Evelyn, was born near Teulon, on June 26, 1906, youngest daughter of James and Eliza Ann (Jeffery) Still. In 1908 I moved with my family to the Isabella area. I started school at Orrwold. My classmates were Bruce Doherty and Luther Yates and my teacher was Myrtle Sunley. I walked two and a half miles to school. I attended Orrwold from Easter until June when the school was condemned, then I attended Decker school until the following spring (1914) when we moved to the Doig farm northwest of Isabella. I attended Isabella school until 1920 when we moved to the Currie farm in the Glenlochar district. I attended school there for a short while. In 1925 we moved again, this time to the William Hyndman farm in the Palmerston district.

On March 18, 1926, I married Chris, eldest son of Christopher and Harriet (Johnson) Ellerington. We started married life with a four horse outfit, old Grey Nell to drive in the buggy, two cows and a dozen hens. We were busy and happy. I would hitch old Nell to the buggy and go to Arrow River, a distance of five miles, with five or six pounds of butter (at 25 cents a pound) and two or three dozen eggs (at 25 cents a dozen). If I had a nickel over I bought a chocolate bar and took it home to share with Chris. Our eldest daughter, Lillian Harriot, was born September 5, 1927. We moved to the Gerrand farm in the Glenlochar district where we farmed with Chris's father and brother Charlie until 1948. Our second daughter Dorothy Irene was born here March 20, 1931. We moved into Miniota where we bought our own home in 1949 and built a new home in 1966.

Chris passed away on December 13, 1976. In 1982 I took up residence in Parkissimo Lodge in Miniota.

Lillian married Les, eldest son of Joe and Eva (Beard) Horner on October 15, 1950. They live in Miniota and have two daughters. Donna Christine was born March 29, 1953 and is married to Bob, eldest son of Harry and Georgina Gardham of Arrow River and they have a daughter, Terri-Leigh born December 23, 1978. Bob farms and Donna works in the bank in Miniota. Their second daughter, Irene Gail, was born June 25, 1957. She is employed in the government building in Brandon.

Dorothy Irene married Clarence Martin (Coke) Argue, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Argue of Oak River, on April 2, 1952. They lived at Oak River until 1953 when they moved to the farm we had before retiring. In 1960 they bought the Chris Ellerington Sr. farm and moved to that house. They have three children. Danny Martin was born August 3, 1953 and married Karen Lorraine Packham of the Harmsworth district on June 27, 1981. They now live on the home farm (Coke and Dorothy moved to Miniota in June 1981). Diane Marie was born April 26, 1955 and is employed in Winnipeg. Olive Ann was born October 3, 1959 and married Randy David McKean son of Don and Jean McKean of Miniota. After living in a trailer in Miniota for a few years, they bought the Hurlin farm, a mile east of Miniota. Olive Ann works in the Birdtail School Division Office at Crandall and Randy at the Miniota Co-op.

Mr. and Mrs. Nobel Elliot

Mr. Elliot came to Isabella to work for Mr. W. Iverach. He later homesteaded the southeast quarter of 32-15-25. Later he acquired north-east quarter of 32-15-25 and the north-west quarter of 28-15-25. He married Mrs. Peacock who was working for Mr. Norton. Mr. Elliot farmed here until his death in 1941. His wife returned to the east.

Raymond and Sylvia Everett by Sylvia McKie

Raymond Walter Everett moved onto the Will Preston farm — 26, 15, 26 — the summer of 1950. The old house was torn down in the spring and a new two bedroom bungalow built with volunteer carpenters. Neighbors from the Beulah and Isabella District built the house under the able direction of Bill Pierce, Wakefields, Sawyers, Hawes, Hamburgs and Pierces gave many hours of their time. By July, the house was ready and Ray moved his family onto the farm.

Ray was born and raised in Bury, Quebec and served with the Winnipeg Rifles during World War II from November 1939 to July 1945. He enlisted on his 18th birthday and sailed for England with the first



Ray and Russell Everett, 1948.

Canadian contingent on December 18, 1939. He held a medal of honour for the longest active service duty in the Canadian forces.

After the war he married Sylvia Langseth of Glenella, Man. A son, Russell, was born in 1948 in the Birtle hospital. Ray and Sylvia were farming the Lew Berwick farm in the Beulah District at that time. Russell was born during a late spring storm, on March 20th (Good Friday). Ray drove Sylvia to the hospital, some 18 miles, with a team of horses and a cutter. It was 30 degrees below zero when they left at 6 a.m. the morning of March 20th. The horses ploughed snow to their bellies all the way so the going was slow. Arrival at the hospital was about 1 p.m. — half frozen — and Russell was born at 10 p.m., a healthy red haired boy weighing 8 lbs. 6 oz. Dr. Edwards made the delivery.

On September 9, 1950, a daughter, Dale Rae, was born in the Hamiota Hospital. Dr. Ed Hudson delivered her. She weighed 8 lbs. 2 oz. and was allergic to milk. A long battle for her life followed her birth. All the synthetic milks of today were not known in 1950. With the aid of a product called Dapta and the first milk from Sawyer's fresh cow, at the age of 3 months (then weighing only 10 lbs.) she began gaining weight. It was all go for Dale Rae from then on.

The fall of 1950 was very wet and cold. Some crop was never harvested and some was harvested in November with the snow falling.

The District was known as the Shamrock Community. The Shamrock hall was $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile west of the Everett farm. Ray was secretary of the hall for four years. Many dances and picnics took place there. Often dances were held with 'pick-up' music. One such memorable time the music consisted of the piano and jews harp made from a comb and a cigarette paper from roll your owns. No one missed a dance from the oldsters to the two year old youngsters. Those were good times.

Curling was a fun filled pastime. Both Ray and Sylvia curled at Beulah and Isabella. One cold winter

evening during 1952, Sylvia, Olga Hawes and Muriel Paynter drove to Miniota in Everett's old car, to curl. After dropping off the passengers on the way home, Sylvia proceeded home on her own and suddenly the car was on fire. The fire was put out with snow; but, she was a long way from home. She walked two miles to Rollo's, got Billie out of bed and he drove her the other five miles home. Ray's remark, when told of the events, was: "why didn't you let the damned thing burn!"

On rainy days Ray would catch up on his sleep and Sylvia would don rubber boots and raincoat and walk $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles across the fields to Wakefields for coffee and Mrs. Wakefield's good biscuits and friendly conversation.

During the Polio epidemic of 1953 both Russell and Dale had polio. Russell spent three weeks in the Hamiota Hospital and three months in the Children's Hospital in Winnipeg. He had many years of physiotherapy after his hospital release.

The fall of 1954 Russell started school at Isabella. Mrs. D. Johnson was his teacher and a very compassionate person. Russell still had lack of muscle co-ordination and tired very easily. Mrs. Johnson would allow him to snooze during school hours and was very patient with his disability. Russ was a very apt student and was ahead of most of his classmates in spite of his snoozes.

The Everett family farmed this $\frac{1}{2}$ section until October 1955 when they moved into Virden due to Ray's ill health. That winter Ray had a lengthy hospitalization period in Deer Lodge Hospital with a rare type of pneumonia that nearly claimed his life.

Ray was unable to seed the crop on the Isabella farm during the spring of 1956. One day in late May, while pondering what to do about seeding, he drove to the farm from Virden and was very surprised to find most of the crop in and the last field just being finished up. The neighbors had moved in with their machinery and seeded the whole crop.

In the fall of 1956, George Weirer purchased the farm and still owns it today.

On January 30, 1964 Ray was killed in an auto accident four miles south of Birtle. Sylvia and the children moved to Dryden, Ontario in June where she became the secretary for the Assistant Manager of the Paper Mill. In September, 1967, she married William K. McKie from Bessemer, Michigan. Bill and Sylvia now live in Calgary, Alta.

In Feb. 1973, Russ married Donna Jean Greenly. They live in Virden and have one son, Raymond Jr. Russ is parts manager for Fowler, Chev-Olds and Donna is the bookkeeper for Texaco Bulk Sales.

Dale is married to G. Roy Baker (April 1970). They have two boys, Kenneth Duanne and Shawn

Tyler. They farm a section of land in the Wawanesa District. Dale also works at Wilton, Mercury Sales in Brandon.

Russell and Donna-Jean Everett by Russ Everett

I, Russell Everett, son of Ray and Sylvia Everett, lived on the farm in the Shamrock district with my parents and sister, Dale. I began school at Isabella, where Mrs. Johnson was my teacher. We moved to Virden in 1956. In 1964, after my dad was killed, we moved to Dryden, Ontario where I worked in a garage. My next move was to Kamloops, British Columbia in 1965. I only stayed there a year before returning to Virden. At this time my mom was in the United States running a motel. I worked in Virden until 1971 when I again went to British Columbia, this time to Courtenay on Vancouver Island. I was employed by a Chev-Olds dealership for three years before returning once more to Virden where I work as a parts manager for Fowler Chev-Olds.

I married Donna-Jean Greenlay in 1973 and we have one boy, Raymond, who is nine years old.

Bruce Faurschou and Teresa Moysey by Bruce and Teresa

Although we have never actually resided within the bounds of the Isabella district itself, Bruce and I certainly have felt that we are part of the Isabella community.

We moved to this area in July of 1979 after being assigned as United Church ministers for this area. There are congregations meeting in Birtle, Isabella, and Miniota, comprised of people from the districts of Birtle, Solsgirth, Isabella, Beulah, Arrow River, Miniota, Reeder, and Two Creeks, so, in a way, we have felt a part of all these areas to a greater or lesser extent. Our acquaintance with Isabella is definitely in the "greater extent" category. We have enjoyed not only our church activities, but the bonspiels, fowl suppers, Christmas parties, family reunions, Hal-low'e'n parties, ball games and many other fun times.

To tell you a little bit about each of us, here are a few biographical notes.

Bruce Glen Faurschou was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, August 7, 1952, the youngest of Paul and Irene Faurschou's four children. He grew up in the Silver Heights neighbourhood in St. James. After finishing high school, Bruce worked for a year with Emco Supply, a plumbing wholesale business, a natural choice since his father was a partner in the plumbing and heating firm, Frank E. Simmons Ltd. After a year at Emco, Bruce decided to go to the University of Winnipeg. One of his first-year

courses, Contemporary Atheism, stirred an interest in religion and questions of faith; as an eventual result, Bruce became a candidate for the ministry.

After completing his Bachelor of Arts, Bruce spent a year working and travelling before moving to Saskatoon to attend St. Andrew's Theological College. For part of his training, he spent a year living at Brookdale, Manitoba working as a student intern minister on the Neepawa and Area Larger Parish.

Teresa Kay Moysey was born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, December 21, 1951, the middle of Eric and Mary Jean Moysey's three children. She grew up in Sutherland, a CPR town just outside of Saskatoon, now a part of the city.

After completing high school, Teresa went on to attend the University of Saskatchewan, graduating four years later with a bachelor's degree in Physical Education. After a year spent travelling overseas, she returned to Saskatoon and took a teaching position, also going to university part-time, eventually collecting a Bachelor of Education degree. After three years of teaching, Teresa decided to pursue graduate studies. However, while waiting for her graduate program to start in June 1976, she worked part-time for a United Church congregation in Saskatoon which she found to be a very satisfying job, having always had a keen interest and deep involvement in church activities. As a result of the church job experience, Teresa decided to attend St. Andrew's College for a year rather than go into the previously planned graduate program. One year became two and then three, including an internship at Dauphin, Manitoba.

We met at St. Andrew's College where we were classmates, and eventually gave in to the fact that we were irretrievably in love. After our graduation in May 1979, we were married and later ordained, moving to live and work in the Birtle Miniota Wider Parish in July, 1979. Since we had been told there was a strong possibility we would be placed in Newfoundland after our ordination, our families in Winnipeg and Saskatoon were elated with our placement in Manitoba. We had tried to think of Newfoundland as an adventure, but were happy and relieved to be placed in more familiar surroundings on the Prairies.

We enjoy rural life very much (Bruce keeps threatening to become a farmer, but hasn't managed to scrape together half a million dollars yet!). We find lots of opportunity to enjoy sports, a favorite pastime for both of us, including curling, golf, tennis, softball, skiing, camping, hiking, swimming and canoeing.

On July 31, 1980, our first child was born, causing Teresa to miss Susan Finkbeiner and Wayne Poppel's wedding, which Bruce attended alone, but managed to enjoy anyway! Our daughter is Trisha

Gayle Moysey Faurischou and has been a real blessing and delight (at least nearly always!).

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Finkbeiner

Harry Finkbeiner was born at Crediton, Ontario, on March 17, 1885 the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. John Finkbeiner of Crediton.

He came to Crandall, Manitoba early in 1907, and was employed by Mr. R. J. Brown, who owned the hardware in Crandall at that time.

In the winter of 1908, he rented a section of land from Mr. James Drummond in the Isabella district, and with his brother John, and his wife moved from Crandall on March 25, 1908 and took possession of the farm.

His brother owned the east-half of Sec. 10 which adjoined the Drummond farm. As there were no buildings on Sec. 10, they all lived on the Drummond farm, and worked all the land together.

In the fall of 1910, Harry bought the east half of Sec. 11-15-25, which had a small amount of cultivated land on it. The next year he broke more land and added a few small buildings.

On March 27, 1912 he married Bertha Ann Chapman, youngest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Joe Chapman. The wedding took place at the home of her brother John, in the Shamrock district.

They continued to live on the Drummond farm and his brother and family moved to their own farm. During that summer he bought a house that Mr. Jim Thompson had built in Isabella and moved it to his farm. Late in the fall of that year, he and his wife moved to their new home.

In 1918, a new house was built and a large barn was erected in 1925.

A wind break of trees was planted, also a number of fruit trees and many shrubs and flowers. The grounds were a place of beauty. A fine lane of elm trees made a pleasing entrance to the farm.

Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Finkbeiner. One son and two daughters died in infancy. A son Clarence grew up on the farm. He attended Isabella school, church and Sunday school. He was a member of the boys choir, a member of the baseball team and a pitcher of note, not only for the home team but with many other teams through the country.

He enlisted in the R.C.A.F. in October, 1940. When his training as an observer was completed, he was posted overseas. On May 10, 1942, his parents received word that he was missing in action. Some time later he was reported killed.

A younger son, Lorne, received his education at the home school. He was a member of the baseball team and was a valued pitcher. He took his Grade 12 at Miniota School, attended Normal School in Win-

nipeg and joined the teaching profession. He is married to Shirley Head, formerly of Strathclair. They have two daughters, Lori-Ann, who attends public school and Lisa not yet in school. They now reside at Pine Falls, where Lorne has been a member of the Pine Falls School teaching staff for a number of years. Shirley and Lorne are active workers in community and church activities. They are members of Pine Falls United Church and Lorne has been a member of the board of stewards for the past five years.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Finkbeiner were members of Isabella United Church and Harry was a member of the board of stewards for some years. He was also councillor for Ward One of Miniota Municipality for thirteen years. Mrs. Finkbeiner was president of the local Women's Institute for a few years and she was a member of the Women's Missionary Society. She passed away in June 1953 and Harry passed away in December 1956. The farm has since been sold and is now the property of Mr. Doug Johnston.

John and Dorothy Finkbeiner by Dorothy Finkbeiner

John Elmer Finkbeiner (Johnnie) was born at the farm home on 11-15-25 owned by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Thomas Finkbeiner, on February 26, 1914. He was the third child, and had two brothers Ted and Syd and two sisters Ruby and June.

He attended Isabella School, took part in various community activities; church choir, Young Peoples Society, baseball and curling.

In 1931, he and Lorne Wright were chosen by the Pig Club as award winners, and with a group of Manitoba boys attended the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto.

Johnnie stayed on the farm and helped his father. He then bought the southwest quarter of 10-15-25 and the northeast quarter of 3-15-25. His home is located on the northwest quarter of 11-15-25.

On July 21st, 1944, he married Dorothy Marie Stowe. She was the twin daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Stowe of Miniota, and had taught school at Isabella during the 1942-1943 term.

Two daughters were born: Jan Marie on April 30, 1947 and Susan Elizabeth on July 10, 1956, a son William Geoffrey was born March 8, 1951 but only lived for a day. He is buried in Isabella cemetery.

Johnnie has served as director of the Decker Pool Elevator, the Consumer's Co-operative at Hamiota, the Agricultural Society in Hamiota livestock section, and the Hamiota Credit Union. He also served on the board of the Community Centre. He is on the cemetery committee and is a trustee of the church.

Since his father's death in 1954, Johnnie has worked the one-and-one-half sections of land with



John and Dorothy Finkbeiner.

the help of a hired man. He keeps Shorthorn cattle and Yorkshire pigs. When farming isn't too pressing, Johnnie enjoys a friendly game of golf. He and his wife are members of the Birtle Golf Club.

Update

by Dorothy Finkbeiner

In 1962 we were involved in the many activities of Jan Marie, 15, and Susan Elizabeth, 6. Jan and Susan will write their own chapter.

As we continued to farm, there were gradual changes. We disposed of the cattle, so no longer needed the services of a hired man. This meant that I had to help at seeding and harvest time, delivering fertilizer and seed to the field and driving the truck to haul the grain from the combine. Prices were low, in 1967 we had an excellent crop of wheat, which sold for \$1.00 per bushel.

In 1975 I curled with Margaret Coxworth, June Nichol and Margaret Ross, with Jessie Wall as spare, at the Senior Ladies' provincial finals in curling held at Flin Flon. Our husbands accompanied us and shared in the excitement of the final game, which we lost. We received second prize — silver rose bowls.

In 1978, I became a member of the Mastectomy Group of Brandon. I served on the executive and on the Service to Patients Committee. I am a certified visitor for the Manitoba Cancer Society.

In 1979, Johnnie reached retirement age, so on June 19 we had a farm sale. We sold N.E. ¼ 3-15-25 to Cyril Norrie and S.W. ¼ 10-15-25 to Allan Heise. Wayne Poppel rents N.W. ¼ 11-15-25 from us.

In August, 1979, we renovated our house to make

it more energy efficient, adding some electric heat, and a wood burning fireplace. The addition included livingroom, utility room and garage.

We have no problem filling our days since retirement. Johnnie still does a lot of tractor work, serves on committees in the community, cuts wood for his own use, reads a lots, and goes many places. His favorite hobby is golf — even having two holes-in-one to his credit, and a number of prizes. I still have a great interest in Women's Institute, being a member of the Local, the Federated Women's Institute of Canada, and a Life Member of the Associated Countrywomen of the World. I have attended Federated conventions in Winnipeg, Banff, Charlottetown, and Saskatoon and a Conference of the ACWW at Lansing, U.S.A. Johnnie attended the programs for husbands at Saskatoon and Charlottetown.

We have enjoyed the friendships, and the feeling of belonging we have had from a very generous and caring community.

Mr. and Mrs. John T. Finkbeiner by Mrs. J. T. Finkbeiner

John Thomas Finkbeiner was born at Crediton, Ontario, on March 9, 1883, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. John Finkbeiner of Crediton. He had six sisters and one brother. At the age of twenty, he came to Manitoba and worked during the harvest for his uncle Fred Finkbeiner at Killarney. He returned home, and the next year, 1904, came west again on a harvest excursion to Crandall, and worked during the harvest with Mr. W. Amy of Crandall. When the fall work was finished, he came to work for Mr. Jim Warren, who owned the livery barn in Crandall.

In the spring of 1906 he rented a half section of land 8 miles north of Crandall, and began farming for himself. At that time this half section of land was



Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Finkbeiner.

owned by Mr. Milton Warren of Crandall. It is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Neil Higgins of Decker.

He met with a little misfortune shortly before he started farming operations. One night, he and a group of other young people went to a dance in Ravine School some miles south of Crandall. While there he lost his wallet, which contained the money he had saved to buy his seed grain. A thorough search was made the next day, but there was no sign of the missing wallet. It was found later under strange circumstances, but the money was missing. He was ever grateful to the kindly Crandall people who donated enough money to make up for the amount he had lost.

He took two crops off this land, and in 1907, he bought the east half of Sec. 10-15-25, from Mr. G. Phillips. There was some cultivated land on it but he broke a lot more during that summer, with three horses and a walking plow.

He moved back to Crandall when the crop was



Mrs. J. T. Finkbeiner on her 90th birthday, 1979, Johnnie, June, Ted, Ruby, and Syd.

taken off, and rented the livery barn from Mr. Warren for the winter. On December 25, 1907, he married Rosetta Mable Borland, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. Borland of Crandall. Rev. A. B. Osterhout of Crandall conducted the ceremony at the home of the bride. They resided in Crandall that winter, and on March 25, 1908, accompanied by his brother Harry, moved to the Drummond farm in the Isabella district.

Harry had previously rented the Drummond farm. About the same time, Mr. and Mrs. E. Doran and family, and Mr. and Mrs. R. Warren and family moved to farms in the district. They also came from Crandall. Other newcomers to the district included

Mr. and Mrs. C. Seales, Mr. D. Blleloch and the Argyles.

The arrival of these families increased the population of the district considerably. Of those families who settled here fifty-four years ago Mrs. J. T. Finkbeiner and Russell Doran are the only ones still residing in the district. Russell Doran was a very small boy at that time.

Late in 1910, John purchased the northwest quarter of Sec. 11-15-25 which was all virgin prairie. In 1911 he broke as much land as he could and with the help of his brother, built a house and a small stable. They also dug a well. This same well still provides good water for the two houses on the farm.

Some years later, the northwest quarter of Sec. 10 was purchased from Mr. J. Sutherland. The CNR runs through the north part of Sec. 11 and both north quarters of Section 10.

In 1908, most of the roads were prairie trails, usually running from one farm to the other by the shortest route, but as the land was gradually broken, road allowances were opened up and proper roads were made.

In 1913 the first shelterbelt was planted. This consisted mostly of willow, ash and maples. More trees were added later, and a lane of spruce trees was planted. The grounds were fenced and, with the proceeds from receiving first prize in a "good farming competition", a variety of shrubs and flowers were purchased.

On April 18, 1914, the original house and most of its contents were destroyed by fire. While the ruins were still smoking, lumber was on the grounds to replace the house that was burned. In just one week, the new house was completed enough for the family to move into, thanks to all the fine neighbors who left their own spring work, to help with the building. In 1920 an addition, consisting of a living room, hall, and three bedrooms were added, and three verandas were built. A hot water heating system and a Delco lighting plant were installed. Hydro was installed in 1940, and the Delco plant was discarded.

Some twenty five years later, running water was installed. Being one of the larger houses in the district, many showers, farewell gatherings, etc. were held there. For a number of years, the curling banquet which brought the curling season to a close, was held there, when fifty or more people could be seated at one time.

In 1916, a large barn was built to take the place of the old stables. Mr. P. J. Beveridge was the contractor. The same fall an implement shed was built and a short time later, a modern pig pen and hen house.

The first portable engine was purchased in 1912.

Until that time, the grain was cut, stooked and stacked to await the arrival of the threshing machine, which did most of the threshing in the district.

In 1911, the threshing machine and caboose (the sleeping place for the men) pulled into the yard on November 1 and finally moved out on November 28. Bitter cold, and much snow delayed threshing operations for many days. The arrival of the thresher and its crew, was always a welcome sight, but that year of 1911, it was a much more welcome sight to see them go.

The first new Model T Ford was bought in 1917, at the modest price of \$545.00 and it was in 1925 that the first tractor, an International, was purchased.

The beginning of World War Two, necessitated many changes in the ways of farming. The boys who had made up the threshing crews were no longer here. For the smaller numbers who were left on the farms, it was impossible to harvest the crops as before, so combines began to make their appearance. The first combine on the Finkbeiner farm was purchased in 1941, a John Deere, 12 foot model. Other combines have taken its place and many other labor-saving machines have appeared on the farms, but we who are older, are inclined to look back, to the days when horses provided the power on the farm. An eight horse team, which was not uncommon in those days, took as much skill to operate, as any of the modern implements in use on the farms today.

Threshing today, is such a drab affair, with its crews of two or three. There is no thrill of boys competing in the fields, to see who could get their load on first. The same boys raced their horses in from the field at dinner time, and joined the happy crowd around the dinner table, with the dads making their voices heard occasionally. Some of the boys of that happy crowd, have their last resting place in lands across the sea, but their memory is ever dear.

John Finkbeiner passed away at his home at Isabella, where he had spent so many years of his life, on May 28, 1954, at the age of 71 years. During the years, he was ever ready to lend a helping hand to those in trouble, and was called upon many times to assist the doctor and others when sickness and death came to the community.

During the flu epidemic of 1920, when almost every family in the district was stricken with the dread disease, he and Cecil Wall, who was living at the Finkbeiner home at the time, made many trips to the homes of the neighbors, taking supplies, doing chores, and helping in any way they could to relieve their suffering.

He was a member of Isabella United Church, served many terms on the board of stewards, and was an elder of the church until his death. He also served

as Sunday school superintendent, and during the earlier years was a member of the church choir. He was a director, then president of the Isabella Agricultural Society, and was one of the board of directors of the Children's Aid Society for Western Manitoba, for a number of years. He was president of Decker Pool Elevator Association for 19 years, from the time of its organization in 1927 until 1946.

He was a trustee for a time of the Consolidated School District, and for 17 years was a trustee on the board of the Miniota Municipal School District. For many of those years, he was a member of the teachers committee and used to jokingly remark that he had a hand in choosing his daughters-in-law, as all three of them were members of the teaching staff of Isabella School during the years he was on the board.

He was a staunch supporter of anything that was for the good of the community, was interested in all sports, and was an ardent curler. His wife, Rosetta Mable Borland, daughter of a pioneer family of the Carlingville district, was born on the homestead to which her father Mr. T. Borland came in 1882. She has three sisters and two brothers, all of whom are still living.

She, with her husband, was very much a part of the home community and took part in every worthwhile activity. She taught the Beginners Class in Sunday school for some time, was secretary of the Sunday school for many years, and was also a member of the church choir.

She is a charter member of the Women's Institute, has been president of Isabella Women's Institute and represented Birtle district on the Provincial W.I. Board for two years. She also had the privilege of attending the 9th Triennial Conference of the Associated Country Women of the World, which was held in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1959. She is a charter member, and a life member of the Women's Missionary Society and was President of the local W.M.S. for some time. She was also a member of the executive of Birtle District Presbyterial for a number of years. She is now president of the afternoon unit of the United Church Women of Canada.

Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Finkbeiner, three sons and two daughters who grew up on the home farm, and received their education in the Isabella school. They took part in all the activities in the home community through the years, and were all members of Isabella United Church. They are all married, with homes of their own. The two eldest are living in British Columbia, the youngest son in Winnipeg and the youngest daughter in Hamiota. A son Johnnie, works the home farm and his mother still resides in the old home.

Sydney James was born at Isabella on August 28,

1908. He received his education at Isabella School, and was a member of the first school hockey team, which finally developed into the senior team.

He worked on the home farm after finishing school, and was helper in the Decker Pool elevator for one season. In 1932 he was engaged as agent in the Pool elevator at Bield, Manitoba. From there, he went to Dropmore where he was agent in the Pool elevator for two years, and then to Cardale, where he was agent in the Pool elevator for 16 years.

In July 1937 he married Genevieve Hills, daughter of Mrs. C. V. Hills of Rennie, Man. In 1951 he quit the elevator, and he and his family moved to Quesnel, B.C. where he worked in a planing mill for a time. He later bought a farm in the Cardale district, where they resided until 1955, when he rented the farm, and they moved back to B.C. They now reside in North Vancouver, where Syd is employed with the Valley Lumber Co. He is also a director of the North Shore Winter Club. His wife is on the substitute teaching staff of North Vancouver School. They have three children, a daughter Nancy and a son Jim who attend collegiate in North Vancouver, and a daughter Cathy attending public school.

Ruby Madeline was born at Isabella on May 12, 1911. She attended Isabella School until she completed her grade eleven and took her grade twelve in Hamiota. She took her Normal School training in Winnipeg, and for three years was engaged as teacher at Little Ross (Two Creeks) School.

In September 1935 she married William Cumberland of Decker. They ran a general store in Decker until 1945, when they sold their Decker store, and bought a business in Kelowna, B.C. In 1950 they sold their business in Kelowna and moved to Penticton, where they still reside.

They have two daughters: Gail, who took a degree course in nursing at the University of B.C. She is now working with the cancer research programme in Stanford University Hospital, Palo Alto, California, and is head nurse of a cancer ward. The younger daughter Lynne, attended the University of B.C. for a time, and is at present employed in the Royal Bank in Vancouver prior to completing her university training.

Elmer John (Johnnie) was born at Isabella on February 26, 1914. He was the farmer of the family, the only one who remained on the home farm. He worked in partnership with his dad. Included in their farming operations, was a fine herd of purebred Shorthorn cattle, which they built up through the years. Following his Dad's death he took over the whole farm, working his mother's and his brother's land with his own. His own family history is included in this book.

Edgar Leroy (Ted) was born at Isabella on November 30, 1915, and received his education at Isabella School. He was a member of the boys' baseball team and later the senior team. Pitching was his specialty and he was much in demand as a pitcher with other teams in the district and farther away. He was also a member of the hockey team which made a name for themselves during the late 30's. In the spring of 1940, Ted took a wireless course in Brandon and when it was completed, enlisted in the RCAF. He began his training at a wireless school in Calgary in early September. He went overseas late in November 1940, where he served with the RCAF for almost four-and-one-half years. On November 23, the day before he left for overseas, he was married to Molly Stalker, only daughter of Mr. John Stalker of Shoal Lake. Upon his return from overseas in 1945, he received a position with Trans-Canada Airlines in Winnipeg, and has been a member of the staff ever since. They make their home in St. James, where they take part in many of the community activities. Ted is an elder in Deer Lodge United Church. He is also a director of the Optimist Club, and is head of the Little League Baseball League in St. James. His wife is director of the junior choir of Deer Lodge Church. She also teaches music in Tuxedo School. They have two sons: Donald, who attends St. James Collegiate and the younger son Douglas, still in public school.

June Lillian was born at Isabella on June 29, 1921. She attended Isabella School, and took part in school and church activities. She was a member of the Sunday school choir, also took her turn as pianist. Later, she was church organist for some time.

She took her Grade 12 in Miniota, and attended the Normal Training School in Winnipeg.

She was a member of Cardale School teaching staff for four years. The last two years she was assistant principal.

In October 1945, she married George Reid, a member of one of the pioneer families of the Cardale district. They resided on the old farm home at Cardale for thirteen years. During most of those years, June was organist of Cardale United Church.

In 1960, they rented their farm, and moved to Hamiota where they built a new home. June is a member of the teaching staff of Hamiota elementary school, and her husband is bookkeeper for Hamiota Co-op.

They have three children, a son David who attends Hamiota Collegiate, and two daughters Patricia and Margaret, both attending public school.

Update by Rose Finkbeiner

I continued to live on the home farm, spending

the last few winters with members of my family in Hamiota, Winnipeg, Penticton and North Vancouver, B.C.

On June 23, 1979 my family all gathered on the farm to honor me on my 90th birthday. In the evening the community gathered in Isabella Hall to join our family in the celebration.

On July 3, 1979, I moved to Parkissimo Lodge in Miniota, leaving the home I had lived in for 71 years. It was difficult to leave the community I had loved so well. My new home is very comfortable. Here, I share the companionship of the other residents, attend Miniota United Church, help extend a warm welcome to the many people who come to the Lodge, and I attend many community functions. I am grateful for the many people who drop in for a visit. I enjoy the programmes held in the Lodge. The people have been very friendly. I can phone to Isabella without charge, and so I can continue my interest in that community.

Sydney and Genevieve Finkbeiner by Genevieve Finkbeiner

Our early history is recorded under the John T. Finkbeiner heading.

Syd has semiretired as salesman from Beaver lumber. He is still called back to assist when needed. He keeps active with his two main interests — curling in winter and gardening in summer.

I retired from substitute teaching.

Nancy, Jim and Cathy continued their studies at university. Nancy and Cathy graduated from U.B.C. with Bachelor of Education degrees. Jim graduated from Simon Fraser University with his Arts degree. After graduation Jim articulated with Price-Waterhouse and became a chartered accountant. He is now head of the tax department of McMillan Bloedell — B.C.'s largest lumber company. His wife, Ruby, teaches French part time in North Vancouver. They have two children, Jamie born in 1979 and Matthew Clark born in 1981.

Nancy married Lyle Rockwell of the R.C.M.P. and lived in Manitoba for thirteen years. During these thirteen years Lyle was stationed at Oak Bank, Fort Churchill, Swan River and Winnipeg. In November of 1980 he was transferred to the detachment in North Vancouver where they now reside. They have two children: Jeffrey, six and Leanne, four.

After graduation Cathy taught physical education in a North Vancouver high school for several years. She is now a counsellor in the same high school. Her husband also teaches in a North Vancouver high school.

During the years we have made many trips to Manitoba and always enjoy renewing acquaintances in Isabella.

Ted and Molly Finkbeiner by Molly Finkbeiner

Editor Note: The first part of this story is in the J. T. Finkbeiner history.

The years since the 1962 publication of the Isabella History have sped by rapidly for this branch of the family. Ted and Molly both took early retirement in 1976, Ted from Air Canada and Molly from teaching. Since then they have travelled extensively. As Ted is an enthusiastic golfer and Molly less so, they have spent a golfing holiday each winter with other members of the Assiniboine Golf Club. They are still members of Deer Lodge United Church but do not take as active a part in the activities due to extended



Don and Gail, Ted and Molly, Pat and Doug, Mrs. J. T. Finkbeiner, 1979.

absences from Winnipeg. For the same reason, Ted's curling has been sporadic, confined in large part to watching his sons curl. Molly engages in some volunteer work in the community.

Since graduation from the University of Manitoba, Don has been employed as a travel agent specifically in the area of group and incentive travel. In 1976, he married Gail Stampnick who also works in the travel field. Travel is high on their list of priorities but they are both keenly interested in sports, curling, squash, tennis, golf and Don in soccer.

For two years, Don was president of the Association of Competitive Curlers and has instructed schools throughout the city and adjacent towns.

Doug graduated from the University of Manitoba with a degree in law and is currently a member of the firm of Taylor, Brazzell, McCaffrey. In 1975 he married Patricia Hedley who was a social worker with the

Canadian Paraplegic Association. They have two sons, Michael and John. Although Pat's activities centre mainly around her children, she manages to work in some tennis and squash. Doug is currently chairman of the board of the Canadian Paraplegic Association. Due to the pressures of work, he has had to withdraw from competitive curling. He does, however, participate in tennis, golf and squash as well as marathon running.

In 1976, Don and Doug played lead and second for the Clare DeBlonde rink winning the purple hearts for the province and placing second in the Dominion at the McDonald Brier at Regina.

The years have been good to us. May they continue as they have.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Fisk

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Fisk came from the Kenton district and bought the north half of sec. 33-14-25 from Mr. Harold Jardine. They were only there for a few years when they sold to Mr. A. Ross. They moved to a farm north of Alexander and from there to the U.S.A.

Arthur and Winnifred Flynn

by Dorothy Flynn

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Flynn came to the Rothesay district on March 29, 1939. They retired to Birtle in 1965. Arthur passed away January, 1980. Mrs. Flynn still resides in their home in Birtle. They had a family of three.

Daughter Doris married Don Kyler in 1940 and they live in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. They have two children. Keith married Joan Volding. They live at Merritt, B.C. and have one daughter, Kristal. Kerry married Phi Robinson and they live at Prince

Albert, Saskatchewan. They have two children, Jai and Heather.

Gerald, 'Bud', married Dorothy Hooper in 1950. They bought the home farm in 1965. They have three children. James, 'Jim', married Susan Tully of Portage la Prairie in 1979. They now work and reside in Regina, Saskatchewan. William, 'Bill', is living at home and farming with his dad. Geraldine married Gilles Guenette in 1981 and they are living in Edmonton, Alberta. Geraldine and Gilles' daughter, Nicole Marie, was born July 3, 1981.

George married Merle Phillips in 1947.

George and Merle Flynn

by Merle Flynn

George, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Flynn, was born west of Birtle on a farm that was homesteaded by his great grandparents, John and Ellen Morton Flynn.

The family moved to a farm in the Rothesay District in 1939. George attended Rothesay and Isabella schools. He served in R.C.N.V.R. during World War II.

He married Merle Phillips, third daughter of Ralph and Hazel Phillips. Merle was born on the homeplace in the house built by her grandfather, George Theron Phillips. The family moved to the Foxwarren area in 1938. Merle attended Fort Ellice school for a short time, then Foxwarren school for four years. On returning to Isabella she attended school there. Merle enjoyed C.G.I.T., young people's, skating at the rink and hockey games to name a few things.

We have three children; Don, Debbie and Doug.

Don married Mardal Gordon of Birtle. They have two sons: Corey, five years old and Christopher, three



Lynn and Doug Flynn, Debbie and Orville Stainer, Merle and George Flynn, Don and Mardal Flynn. Children: Kim and Erin Flynn, Kirk and Carrie Stainer, Corey and Christopher Flynn. Insert: Shannon Flynn.

years old. They live in Brandon where Don works for Manitoba Hydro.

Debbie married Orville Stainer of Foxwarren. They have two children: a son, Kirk, eight years old, and a daughter, Carrie, five years old. They live on a farm in the Foxwarren area.

Doug married Lynn Church of Winnipeg. They have three daughters: Erin, who is five; Kim, three years old; and Shannon, one year old. Doug works for Manitoba Hydro in Winnipeg.

We have lived in Birtle for the past twenty-two years.

Hugh and Margaret Fraser

by Hugh Fraser

I was born and went to school in Miami, Manitoba. I moved to Isabella in 1965 to teach, after finishing Teacher's College in Winnipeg. I taught in Isabella for two years.

Then I moved to Holland. I taught there for one year during which time, I married Margaret Young, the eldest daughter of Robert and Lillian Young in 1968.

We moved to Deloraine for ten years where Shawn in 1970, and Sheldon in 1974, were born.

We presently live in Holland where I am the principal of the school. I am also a member of the Holland and area Lion's Club, and help coach eight and under hockey. I have also been winter sports representative for the local Recreation Association and past president of the Highway #2 Hockey League.

Winston and Judy Fulton

by Judy Fulton

I, Judy, am the daughter of Bill and Elva Gilchrist under whose name my earlier history is recorded.

In 1962 Winston, Alan and I returned to Isabella and set up the Miniota Transfer with Bill and Larry Gilchrist. We moved to Miniota and later to Elkhorn where our daughter, Linda Fern, was born May 16, 1963.

In the summer of 1965 we moved to Saskatoon. Winston was employed by various trucking firms. He now manages Trimac in Saskatoon.

Both our children grew up here in Saskatoon and graduated from Hardy Collegiate, Alan in 1980 and Linda in 1981. Alan works in Saskatoon and Linda is taking a hairdressers' course.

I have worked several years at the Saskatoon University Hospital and now I am in partnership in Tropical Interiors, a plant rental and care business.

Winston and I enjoy curling and playing golf. I have found an "Old Timers" fastball league where I

played this summer. Our family is also interested in sports.

Scott and Donna Gammack

by Donna Gammack

I, Donna Kathleen Reid, am the youngest of four children of Frank and Hannah Reid, and made my debut into this old world on October 15, 1959 — the year of the big, early snowstorm. Mom had been in hospital for a week before I arrived, and, in one of her 'phone calls home to talk to Dad and the rest of the family, Harold, who was getting impatient about Mom being away said: "Well, Mommy, if you can't get a baby, ask Dr. Ed. for a pony."

When I was little, I remember supervising the care of the cattle, horses, pigs, chickens, cats and dogs while Dad did the work! I took Grades I to III at Isabella, and then hopped on the yellow bird to go to Birtle where I completed Grades IV to XII. For the Canadian Centennial, 1967, I taught my little dog, Lucky, to ride in the bike carrier with the sign "The Littlest Hobo" attached to it. I belonged to the Explorers and occasionally sang in the church choir. I enjoyed curling on Saturdays with the local teenagers and for a while even attempted figure skating. I was a member of the Solsgirth Light Horse and Pony Club, and with my sorrel pony, Buster Jevon, we participated in the musical rides, parades and gymkhanas at the local fairs.

My parents encouraged me in every endeavor that I thought I would like to try, especially in education and music. I participated in the local art festivals: in the spoken poetry, singing and piano classes. I was indeed fortunate to take all my piano lessons from Miss Mabel Brandon of Kenton, who was a kind, patient and understanding teacher, and also became a dear friend. I completed my Royal Conservatory of Music for Piano Grade VII with Grade II theory, and was able to use these credits when I graduated from Grade XII.

In 1974, Dad and Mom sold our farm to Harold and Melva Doran, and we moved, along with my little white dog, Lassie, to Birtle. While in Grade XI I began to work in MacLeod's store after school and on Saturdays under the supervision of owner-manager, Mr. John Kines. I enjoyed this work very much. After graduating from Birtle Collegiate I went to the University of Manitoba for two years in Administrative Studies, but university was not to my liking.

On July 14, 1979, in Isabella United Church, I exchanged wedding vows with Alexander Scott Gammack, eldest son of Laverne and Grace Gammack of Weyburn, Saskatchewan, formerly of Decker and Birtle. After Scott graduated from Birtle Collegiate, he was employed as truck driver for W. E.



Scott and Donna Gammack with their truck.

Bicknell. In October, 1977, he bought a new cab-over Kenworth and went to work for Tri-Line Freighters. In June, 1978, in Lethbridge, Alberta, he had the misfortune of being hit in the eye with a tarp strap, and the resulting damage left him with only peripheral or side vision in that eye. That fall he sold his truck and began to work with the surveying crew on the Department of Highways, Birtle. After letting his eye rest for almost a year, he got itchy feet for the road again and bought another truck in May, 1979.

After we married I worked in Winnipeg, but with Scott being on the road so much, we decided I should get my Class 1 licence with air brakes and join him as a driving partner. In June 1980, I completed all my driving tests and was cleared by Tri-Line Freightways to be one of their highway drivers. We are licensed to haul lumber, steel, glass, farm machinery, oil field equipment, pipe, plastic tubing and wall board across the three prairie provinces and British Columbia and into thirty-four states of the United States. We have been to: Houston, Texas; Chicago, Illinois; Philadelphia; Bullhead, Wyoming; Whitehorse, Yukon; Medicine Hat, Alberta; Hay River, North West Territories; Washington, District of Columbia; and many other interesting places. We are looking forward to seeing California and Alaska. We have just purchased a new, 1981, International truck and are presently living and working out of Winnipeg.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Gardham

Frank Gardham was born on May 4, 1906, at Wivton Park, Blackburn, England. He took his schooling in England and worked in the market gardens until coming to Canada. His father worked for Major Fielding as a game-keeper. He had two brothers and one sister; Herbert, David and Annie.

Frank came to Canada in 1923, at the age of

seventeen years. He came to Arrow River to his Uncle Frank who lived on a farm there. From 1923 to 1929, he worked for Mr. Wallace Bonner, Mr. Charlie Waddingham, and other farmers in the Arrow River district. In 1930, Frank bought the former George Sunley farm, southwest of Blaris church and started farming on his own. His brother, David, came out from England that year.

On May 5, 1932, he married Henrietta May, second daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Watters of Arrow River. On January 1, 1934, their first son, Donald Joseph, was born. James Francis was born on August 1, 1936.

On August 4, 1937, his brother, David, died suddenly while helping on a farm in the Hamiota district, in his twenty-fifth year.

Frank joined the Army on January 3, 1942, at Winnipeg. He left his wife and two sons on the farm with May's youngest brother, Francis, who ran the farm.

While with the forces, Frank was sent overseas and was able to visit his family in England. However, he missed seeing his father who had decided to come to Canada but did have a good visit with his sister and brother. In 1944, he was brought back to Winnipeg to Deer Lodge Hospital because of an injury to one of his knees which was received in action in Europe.

When Frank was able, he returned home and worked in the Isabella Garage for the summer of 1945. In November of the same year, he sold his farm to Francis Watters and moved to Isabella where they bought the former Herb. Shurvell land on the south side of the town. Here two sons were born: Murray, on July 15th, 1946, and David Cole, on January 19th, 1948.

They went to Kamloops, B.C., to attend their son, Joe's, wedding in June, 1957. They returned to Isabella, harvested their crop, and went back to Kamloops for the winter. Jim was employed there as well. In the spring they returned, had an auction sale, and went back to live at Kamloops permanently. Joe drives a transfer for Butts Co. and Jim works in Reid's Motors. Murray and David are still in school.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Gardham have one son, Donald, who is three years old.

Frank's father passed away in January, 1962.

1982 update — Frank passed away April 19, 1978.

Mr. and Mrs. John Garnham by Helen Sutherland

Mr. and Mrs. Garnham came from the Lavinia district to work for Allan Clark. From there they rented the William Palmer farm northeast of Isabella. They had three daughters and one son.

While on the Palmer farm, Mrs. Garnham and a baby daughter died of scarlet fever. The children, Hattie, Doris, and Bobby, went to live in Norfolk, England after their mother died. For a while Mr. Garnham farmed on S.E. ¼ of 2-16-25 in the Birtle municipality before he too returned to his original home in Norfolk, England.

Larry and Donaleen Gilchrist **by Larry and Donaleen Gilchrist**

Larry William Gilchrist is the son of Bill and Elva Gilchrist under whose name the first part of Larry's history is recorded.

On September 10, 1962, our first son, Mark William, was born. In the summer of 1963 Larry went into partnership with his father and his brother-in-law, Winston Fulton, on the Miniota transfer. We moved to the Wes Lelond farm at Arrow River where Mark celebrated his first birthday. By November of that year we had moved into Miniota.

On March 12, 1965, a daughter, Laurie Jean, was born. The following summer the trucking business was sold and Larry went to work for T. Andrushuk, also working nights at the bar in the Miniota Motor Hotel.

Larry Todd, a second son, was born in October, 1966. Two weeks later our family moved into the former United Church manse. This was the first home we had owned.

In September, 1967, Larry began working at the MacLeod's store in Birtle. He also drove the school bus back and forth from Miniota to Birtle daily. Those students had a long ride as it was approximately thirty some miles one way.

That same month, Donaleen went back teaching at the Miniota school, beginning with a Grade seven class and eventually teaching most subjects in junior high. She taught mainly Language Arts and French. Since the children were small, teaching was only possible because of good neighbors and a super baby-sitter, Phyllis Thompson. Mark started school that year so it was truly a year of new beginnings.

During the ten years that we lived in the manse, we found ourselves active in many community activities. Larry curled, played hockey and coached hockey and Donaleen taught Sunday school and C.G.I.T. All three children took figure skating lessons, and piano and voice lessons from Tommy Mitchell. Both boys played hockey. We were close enough to Isabella that Mark and Todd played on the same teams as the sons of the fellows that Larry had played hockey with at Isabella. We kept close ties with many old friends there.

In April, 1977, Larry began working at the Beaver Home Centre in Brandon. With the help of

friends, the family moved to 332 Park Street, Brandon in August.

It is now twenty years since we began married life at Isabella and there have been many changes. Donaleen taught for a year at Forrest Elementary school and then went back to University (in Brandon). She graduated with a Bachelor of Education April, 1981. She now teaches French and English at Shilo. Mark graduated from Neelin High School in 1980. He then went to Langley, British Columbia, where he works for Reliable Reinforcing. Laurie is in Grade eleven at Crocus Plains Regional School and Todd is in Grade ten at Neelin.

We are still active in the community, having joined the Legion and the Forresters Lodge. Larry curls and golfs regularly. Laurie attained her Bronze Medallion in swimming and is working on her life saving course. She plays volleyball, basketball, and fastball. Todd also plays volleyball, basketball, curls and golfs.

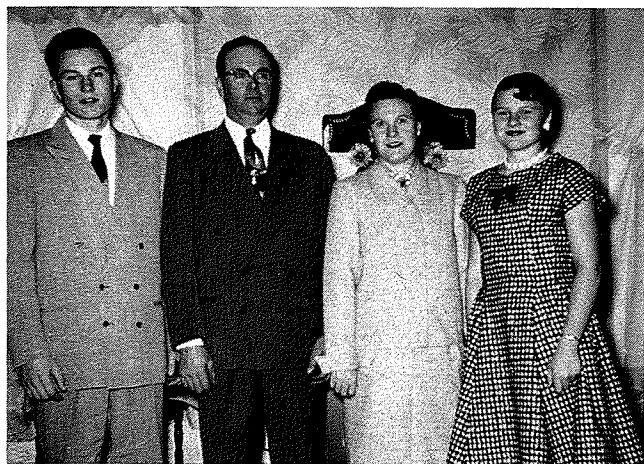
We feel fortunate that we can still count among our closest friends some of the "old friends" from Isabella.

Mr. and Mrs. William Gilchrist **Mrs. Wm. Gilchrist**

William Thomas Gilchrist was born in the county of Butte, Montana, on November 6, 1917. He took his first few years of education there, and later moved back to his grandfather's (Robert Peel) farm at Miniota. He had one sister, Dorothy, who was married and lived in New Westminster, B.C., and a brother Eddie, who was married and lived on a farm at Miniota. His father gravelled many roads during the summers of 1927, 1928 and 1929. Bill helped by driving the horses while his dad handled the scraper. They gravelled many roads in the Arrow River and Blaris districts, hauling the gravel from a pit of Sec. 29-15-25. They lived in a tent and watered their horses at Dewart Harrison's farm.

In 1934 Bill worked for Bert Sawyer at Beulah and in 1935 for William Lindsay of Miniota. His keenest memory of the Lindsay farm was the "fun" of chasing the peacocks into the barn every time he wanted to go away early.

In the summer of 1936 Bill worked for Tom Long at Miniota. That fall wanderlust struck and he and three others set out for the "bush" at Fort Frances. After an adventurous, but cold, winter they returned and Bill went back and worked for Tom Long. It was at this time that, through Olive Long, he met Elva Lints. From the early fall of 1937 to July of 1939 he worked for Jack Norton and can remember the annual sports day held on the Norton Farm.



Larry, Bill, Elva, and Judy Gilchrist.

Elva was born at Decker, September 27, 1921, the fourth child of Alfred E. Lints and Euretta Jane (Doupe) Lints. Mr. Lints was born in Clifford, Ontario, came to Decker in 1908 and met and married Miss Doupe in Crandall in 1912. They had a total of nine children: Edna, Sanford, Elwood, Elva, Hollis, Lois, Della, Christina, and Fern. They all went to school at Decker. Sanford died at the age of eight.

In the early nineteen-twenties Alfred Lints broke and plowed some of the roads north of the town of Isabella with a big "Sawyer Massey" engine.

Mrs. Lints passed away in June of 1935 and Elva quit school the next term, to look after the home, Edna having already married, lived in Belmont, Man. In 1937 and 1938 Elva worked out at the home of Tom Webb at Hamiota and Tom Gray at Crandall for five dollars a month. She returned home for a year before she married Bill.

Elva and Bill were married on July 18, 1939 at her father's home in Decker. They lived at the Lints home at Decker for two years. On April 18th, 1940, their son, Larry William was born.

In 1941 they moved to Rosetown, Saskatchewan, to work for Mel Burr, son of Peter Burr, the local "Watkins man". They returned to Decker in the fall of 1941 and rented the east half of sec. 36-15-25. On April 30th, 1943, their daughter Judith Annette was born. That fall they moved to the Isabella district to their present farm on Sec. 8-15-25.

Bill and Elva have always been active in community affairs as have both their children. Elva was a member of the church choir, of the W.I. and of the drama club. Bill served on the pool and hall boards and was also a member of the rink committee and played ball with the local baseball club. Bill and Elva both had a great interest in curling and have won a number of prizes.

Larry and Judy, too, took part in many community affairs, both being choir members, as well as



L.-R.: Great-grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Tom Gilchrist and Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Fulton, Winston and Judy Fulton, great-great-grandmother Mrs. Robert Peel holding Alan Fulton, grandparents Bill and Elva Gilchrist, great-grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Bob Fulton, grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Tom Fulton, inset — grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Lints.

taking part in such sports as hockey, curling and baseball. They both took part in 4-H work, as well as being members of the Explorer Club formed by Mr. Walmsley.

In later years all the family have become avid golfers.

Larry and Judy went to school at Isabella. Larry left school in 1957 and went to work for Gregory's Transfer at Decker. In December of 1958, he was employed by Anglo-Canadian Oils, working successfully at Hamiota, Russell, Winnipeg, and Birtle. On August 19, 1961, he married Donaleen McLachlan. Donaleen was born in 1940 in Katrime, Manitoba. Her father at that time was an officer of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, stationed at Debert, Nova Scotia. She attended Squirrel Creek School at Katrime until she was twelve, then went on to take her high school at Glenlawn Collegiate in St. Vital and Miles MacDonald Collegiate in East Kildonan. She took her teaching training in Winnipeg and went on to complete her certificate, teaching one year at McConnell and three at Isabella. After their marriage Larry and Donaleen moved in to the L. Stevenson home in Isabella, where they now reside.

After leaving school in the fall of 1960, Judy sold Avon products and helped at home. On April 1, 1961, she was married to Winston Thomas Fulton of Birtle. Winston was born in Winnipeg, on November 11, 1940. His father at that time was a pilot in the RCAF. Following the war, the family moved back to the farm in the Rothesay district where Winston went to school until Grade Five. The Fultons then moved back to Birtle where Winston completed his schooling. He worked for his father in the transfer business from the time he was seventeen. After their marriage

Winston and Judy went to Winnipeg where Winston is now employed with the Terry Machinery Company. Judy worked for the Hudson Bay Co. for a while. On May 1, 1962, their son Thomas Allan, was born.

Update

by Elva Gilchrist

In the spring of 1963, we bought the Miniota Transfer, and that fall we moved to Miniota. In 1965 we built a new house. In the fall of 1968 we sold the transfer, and also sold our farm to Dave Heise. We then sold our house to a local farmer, and moved to Winnipeg.

On July 12, 1969, we took out a contract as superintendents with the Courts of St. James management. This contract lasted for 12 years, when Bill had to retire because of ill health, in August, 1981.

Bill died in December, 1981, and is laid to rest in Isabella Cemetery.

I then took up residence in Brandon, so I could be closer to my family.

Bob and Catharine Gilmour

by Catharine Gilmour

Catharine, only daughter of Harry and Agnes Levins, married Bob Gilmour of Foxwarren on November 22, 1952. Bob worked for Imperial Oil Limited for 13 years, and then purchased the family farm. Their twin daughters, Marilyn and Carolyn, were born February 7, 1954. They received their education at Foxwarren and Birtle Collegiate. Then each took nurses' training at Grace Hospital, Winnipeg. Marilyn married Ken Braun of Winnipeg on June 14, 1980. Ken is an urban developer for Castlewood Homes. Their son, Ryan Curtis, was born November 17, 1981. Carolyn married Les Harden of Winnipeg on October 6, 1979. Les is in real estate.

Mr. and Mrs. Goff

Mr. and Mrs. Goff and family lived in the house by the school. He was employed as caretaker of the church and school. He also drove one of the vans. They had one son, Percy.

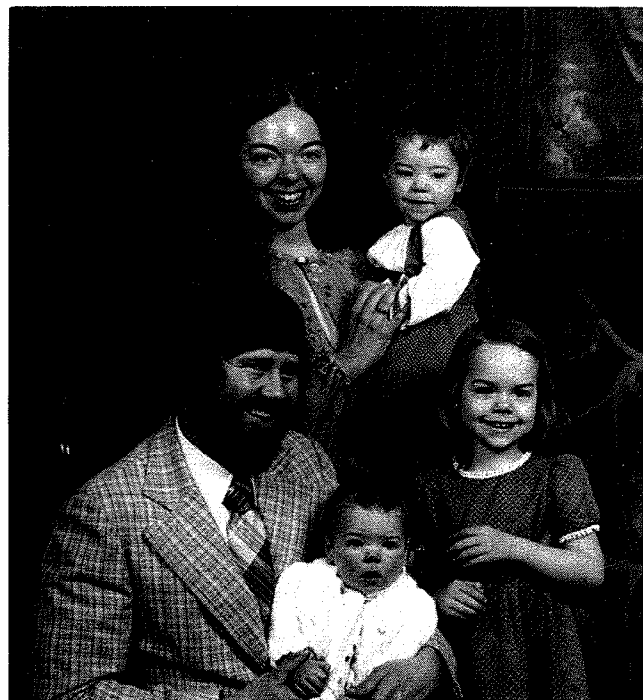
Larry and Lily Gompf

by Larry and Lily Gompf

Lily Gompf, second child of Harry Parsonage and Dorothy Anderson.

Larry Gompf, fourth child of George Gompf and Evelyn Walton.

The known history of the Parsonages dates back to Abraham Parsonage who was born in 1814 in the County of Kent, England. He had a son, Henry, born in 1850. Abraham and his son Henry came to Canada in 1863. Son Henry was married to a woman from



Lily, Sara, Larry, Michelle, and Laura Gompf.

Ontario in 1874. His wife and baby died, then Henry moved to Manitoba in 1879. In 1881 Henry filed on the SW ¼ 30-6-13 W1 which later became part of the municipality of Argyle. His father, Abraham, filed on SE ¼ 30-6-13 and there began the first of six generations of Parsonages in the municipality of Argyle. In 1882 Henry married Elizabeth Hurtt from Hoople, North Dakota, U.S.A. Henry and Elizabeth produced six children, the oldest of whom is my grandfather, Walter Raymond Parsonage, born in 1884. Abraham Parsonage died in 1892. Walter Raymond married Lilian Lodge in 1922. They produced six children. The third child, Harry Roland, born in 1925, is my father. Harry married Dorothy Anderson, my mother, in 1949. They had eight children. I, Lily-Anne, second oldest child, was born in 1951.

The Anderson side dates back to Andres Anderson born in 1845 in Iceland. He was married in Iceland and moved to the Argyle district in Manitoba in 1886 with his wife and two children. Andre's first wife died in Argyle and later, in 1893, Andres married again to Sesilia Stephenson who had also been married before and who had one son from her previous marriage. So with three children, Andres and Sesilia started their married life and bore two more children, Siggi in 1895 and Eiki (my grandfather) in 1896. The family lived on a farm north of Baldur, Manitoba, and it was in this district that Eiki met his future wife, Anna Swainson. Anna was the oldest daughter in a family of eight children born to Thorstein Swainson and Christine Johanneson. Both Thorstein and Christine were born in Iceland and

came to Canada in 1905 and to the Argyle district, north of Baldur in 1918.

Eiki Anderson and Anna Swainson were married in 1925. Eiki and Anna lived in Baldur, Manitoba where Eiki and his brother, Sigg, owned the Baldur Garage. They were both well known for their mechanical and woodworking abilities. Eiki and Anna produced four children, the second oldest daughter, Dorothy, is my mother. Anna died in 1954 and Eiki died in 1973.

In 1949, Dorothy Anderson married Harry Parsonage of Baldur and they are living on the farm SE ¼ 30-6-13 in the Argyle District. They produced eight children, second oldest daughter, Lily-Anne was born in 1951. I, Lily-Anne, married Larry Gompf of Oak Lake in 1973 and moved to the Isabella district in 1977.

The known history of the Gompf family goes back to the early 1800's when a George Gompf came to Canada from Hessen, Germany. He and his wife had a family of four children and they settled on some land they purchased two and a half miles south east of Listowel, Ontario.

Nicholas Gompf was the eldest son and he farmed on the home place. He married Louise Lorch, a neighbour, and they had thirteen children. Three died in infancy and the other ten, three sons and seven daughters, were raised on this farm. Fred, the eldest son, stayed on the farm. Because he and his wife were childless, the farm did not remain in the Gompf name.

William Gompf, the second eldest son of Nicholas and Louise, came west to the Oak Lake area of Manitoba in 1889. He worked for local farmers for a few years before homesteading on the NE ¼ 8-10-23. He married Agnes Lindsay in 1899 and they had seven children, four boys and three girls. Agnes died in 1919 and William raised his family by himself. He was well known for his prowess at butchering and sausage making and took part in many butchering bees throughout the neighborhood. William did all his farming with horses. He had an eye for horses and always had good sound animals of which he was justly proud. A few old timers of today still remember the horses which were raised on that farm.

George is the second youngest member of William and Agnes Gompf's family. In 1939 he married Evelyn Walton who grew up in the St. David's district north of Oak Lake. In 1942 they moved to the home farm and raised four children. Marlene, the oldest, is married to Otto Penner and they reside at Russell with their family of three. Garnet married Nora Helton from Oak Lake and they live on the farm homesteaded by William. They also have a family of three. Karl married Monica Hollamby from Virden.

They live at Headingly and have two boys. I, Larry, married Lily Parsonage of Baldur and since December of 1977, we have resided on the farm located on 2-16-26 in the Birtle and Isabella district.

Herb Walton moved west from Ontario in 1892 with his mother and step-father, Isabel and William Wisner and other members of their family. They settled in St. David's district north of Oak Lake. In 1898 Herb married Martha Skuce of Mountain, Ontario and they settled on NW ¼ 27-10-24. A good home was built on this location and a family of seven was raised: four boys and three girls. Music and laughter are the happy ingredients which are remembered by those who grew up in that home. St. David's church was built in 1892, and still in use today, was a focal point for the Walton family as they grew up. Evelyn, the youngest of this family, was educated in nearby Hagyard school and also in Oakwood High School in Oak Lake. In 1939 she married George Gompf.

Lily-Anne Parsonage married Larry Gompf in 1973. We moved to the Isabella district in December, 1977 and settled on 2-16-26. We have three children: Laura (1977), Sara (1979) and Michelle (1980). The people from Isabella have been very friendly and have welcomed us into their community. March 1982 a fourth daughter was born.

Goodeve Family

by Beatrice (Goodeve) Mitchell

Mr. Ernest Goodeve was born in England, August 5, 1888. He served in the British Navy. Upon coming to Canada he met Mildred Judd at Portage la Prairie. Mildred was born in Shawville, Quebec, September 2, 1893.

They were married January 1, 1917.

After their marriage Mildred and Ernest moved to their homestead at Maple Creek, Saskatchewan. They farmed there until 1922. In that year they moved



Back: Albert, Ernest Goodeve, Doris Sutherland, Mildred, Bea and Joe Mitchell. Front: Florence Lavoie, Ronly Sutherland.

to the William Iverach farm at Isabella. In 1933 they moved to Rivers.

They had a family of three daughters and one son. The oldest daughter, Beatrice Jean, was born at Portage la Prairie January 2, 1918. She attended Isabella School. November 18, 1939 she married Joseph Mitchell in Rivers, Manitoba. Joe is now retired in Rivers, after having worked as C.N.R. yardman in Winnipeg, Rivers and Brandon. Beatrice and Joe have no family.

Doris Evelyn was born October 20, 1920 at Maple Creek, Sask. She received her education at Isabella and Rivers. She married Ronly Sutherland June 18, 1944 at Swift Current, Sask. Ronly worked for T.C.A. in Toronto and Winnipeg, followed by thirty years service for Air Canada in Montreal. Doris and Ronly are now retired in Belleville, Ontario. They have three children and three grandchildren.

Albert Edward was born August 27, 1922 at Maple Creek. He received his education at Isabella and Rivers. He worked for the C.N.R. before joining the Air Force in 1943. He was in the Canadian Precision Drill Team before going to England. There he met Daphne Walters, whom he married in Winnipeg in 1945. Albert worked for Air Canada in Toronto and Montreal after his discharge. Albert is now retired. He and Daphne and family have moved to Calgary. Their family consists of three daughters and one son.

Florence May was born July 19, 1926 at Isabella. She received her education at Isabella and Rivers. After attending Normal School in Winnipeg she taught school in Winnipeg, Treherne and Justice. In 1953 she married Gerry Pipke who was stationed at Rivers Tri School. They were posted to Ottawa in 1958. Gerry had a heart attack and passed away in 1966. Florence then worked for the government. In 1979 she married Alfred Lavaie. Florence had one son Bruce from her first marriage. He works for the Post Office in Ottawa and resides with his mother and Alfred.

Mr. Goodeve passed away Nov. 5, 1960. He was 72 years of age. He had one brother, Harry Goodeve, and three sisters. All have passed away.

Mrs. Goodeve will celebrate her 88th birthday Sept. 2, 1981. She is not in good health. She lives with her oldest daughter, Bea and son-in-law Joe in Rivers. Mrs. Goodeve is the youngest of a family of thirteen children and the only surviving family member.

She was an active member of the United Church, U.C.W., Canadian Legion, W.I. and Hospital Guild until recent years. She still belongs to these organizations, but owing to ill health is unable to take an active part. Mrs. Goodeve passed away January 19, 1982.

Stewart Gordon

Mr. Gordon was a bachelor who first worked the north half of 11-15-26 in 1907. He was English and later returned to England.

Hazel and Clarence Graham

by Sylvia Doran

Hazel, the second daughter of Lucinda and Edson Doran, was born on NE of 31-15-26. It was a busy farm with livestock and grain production, but the household was large enough to require all the ladies of the family to keep the table well supplied and the nine-room house neat and clean. Hazel was the official 'neat and clean' person. In days when vacuums were nonexistent she went through the home and left it shining!

Her education from grades I to XI was at Isabella School. She was, indeed, the shortest pupil there for years and so led the Isabella School group in the Miniota Municipal Field Day parade. Their colours were red and white and their still-remembered, school yells were terrifying! In spite of a lack of height, Hazel was a good athlete and took part in running and jumping events as well as being part of the basketball team.

After being out of school for a year, Hazel returned to take her grade XII in Hamiota. Then in 1936, she went to Courtenay, B.C. to live with an aunt and uncle. Hazel obtained work in a creamery. Then with her cousin, Kay, she established a small store and tea room. Although she worked hard at it she enjoyed the experience. Hazel met Clarence Graham at that time. They were married in 1939 at Courtenay, standing under a blooming, apple tree in her Uncle Milt's beautiful yard. Hazel says the tree died of disease the following year but it is known that their marriage flourished.

The Grahams lived at Fanny Bay, Prince Rupert, Youbou and Port Mellon. The latter stay was for twenty years. Clarence was assistant chief of maintenance at the pulp mill there. There, Hazel was involved in the life of that company town and helped establish the Community Church, Sunday School, Junior Choir and also sang in a very good district choir. The Grahams have raised a nephew, David Doran, and he now works in the Port Mellon plant. Through the years of visiting back to Manitoba, it was perhaps no surprise that David chose to marry a Birtle girl, Marlene Davidson. The Grahams share three grand-daughters with all the other Birtle based grandparents.

The Grahams did a reverse retirement — many people give up the prairies for British Columbia's

more clement weather. They came back to Birtle in 1971. Clarence considered it a challenge and has since redone the home previously owned by Hazel's father. No day is too cold for him to take a trip downtown.

Hazel's love of music has been a boon to the community as she teaches a stream of small people wishing to enjoy the piano. She has been active in the organization of the New Horizon's choir and plays the music for meetings of the lodge and the Artaban Chapter O.E.S.

Mr. Gray

Mr. Gray homesteaded the southwest quarter of 32-15-25. No other trace has been found of him.

Don and Margaret Gregory by Margaret Gregory

Margaret, youngest daughter of Russell and Ina Doran, was born on January 15, 1937 at Birtle, Manitoba with the able assistance of Mrs. Hatch and Dr. Fjeldsted. At ten days of age she travelled home in a school van to the farm one mile south of the present Arrowhead Farm.

At the age of four Margaret moved to the Ellison district of the Okanagan Valley with her family where she took the first two years of school. In 1944 the family moved to the home farm and she took the remainder of grade school at Isabella. Many good memories of winter van rides and summer ball games remain from these years. The following three years were spent at Brandon General Hospital School of Nursing, and upon graduation in January 1958, she began nursing at Hamiota District Hospital. Margaret married Donald Gregory, youngest son of Wes and Elsie Gregory of Decker, in August 1958. They have three children: Cameron, born September 22, 1959; Gail, born December 10, 1961; and Sandra, born February 6, 1963. Cameron is at present employed at Birtle Co-op farm supply, Gail is in her second year at Brandon University and Sandra is enrolled at Success Angus Secretarial College in Winnipeg.

Afer many years of driving the local transfer for his brother, Don is now employed at the Birtle Co-op tire shop. Margaret continues to nurse at Hamiota in the Health Centre Doctor's Office.

Don and Margaret make their home in Decker.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Grey by G. Grey

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Grey came to Manitoba from Ontario in 1888. They lived the first five years

of their married life on a rented farm near the village of Agincourt.

Mrs. Grey's father, Mr. William Bell, and family had come to Manitoba in the spring of 1882, and settled in the Blaris district. Mrs. Grey, being the only one of the family left behind in Ontario, decided along with her husband to come west, and to settle on a farm of their own and be with other relatives.

By this time, the father, Mr. William Bell, had passed on. They were able to live in the old home with her brothers, John and Robert and sister Jeanie, until they built their own home on the quarter adjoining. They built a two-storey house with lumber brought from Birtle. A sod stable was to house the yoke of oxen that was to do the farm work. Later on, a team of horses was bought from Mr. Harvey Simpson of Virden.

Later in life, the old home was torn down and a more modern home built as well as a large bank barn. The first barn was blown down by a violent wind-storm but was immediately built again. During the years more land was bought. A section in all was cultivated by Mr. Grey and his two sons, William and Gordon.

Mr. Grey passed away at the age of seventy six in the year of 1932. He was superintendent of the Blaris Sunday School and had presided at the school that afternoon and passed away suddenly that evening. He was also an elder of the Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. Grey passed away in September of the year 1935 at the age of seventy-seven. Her great love outside of her family was her church.

In the family there were three girls and two boys. The eldest two, Minnie and Will, were born in Ontario. Hazel, Violet and Gordon were born in Manitoba. Hazel passed on in 1906 from typhoid fever. At the present time Gordon and his wife are living on the home farm. Will and his wife are living in Hamiota. Violet (Mrs. Reg. Campbell) is a widow living in Isabella and has a family of four girls and five boys. Minnie (Mrs. John Mitchell) is a widow living in Brandon and has a family of two boys and one girl.

Since the 1962 edition Mrs. Mitchell has died.

Gordon and Florence Grey live in Hamiota.

Will and Laura's history is found elsewhere in the book.

Violet lives in the Personal Care Home in Rivers.

Mr. and Mrs. William R. Grey by Mrs. Laura Grey

William Grey was born in 1886 in Agincourt, Ontario, the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Grey. He came to Manitoba in 1888 along with his parents and sister Minnie. They first made their

home with the William Bell family, until they could build their own house on an adjoining quarter. They built a two story house of lumber bought in Birtle and a sod stable to house a yoke of oxen.

Will received his education at Blaris school. He was an active member of the Presbyterian church (later United Church). He was a farmer and enjoyed farm life. He also enjoyed sports — baseball, football, hockey and especially curling. He won a number of trophies. When living in Hamiota he enjoyed lawn bowling.

In 1949 he married Laura Miller, eldest daughter of William and Rachel Miller of Blaris.

Laura was born at the home of her grandparents,



Laura and Will Grey.

Mr. and Mrs. Ingram Chapman of Harding, Manitoba on December 24, 1900, and received her schooling at Blaris school. She was a very active member of the Methodist church, later the United Church and was secretary for the Women's Missionary Society for sixteen years. When leaving the community, she was made a Life Member. She took her turn being leader of the Mission Band and also enjoyed playing for school concerts and festival work.

In the early nineteen hundreds most community activities were centered around the church and Sunday School. One of the big events of the summer was the Blaris Sunday School picnic when many people from surrounding communities also enjoyed the different games and races and home-made ice cream.

For many years she stayed at home to help her parents who were in very poor health. Her parents passed away in 1946.

In 1949 Laura married William Grey. They lived in Brandon for a short time later moving to Isabella.

In 1952 they moved to Hamiota. Will passed away August 4, 1974 in his 89th year. Laura continued to live in her own home until the fall of 1979 when she moved into Park Residence where she now resides.

While living in Hamiota, Will and Laura took pride in their home grounds. They entered their lawn and garden in the Home Grounds Competition taking prizes a number of years. Laura was also very interested in the Hamiota Fair and was a director for a number of years and now a Life Member. Laura is a member of the Hamiota Senior Choir, in summer she enjoys lawn bowling and in the winter shuffle board.

Wayne Griffin by Wayne Griffin

My story begins in Bristol, England, 1947. My parents met during the war and were married just at the end of the war. At the time of my arrival, Mom and Dad had a beautiful daughter named Lesley, 13 months old.



Wayne Griffin and Mrs. G. R. Griffin.

My father and his two brothers headed to Montreal in 1952. During the early fifties there was quite an influx of British immigrants to Canada. Many, like Dad and my uncles, were involved in aircraft engineering. Houses were found along with employment. Mom, Lesley, and myself headed off on the Empress of Scotland to our new home "across the sea". Being very young at the time, Canada meant a bigger playground than England.

We lived in a small community, approximately twenty-five miles north of Montreal. For Lesley and myself it was time to go to school. I'll never quite forget that first day; the teacher had an option; either I get to eat a Cadbury's chocolate bar in class or it was running home to Mom.

Family picnics were a favourite, especially dur-

ing the fall season in the Laurentians of Quebec. Dad was a home movie buff with every holiday on film.

I became involved in quite a few team sports; football being one of my favourites.

In 1964 Mom returned to England to visit her sisters in Bristol. On her return I sensed something was upcoming. A decision was made to return to England. Dad was getting near retirement at the aircraft works and Mom was missing home.

Naturally at first I was a little upset. Canada was my home; England was childhood memories away. It was decided that we leave in September of 1965. I was able to complete my schooling during that time and with quite a bit of apprehension prepared to leave Canada. I believe that the biggest adjustment was not so much leaving Canada as it was leaving our friends and community involvements.

Back across the ocean we headed. Dad found a job, no problem, and a really nice house just outside of Bristol.

Now I was lost. What to do! Did someone mention a career? Lesley went into nursing and as for myself I was able to serve an apprenticeship at an engineering shop in Bristol. The fitter-machinist course took five years. It was most enjoyable.

Looking back now I must say it was a great time to arrive in England. Music was having a great influence on the youth of that period. British fashions, British music; the impact was seen and heard around the world during the middle sixties. It's quite hard to describe that period of my life; I'm just glad I was there to experience it.

I finished my apprenticeship and, with what Mom calls "itchy feet", I decided to save up and prepare for a trip around the world.

In June of 1971, I arrived at Gander, Newfoundland. What a beautiful province! Through the Maritimes and on to Montreal to visit old school friends! From there it was on to Ontario and then Manitoba. Well an interesting thing happened to me then; I ran out of money. So much for my world trip. I applied for immigrant status in Winnipeg. They mentioned it would take eight weeks. West Hawk Lake in the Whiteshell was recommended as a good spot to camp.

Well, those eight weeks were just beautiful. The licence plates rang true, "Sunny Manitoba". During this time I met quite a few friends; people whom I still see quite often today.

My papers came through and it was off to Winnipeg with the intention of seeking employment. The five-year training proved very handy. Work was found in Transcona, Winnipeg.

I was told about Manitoba winters but wasn't too sure what to expect. Well it was almost more than

what I expected. Needless to say I survived but with mixed feelings. I decided to head back to England thinking that would be where I would finally settle.

Needless to say within two months I knew that Canada was where my heart ruled.

By 1973 Lesley was married with two fine sons; Dad was working part-time at Bristol Aircraft Co., and Mom was keeping busy, as usual. Apart from the occasional month in Europe I stayed a year in England.

On my return I settled down in Winnipeg and found employment at C.P. Rail for three years.

About 1976 a good friend named Dave Collins and his wife Charlotte invited me out on the occasional weekend to their summer house in Crandall. Being a city person it was quite different to experience the country life; even if it was only weekends. At about this time Stan and Ruth Teasdale had a small house in the townsite of Isabella for sale. I was now a home-owner.

I spent the winter of 1977-78 in England and during the spring I headed off to Isabella. As luck would have it I was able to secure employment with my neighbour at the time, Bob Young. Along with his two sons I spent quite a few months with Bob until the latter part of the year when I became self-employed.

It was a beautiful summer! The farming lifestyle was totally new to me. As the fall weather approached I decided to head off to British Columbia in my 1956 Plymouth, which I had purchased from Frank MacDonald in Beulah. I had never seen the Rockies before. It was all they made it to be; quite a sight. I spent the winter in Victoria. A truly beautiful city with quite mild winters!

Upon my arrival in Winnipeg in the spring, a few close friends offered me employment with their company "Polar Windows" and also the opportunity to work in Kenora, Ontario. I'm now entering my fourth year with the company and enjoying it very much. At present I am working mainly in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

My days spent in Isabella have been most enjoyable. The community has a spirit of its own. I'm very glad to be a small part of that.

And may I say thank-you to John and Margaret Coxworth for being such fine people that they are.

And before I go; a bouquet of flowers to the History Book Committee without whom we would not be reading this passage.

Albert and Phoebe Groves

Albert Groves was born in London, England. He came to Canada in 1901. He worked on farms around



Phoebe and Albert Groves.

Arrow River and was employed by Mr. Yemens for quite a number of years.

In 1914, Albert went overseas with the Canadian Infantry. He married Phoebe Turner in London, England on Jan. 9, 1919. They went to Arrow River in the spring to work on the Yemen's farm.

They later moved to Isabella where Albert (also known as Shortie) worked for several different farmers, Bob Scarth, Harry Harrison and George Irwin to name a few.

After leaving the Isabella area, they lived in Winnipeg, Glenboro, Arrow River again and on the R. L. Dickey farm at Crandall.

They retired to live in Crandall in 1954.

Albert died in the spring of 1958 in the Deer Lodge Hospital in Winnipeg. He was 78 years old. He is buried in the Crandall Cemetery.

Mrs. Groves moved to the Senior Citizens' home in Hamiota in September, 1972 and then later to Central Park Lodge in Brandon. She died in 1976 at the age of 92 and is buried in the Crandall Cemetery.

Gordon Hadden

by Mrs. T. Long

My dad, Gordon Hadden, came from County Armagh, Ireland, and my mother from Emley county in Ontario. They came to Brandon, Manitoba, in 1891, to try to better themselves in a new country. They had three children when they came, James, Victor and Mary E. They found it very hard to make a living. Dad worked at day work. James died while they lived in Brandon.

They moved to Birtle in about 1893, lived in town for a couple of years, then moved to a farm north of Birtle, where they resided until 1896. Then they moved to another farm, south of Birtle. They made their home here until 1898. Then they moved to a farm owned by Mrs. Dick King (Howard Preston's

mother) and were there until 1906. This land was in the Isabella district. Evelyn was born while they lived there. Their next move was to a farm nine miles southeast of Birtle. They resided here until they retired to Miniota in 1929. Father and Mother celebrated their 50th anniversary in 1939.

Father died at Miniota in 1941. Mother went to live with her daughter at Kamloops, and was here until her death in 1956. Both my parents are buried in the cemetery at Miniota.

Both my parents were members of the United Church, and helped in every way they could. Mother was president of the Women's Auxilliary, and a regular member of the Women's Missionary Society, and a worker in the Women's Institute. My father served as councillor for several years.

I, Mary, married Thomas Long in Miniota in February 16, 1910. I served as president of the W.A. and W.M.S. for some time. I also worked in the W.I. My favorite sport was curling. My husband and I had two boys and a girl.

William Gordon, of Miniota, who farms north of Miniota, is married and has a son and daughter attending high school at Miniota.

Walter John lives in Crandall and Olive Marion (Ward) lives in Vancouver, B.C. My sister, Evelyn, (Mrs. Hilton Gregory), has five children: Reverend Hadden Gregory of Quesnel, B.C., Arnold of Birch River, B.C., Audrey, Mrs. Turner, Houston, B.C., Doreen, Mrs. P. Harding of Revelstoke, B.C. and Joyce — Mrs. Boynot, Alert Bay, B.C.

Victor Hadden had a son Stanley of Birtle and a daughter, Shirley Pringle of Charleswood, Man.

My husband and I celebrated our 50th anniversary on February 16, 1960 at our home at 1101 Oscar St. Victoria, B.C.

Mrs. Hilton Gregory resides at 2033 Fourth Ave. Prince George, B.C.

1982 update

Mrs. Long moved to Vancouver in March 1971 to live with her daughter Olive. In 1975 she moved into Chalmer's Lodge and in 1979 she went to St. Vincent's Hospital Personal Care Home. Here she celebrated her 91st birthday on September 26/81.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Hall

by Mrs. L. Hall

It was on May 1st, 1910 when I, Len Hall, landed in Winnipeg, Canada from England. I worked there for three years, then in Oak Bluff for two years. I joined the Artillery in Winnipeg in World War I and was shipped overseas. While in England I got married and returned with my wife and son in 1919, coming to Isabella on October 1, 1919. I farmed on the east half of section 5-15-25 for a few years. I then

bought the south half of 18-15-25 from Simeon Heise. I later bought the east half of 13-15-26. The land was of black loam and the water supply was from dug wells. A ten-roomed frame house was built in 1924. We raised grain and livestock. We planted fruit and other trees, planted flowers and over the years landscaped our garden and in 1945 we were the first in the district to be awarded the Graves Trophy for the "Best Farm and Home Grounds" given by the Manitoba Good Roads Association. I was a member of the Isabella Agriculture Society, also the Decker-Isabella Horticultural Society from which I received the cup for winning three times in succession in 1939. My wife was a member of the Womens Institute for forty years and I was a member of the church board. We have five sons. Bernell is married and lives in Winnipeg. He has four daughters by a previous marriage.

Edmund is married and has three children.

Conrad is married and has one daughter.

Francis married Jenny Babuik. They have no family.

Our youngest son died when he was a baby in 1929 and is buried in the Isabella cemetery. Our two oldest boys served in the RCAF in World War II. One was overseas. The three oldest boys did not return to the farm. Only the youngest one stayed with me on the farm till I retired in 1960.

Update by Jennie Hall

Mr. and Mrs. Len Hall celebrated their 50th anniversary in 1968. They both continued their hobby of gardening, and met many friends over the years. Their happy retirement was marred by the death of Doreen, Edmund's wife.

Len Hall died in January, 1971, one week before his 80th birthday.

Mrs. Lottie Hall continues to make her home with Francis and Jennie.

Burnell and his wife, Chris, reside in Winnipeg.

Edmund has remarried. He and his wife, Olga, live in Summerland, B.C.

Conrad and Opal live in North Burnaby.

Francis and Jennie lived in Vancouver for several years, then decided to move to Clearbrook, B.C. They moved a house from the property they had purchased to another lot, and remodelled it.

In 1976, Francis decided that he was surrounded by too many apartment buildings, and built a home in Abbotsford.

While here, Francis was employed as a wood-work shop supervisor for the handicapped association for four years. In 1980 Francis and Jennie were awarded a plaque for the best garden in the Abbotsford District beautification contest. The presentation of a plaque and book was made to Francis by the

Minister of Human Resources, William Vanderzam. Jennie was presented with a broach (Dogwood emblem) by the Minister's wife. Francis is now retired, and he and Jennie are hoping to be able to spend time in their beautiful home and garden.

Alex and Frances Hannah

by Frances Hannah

Frances, daughter of Francis and Mary Brown, started school in Scotland, and completed her education at Isabella. After attending Normal School at Brandon, she taught at Binscarth, Roland, Wynona, and Beulah.

She married Alex (Sandy) Hannah who was a gas company employee in Toronto. He had been gassed during the operation of his job. He came out to work during the harvest for Alex Stewart of Miniota, where he hoped to regain his health. They lived in Toronto where Sandy worked for the C.N.R. in the round-house for six years. They then moved to London, Ontario where they have lived for the past forty-five years. From 1946-1957 they lived on a twenty acre farm and raised milk cows and chickens. During that time Sandy worked on the railroad until his retirement, and Frances did supply teaching in London.

There were four children: Blair, Frank, Shirley, and Sandra.

Blair — became manager of General Printing Inks of London. He and his wife, Marilyn, have four children. Linda (Mrs. Ralph Watson) lives on a farm at Parkhill, Ontario and has one son, Bobby. Joan, (Mrs. Larry Nutt) lives on a farm at Parkhill and has two sons, Alex and Andrew. Steven and his wife Ruth live in London and have one son, Joshua. Janet, married a farmer, Bruce McLellan, and has one son, Frank.

Frank — was born in 1933, educated in London, joined the R.C.A.F. for five years and served in France with N.A.T.O. forces. He then started to work for Air Canada and is now a captain pilot, flying a 727. He married Elaine Spearan and they have four children. David is a deep sea diver who has worked in the Great Lakes, off the coast of Newfoundland, and is presently in the high Arctic with Dome Petroleum. Wendy graduated from King's College, Kingston, as a United Church Minister. Douglas attends school and takes flying lessons. Michael is in public school.

Shirley — died in infancy.

Sandra — was educated in London and at business schools. She married Roly Althoff, a business research employee of "Flair" magazine. They live in Toronto and have three children, Mark, Peter, and Kathleen, all in high school.

Gerry and Debbie Hanlin

by Gerry and Debbie Hanlin

I, Gerry was born in 1943 while my parents were farming at Arrow River. We then moved to Decker and from there, to a farm at Hamiota where I grew up and attended school. I spent some time in the mines at Thompson before returning to farm with my father. In 1965 I purchased a half section of my own south of Arrow River.

I, Debbie was born in 1953 while my parents were farming with my Grandfather, Harry Sawyer on his farm north-west of Isabella. In 1956 my parents purchased a farm at Beulah where I grew up. I attended school at Beulah and Birtle.

We were married in October 1970, and farmed together at Arrow River. Our two children were born while we were living there: Shannon Lee, August 1971 and Timothy Shane, November 1974.

Late in 1974 we purchased a farm south of Isabella and moved there in 1975. This land is used for grain farming and we pasture our herd of cattle on our farm at Arrow River.

We enjoy living at Isabella and take part in as many of the community activities as time permits. Shannon and Tim especially enjoy skating at Isabella Rink.

Our children attend school in Miniota. We find that as they grow older and become involved in school related activities we must divide our time between the two communities. However we consider ourselves "Isabella People."

Hard Family

by Bob Hard

In 1916 my parents, sister Mabel and Olive and I moved from Minnedosa to Isabella. They rented a section of land from Mr. Doig who, at that time, also owned a lumber yard in Birtle. My sister Mabel and I used to ride in horse races at Hooper's Lake, Hamiota and Miniota. Now, I couldn't ride a saw-horse! Mabel, Olive and I went to school in Isabella. I can't forget the school and my last teacher. I think she must have loved me, because she sent me to the principal every day for the last month. I got the strap, six on each hand.

We lived six miles from Isabella. I drove the van. We used to heat bricks to keep our feet warm in the wintertime. I picked up Ena Still who lived with her parents on her brother Pete's farm, the Dorans and the Clarks, — they lived about a mile north of town.

Farming was not easy for my parents. After a few years we moved to Winnipeg. Dad had \$600.00 in an envelope in his back pocket and \$30.00 in a front pocket. He lost the \$600.00 somewhere. It almost drove him crazy. Leaving the farm meant I had to

leave my schoolday sweetheart, Hazel Doran. I guess we were about nine and ten years old. We used to go to house parties and barn dances with her parents, brothers Russell, Casper, Nelson, and Glen, and sister Jean, and dance to the wee hours of the morning. The Dorans were our neighbors to one side and the Fred Hickman family on the other.

Two sisters were born at Birtle, Gladys on November 25, 1918, and Phyllis on February 13, 1925. Mabel lives in Edmonton and Olive in Saskatoon. I live in Thunder Bay where I am a salesman for Port Arthur Motors Ltd. I'm still alive at 71 and I can't think of anymore to tell you.

Rev. and Mrs. H. C. Harris

by Rev. Harris

My connection with Isabella goes back almost forty years. I was invited to become minister of the Union Congregation in June 1922. At that time the charge consisted of three congregations: Isabella, Decker and Orrwold. I was inducted into the charge by Rev. Mr. Martin who was known as, "the man who put the Church in Churchill." My wife (nee Agnes Davidson of Rapid City, Man.,) and infant daughter, Inis Millicent, had just died. My older daughter, Laura Jean, then five years of age, came with me and later went to school at Isabella.

At that time I was quite active and took part in all community activities. Curling, skating, tennis and baseball were very popular in the community. I shared in the first three but was never a baseball player. These of course were side activities. My chief interest was the church and the Union Movement. In addition to my preaching and visiting of the congregation, I was active in the young people groups. For two years I was secretary of the Birtle Presbytery of the Union Churches of Western Canada.

In 1924, I received a call to the Kenville charge in Dauphin Presbytery. I enjoyed my ministry at Isabella very much and still remember many of the folks who were then very active in church and community.

In 1929 I married Elta Banton who is still with me. In 1935 we moved to Ontario where I served charges at Massey, Southampton and Parry Sound. In 1951 I retired from the active ministry to become assistant minister in Centenary United Church, Hamilton, where I served for five years. Since then my wife and I have lived at Albright Gardens, Beamsville Ontario, in a community of retired ministers.

In 1939 my daughter Jean married Mr. T. J. Teasdale of Massey. They have one son Russell who is now 17 years of age. Jean specialized in music and for the past ten years has been a music supervisor in

the public schools of Sarnia, Ontario, where they make their home.

1982 — no update.

Charlie and Isobel Harrison by Isobel Harrison

Charles Russell Harrison, eldest son of Harry and Mary Harrison, was born January 8, 1923. Charlie received his education at Isabella. He then worked on the home farm until 1942 when he enlisted in the army. He returned from overseas in 1945, and worked one summer maintaining roads and one win-



Charlie and Isobel Harrison, 1977.

ter in the mine at Flin Flon. His marriage to Verna Calder took place in 1947. They took up farming on the west half of section 32-14-25. Verna passed away when their daughter, Lynne, was not quite two years old.

Charlie married Isobel Frazer in 1952 and in December of that year Charlie, Isobel and Lynne moved to Vancouver for six years and from there to Kamloops, B.C. where they still reside. They had three daughters; Wendy, Jacqueline and Roberta.



Wendy, Lynne, Jackie, and Roberta Harrison, 1977.

Lynne married Walter Dunitz in 1971 and they live on their farm at Shoal Lake. They have one son, Michael.

Wendy, born in June 1953, lives and works in Kamloops. Jacqueline, born in September 1955, married Donald Peck and they have one son, Christopher Ryan and a daughter, Kerry Lynne. They reside in Kamloops. Roberta, born in August 1958, married Roger Lagore and they have one son Mark Douglas. They also reside in Kamloops.

Mr. and Mrs. Dewart Harrison written by D. Harrison

On the 13th of November 1907 the Dominion of Canada sold by auction all school lands in western Manitoba. The sale was at Virden. Sections 11 and 29 were school land in every township. F. A. Campbell bought the S.E. quarter Wm. Rowles the N.E. quarter and L. M. Hunkin the S.W. quarter. This was later owned by Mr. J. E. Heise. My father bought the N.W. quarter. In the fall of 1908, a young Englishman and myself went out to Saskatchewan with the idea of homesteading. A new railway line had been built that summer southwest of Saskatoon. When I saw that



Bob, Ken, Joe, Della Harrison, Florence Ambrust and Norman Harrison, 1979.

treeless, waterless country; the small lakes were all dry. I thought of the cold winds in winter and dust storms in summer. When I came back my father made the quarter over to me. I later bought from my mother, the N.E. quarter of 30-14-25. This had been my father's homestead. I broke this land with a walking, breaking plow. I used a yoke of oxen to plow some of it. No oxen had been used in the neighborhood for 20 years. My father bought them from a new Canadian farmer. They were strong. When one came to a clump of willows, they went along slowly so the plow could be held.

In 1913 I built my shack assisted by my father and brother, Frank. In 1921 I built my house. Thos.

Reece, a carpenter from Crandall, was the builder. The walls of the basement are of cement, also the floor and a cement cistern. The lumber was bought from Iverach & Beveridge. The stable, which as yet has no top on, was built by Wm. Mossop Sr. and Wm. Taylor of Miniota. Harry and I got permits for so much lumber in Riding Mountain. Sam McGarvey drove Harry's team and George Ariss took my team. If I remember it cost us \$13.00 a thousand for the permit and milling. We had wages to pay the two men. The logs were on skidways and they had to haul them to the sawmill. The saw and planer were driven by large steam engines. Kippen owned the mill. He died a short time ago, a very old man. John Sutherland hauled the lumber down with his truck.

The west quarter is rather rough. There are about 20 acres in the S.W. corner which is crossed by the gravel ridge. There is a ravine through the west side of it. This ravine is the one to the west of town. Those who know say it begins up in Birtle Municipality. I have a dam on it which until the last three years, held water until freeze-up. This ravine goes down east of Lou Lelond's farm and empties into the Arrow River. Down there it is a spring creek and goes by the name of Silver Creek. There is a 121 foot drilled well with an unlimited supply of good water. The soil is good. There have always been cattle both for milk and beef and usually pigs. My father kept sheep in the early days. He took the wool to a woolen mill in Rapid City. Sheep need a proper fence.

The only public office I ever had was a trustee on the Miniota School Board for a short while. I was a secretary for church and Sunday school at times.

The only "first" I can think of in my family is that my father was much older than most of the early settlers. He had been helping my grandfather on the farm in the East until a younger brother took over. He brought a carload of stock and machinery. One was a self-rake reaper. This was a mower with a table on it and a reel which would push off about a sheaf at a time when the men following it would make a band of straw and tie it up. All I know about it is what my father told me about the old wreck.

Mr. T. Stevenson had the first top buggy in the neighborhood — looked quite smart along side of an old buckboard, forerunner of the buggy. I have the seat of my father's first binder. It is a heavy iron seat with the metal letters "Toronto Massey". The binder had a wooden frame and came without a carrier. One was put on later.

Frank Harrison farmed for a few years on the south half of 31-14-25. This had been part of his father's farm. Frank left in 1936. Harry and Doug are now the owners. Frank lives at Kamloops B.C.

In the rebellion of 1885, there was some uneasi-

ness as to the attitude of the Beulah Indians. My mother was alone one evening shortly before sun down. Glancing out of the east window she saw three long shadows side by side. I suppose you might say her heart stood still, until their three geese came past the corner of the house.

One memory stands out in my mind. There had been quite a long spell of stormy weather. The folks had a five-gallon coal oil can but it was all used and all the light came from a rag in a saucer of tallow. Hamiota was the nearest town, and my father was afraid he might be caught in a storm. There were no fenced road allowances, just a winding trail to follow. After that they got a candle mould which was fitted to take a round wick. I don't know whether they were ever used or not. Those old time blizzards are a thing of the past, thanks to bluffs and shelter-belts. The rule was if you could not see the stable from the house, better not attempt to travel.

The members of our family are: Joseph Fredrick, Florence Emily, Kenneth Wayne, Norman Harry, and Robert Dewart.

I can recall the first train whistle which was heard at Isabella early in 1909. The ground was frozen, but there was no snow. There was a large gang of men working. The rails were on a flat car in front. One set of men had pads on their left shoulder, another lot had pads on their right shoulders. The first station site was to be two miles east of Isabella. The interested farmers raised money to pay a bonus to the men, to have the station located at the present site. However the railway people changed their minds, no bonus was paid, and the station was built here.

Nothing was done at the town site until the spring, when J. L. Thompson drew in a house with his steam engine. Phillip Heddesheimer had a store built here. His manager was Roy Rudd. Later on the store was moved to where it is now. It burned down and was rebuilt. Robert Scott bought the store. He died suddenly when he was quite young. His brother-in-law, A. E. Brad took over the store.

1982 — update by Della Harrison

I, Della Massina, was born in Birtle, Manitoba and lived in the Birtle district for five years, later moving to Beulah with my parents. I received my education at Beulah School.

In 1934 I came to Isabella to work for Frank and Betty Harrison where I met Dewart, my husband-to-be. We were married at my uncle's home at Beulah on November 12, 1935. We have a family of five. Joseph Frederick farms the home farm, and operates a mixed farm. He has Holstein cattle, but is gradually making a change to Maine-Anjou cattle. Florence Emily, our only daughter, married John Armbrust in 1962 and they live in Regina. Kenneth Wayne married Sylvia

Bodner of Thunder Bay. They were married in July 1963. Their family consists of a son, Michael Kenneth, now completing Grade XII and planning to go to university this fall. He plans to be a lawyer. Their daughter, Janice Karen, is completing her Grade X. Ken is manager of National Accounts Royal Bank, Calgary. Norman Harry lives in Winnipeg. He married Anita Labossiere in May, 1965. Bob, our youngest, resides in Brandon. He received his schooling at Isabella and then Miniota collegiate. He went to Brandon University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree. He graduated as a Psychiatric Nurse in 1976, and then graduated as a Registered Nurse in 1977. He has been employed by Brandon General Hospital since graduation. Bob is still furthering his education at Brandon University.

Dewart passed away in November 1967 and is buried in the Isabella Cemetery. I still live on the home farm with my son, Joe, who is not married.

Douglas and Jeannine Harrison **by Jeanine Harrison**

Douglas Allen Harrison, son of Harry and Mary Harrison, was born July 3rd 1929. He attended school at Isabella and then worked on the home farm until the winter of 1951, when he spent several months working at Oshawa, Ontario. His marriage to Jeannine Johnson of Hamiota took place in 1952. They took up farming, living on the south-east quarter of section 31-14-25. In 1958 they moved into the house (vacated by Douglas' parents) on the northeast quarter of section 31. They have four children: Diane, Craig, Cameron and Calvin. Doug now farms all of 31-14-25, still with the "Long Green Line" (John Deere) equipment. His winters are taken up



Calvin and Cameron Harrison, Glennis and Diane Rothnie, Craig Harrison, Mary, Jeannine and Doug Harrison, 1981.

with hockey as he is referee-in-chief for the North Central Hockey League. His spare time in summer is spent watching ball games.

Update on our family is as follows.

Diane graduated from Hamiota Collegiate and went to train at the Grace Hospital in Winnipeg. She worked at the Assiniboine Hospital in Brandon and then moved to Shoal Lake to work in Morley House. She still works there part-time. She is married to Glennis Rothnie of Strathclair and they farm near Salt Lake. They have one daughter, Keri-Lyn.

Craig went from high school to farming with a few odd jobs in between. He worked in Anchorage, Alaska for a few months and also for Gregory Sand and Gravel. He now farms the former Larry Hunkin farm and also operates the seed cleaning plant there. Like his father, it is hockey in the winter and fastball in the summer.

Cameron worked at Morton's Garage in Miniota after leaving school. He now works for the CNR. He farms the former Lorne Miller farm. He is also interested in hockey and fastball and plays with the Skunky Dozen.

Calvin graduated from Birtle Collegiate and now works for Dayton's Implements in Shoal Lake. He farms the N1/4 of the former Hec Calder farm. He plays hockey with the Foxwarren Falcons, fastball with the Isabella Reds and baseball with the Miniota 18 and unders.

The last fifteen years have brought about a lot of changes, some good, some not so good. I wonder what the next fifteen will bring?

Frank Cannon Harrison and Betty Mackee Harrison **by Betty Mackee Harrison**

Josiah and Emily Harrison came from Ontario and settled on a farm in the Blaris District four miles south of what is now the town of Isabella. Here on August 24, 1892 their third son, Frank Cannon Harrison, was born. His sister Stella and brothers Dewart and Harry were older than Frank and six years later his sister Grace was born.

Frank attended the Blaris School for the first eight years, went to Hamiota High School and then to Portage la Prairie for Normal School. He then went to Winnipeg for a course in Manual Training and taught this subject there until the death of his father in 1914.

Mr. Harrison had left each of his sons a quarter section of his farm and Frank decided to buy another quarter from his mother and farm the land. As the original home was situated on this property, his mother continued to live there until Frank's marriage to Betty Mackee on August 24, 1921. She then moved to the home of her son Dewart. Frank took an

active part in the life of Blaris community. He played on the baseball and hockey teams, attended the social events and sang in the Church choir.

After their marriage, Frank and Betty farmed for the first year and a half and then they decided to return to the teaching profession. Their first schools were situated half way between the towns of Fraserwood and Gimli. They taught there three years and then in the Dauphin district. Their son Laurence Holland Harrison, was born June 12, 1927 and they returned to the farm in July.

During the next nine years they once more participated in the life of the Blaris Community. Their son Gordon Reid was born on February 27, 1930 and on July 30, 1933, their son James Donovan was added to the family. In the fall of 1936, discouraged by the drought, which made farming in Manitoba very difficult, Frank and Betty decided to sell the farm and move to British Columbia.

They spent the winter in Vancouver and, as Betty's parents, her brothers Jack, Jim and Gordon, and her sisters Alice and Dorothy now all resided there, the time passed very pleasantly. It seemed impossible to get employed in or near Vancouver so, in the spring of 1937 they moved to Stewart, B.C. situated at the head of the Portland Canal. This town owed its existence to the gold rush at the time the Premier Gold Mine was first discovered. At that time there was a population of ten thousand people, but in 1937 the number had decreased to less than three hundred. Frank worked first at the Premier Mine but later became Clerk of the Village of Stewart. He also acted as accountant for the "Big Four" mine and agent for the Canadian National Express Co. Betty purchased a ladies' wear shop in 1939. She became a member of the Moose Lodge, taught a class in the United Church Sunday School and, during the Second World War, was an active member of the Red Cross.

The boys attended school and took part in the activities for the young people. They especially enjoyed the skiing.

As Betty's sister and brother-in-law, Nell and Bill Watt, and their son Eric, lived at Premier, where Bill operated the Power Plant, frequent visits were exchanged.

Laurence enlisted in the army on his eighteenth birthday and on his return to Stewart, worked at the Riverside Mine. On July 19, 1947, he married Mary Jocelyn Sharpe, who had come to Stewart as a teacher in the fall of 1945. In 1948 they moved to Vancouver, where they still live. Laurence is Provincial Secretary of the Royal Canadian Legion. They have five children Gordon, Bill, Ruth, Timothy and Adrienne.

Gordon Leigh was born January 14, 1949. He was

married to Gillian Scriviner of West Vancouver, September 16, 1978, and now live at Trail, where he is a partner in the law firm of McEwen, Lanyon and Harrison. His wife teaches school.

William John (Bill), a foster son, was born May 9, 1950 and came to the Harrison home four years later. He is now a Commercial fisherman.

Ruth Lynn was born September 8, 1951. She is an accountant and lives and works in Peace River, Alberta.

Timothy Mark was born November 2, 1952. He married Susan Brown of Melville, Australia on May 24, 1975. He won a Scholarship to study at the Australian National University in Canberra and received his Ph. D. in December, 1980. He is now working on a Research Fellowship at the Carnegie Institute (Dept. of Terrestrial Magnetism) in Washington, D.C. where he, his wife and son Matthew live. Matthew was born January 7, 1979.

Adrienne Joyce was born June 1, 1966. She is a student in the ninth grade at Point Grey Secondary High School.

Gordon Harrison graduated from the University of British Columbia as an electrical engineer in the spring of 1953. He lives in Calgary, Alberta. He is vice president of Dome Petroleum and President of Canmar Drilling Co. Ltd., which is a subsidiary of Dome. He married Leona Edith Sorochnik of Edmonton and they have four daughters.

Valerie Gail was born July 4, 1955. She is a graduate of the Alberta College of Art, Calgary and has her own Studio. She married Rick Riotte, a son of Professor Riotte of Wallingford, Connecticut on September 1, 1979. He is an Electronics Engineer.

Leslie Gaye was born February 2, 1957. She graduated from university as a school teacher this spring.

Kimberley Dawn was born August 7, 1961. She is attending university in Calgary.

Marcy Jill was born on October 28, 1964. She is attending high school in Calgary.

James Donovan Harrison graduated from Business College and then worked for the Canadian National Railway, where he rose to the position of Freight Sales Representative. On August 20, 1971, he married Gisela Mohr, who teaches in the Valleyview Elementary School in Kamloops. They have two children, Christina Louisa and Larisa Elizabeth, who attend school at St. Anne's Academy.

Frank Harrison asked for and obtained a transfer to the Express Office of the Canadian National Railway in Vancouver in the spring 1948. He and Betty bought a house on Point Grey Road and they lived there until the spring of 1959. They then bought and operated Moore's Motel in Kamloops, B.C. Frank

died of a heart attack in April, 1971 and Betty sold the motel and is now living in an apartment in Kamloops.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Harrison by Mrs. Harrison

Harry Harrison was born September 11, 1890, the third child of Josiah and Emily (Reid) Harrison of Blaris. He attended school at Blaris and then worked with his father, taking a business course at Brandon College for two winters. In 1916, he enlisted in the Fort Garry Horse Regiment and served overseas, returning home in June 1919. He married Mary, daughter of Charlie and Jane Craig, in November, 1919. They spent the first winter in Winnipeg, where Harry attended an army vocational course. In the fall of 1920, they farmed the three quarters of section 32-14-25. In 1924, they moved across the road, to the northeast quarter of section 31. The house was moved from near Miniota and a part built onto it later. They farmed the north half of section 31-14-25 until 1937 when they rented the south half. In 1944, they bought this half, which gave them a full section. This farm had good pasture, several sloughs and a ravine, and so enabled them to do mixed farming. A large herd of Hereford cattle was finally established. After thirty-four years on the farm, Harry and Mary moved to



Josiah, Emily, and Grace Harrison.



Harrison Reunion, 1980. Keith, Al and Margaret Dickie, Bernard Simard, Joanne Huberdeau, Craig Harrison, Wendy Dickie, Charlie Harrison, Denise Simard, Isobel, Doug and Jeannine Harrison, Lynne Dunitz, Calvin Harrison, Michael and Walter Dunitz, Archie and Jean Norrie. Front Row: Leigh Huberdeau, Diane, Mary and Wendy Harrison, Janice and Terry Klassen.

Hamiota. For quite a few years, Harry drove to the farm each day in the summer to work the land.

Six children were born to them. One died in infancy, and the other members were: Margaret, Charlie, Douglas, Jean and Jim.

Update

Dad and Mom had thirteen years together in Hamiota. They enjoyed lawn bowling, playing cards, visiting and going for car rides. Dad continued to belong to the Miniota branch of the Canadian Legion. Mom held offices in the United Church Women and Women's Institute, as well as the Ladies Auxiliary to the Legion.

Mom had two major operations in the spring of 1969, but made a good recovery. They were able to enjoy their 50th wedding anniversary celebration in November when 276 people came to call at their home.

July of 1970 was a special time for them, when they had all their grandchildren together with them. What a merry time with ten girls and five boys, between the ages of six and twenty-two!

Dad suffered a severe heart attack and passed away in Hamiota Hospital on June 5, 1971. He is buried in Isabella Cemetery.

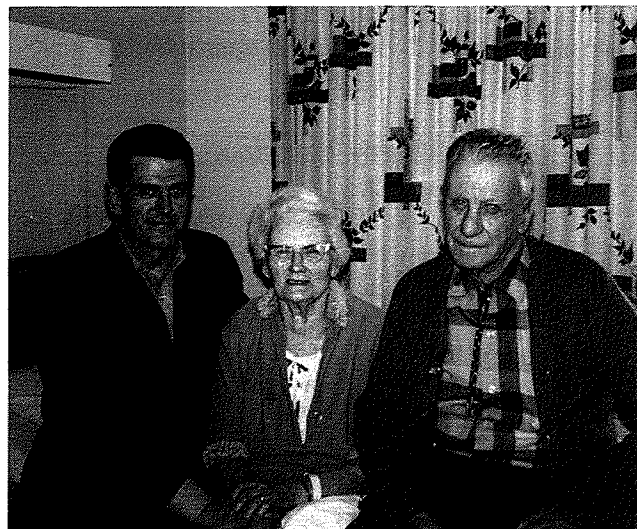
Mom continued to live by herself until the spring of 1977, when Joyce Ringland of Rapid City was hired to help. After a long stay in hospital, Sonja Larson of Brandon was hired to help her. As Mom was no longer able to cope with home, and help was hard to get, she went to Sunset Haven Nursing Home in Brandon in January, 1978.

In the fall of 1978 we were most fortunate and happy to be able to move her to Sunnyside Manor in Birtle. Here, thanks to an interested and caring staff, and the fact that she was back near home, she recovered her health both mentally and physically. She walks with a walker, enjoys reading, and looks forward to visits from friends, especially those from Hamiota and Isabella. Visits from her family are her main enjoyment, and she is lucky to have so many of us nearby. Besides fifteen grandchildren, she now has thirteen great grandchildren. Mom was happy to be able to enjoy the Harrison Reunion that was held in Isabella on August 3, 1980 when eighty-two members enjoyed the day together.

Jim Harrison by Jean Norrie

Clifford James Harrison, the youngest child of Harry and Mary Harrison, was born on September 25, 1932. He received his education at Isabella and attended church at Blaris.

After leaving school he worked for one year on



Jim, Mary and Harry Harrison, 1969.

the farm for Rob Clark. He moved to Vancouver in the fall of 1950 and worked for his Uncle John Craig in the oil tank installation business. He also worked as a steward on the "Princess Elaine" off the coast of B.C. In 1951 he became a station agent with the Pacific Great Eastern Railway Company. During the next eight years he worked in Squamish, Shalalth, Lilloet, 100 Mile House and Exeter. Jim changed his job in 1959 and went to Quesnel to work for the Foss Launch and Tug Company of Seattle, Washington as Canadian Traffic Representative.

On November 14, 1959 he married Louise Cook of Enderby, B.C. Their first child, Tracy Anne, was born in Quensel on October 5, 1960.

They moved to Seattle in 1961 where Jim became Traffic Manager of Railroad Sales for the Foss Tug Company. Charles Jefferey was born in Seattle on November 16, 1964.

Jim suffered a fatal heart attack while driving himself to the hospital on April 27, 1979. He was 46 years old.

Mr. and Mrs. John Harrison

John Edgar Harrison was born in Milton, Ontario on August 31, 1861, the eleventh child of Richard and Jane Harrison.

He married Margaret Jane Wilson in Milton on August 30, 1891.

They had two daughters; Mabel Melissa, born on July 19, 1892; and Muriel Eleanor born on March 18, 1897.

The family came to Manitoba from Ontario in 1904. They began farming on 19-14-25 (now owned by Gordon Campbell).

Mabel and Muriel took their schooling in Blaris and Crandall.

Margaret (Maggie) passed away in 1910.

In 1911 the family moved to the SW ¼ of 28-14-25 (now owned by Barry Miller).

Mabel took her nurses' training in Brandon.

John married Florence Wismer in Unity, Saskatchewan in 1912. In 1916 the family moved to Dunnville, Ontario.

Muriel took her nurses' training in the U.S.A. She married Rev. David W. Ellison on Sept. 1, 1923. They went the same year to serve as missionaries at Mission Evangelique, Battambang, Cambodia.

They had three children who later served as missionaries. John David was born in Cambodia on November 15, 1925; Joseph Paul born on June 24, 1929 in Dunnville, Ontario; and Helen Anne born in Hong Kong on September 12, 1932.

John married Jean Beck and they had four children: Ruth, Ted, Steve and Stan. John and Jean are now in Lansing, Michigan.

Paul married Eunice Hamilton and they had four children: Elaine, David, Robert and Linda (Linda died in Saigon, Vietnam when she was five years old). Paul and Eunice are in California working with Cambodian refugees.

Helen married Rev. John D. Ellenberger and they had three daughters: Christine, Cynthia and Patricia. They are with the Christian Missionary and Alliance in Ilage, West Irian, Indonesia.

John Edgar Harrison died November 1, 1940 and Florence in 1975. David Ellison died in Battambang on September 27, 1963. Mabel died November 12, 1972. Muriel died in Dunnville, Ontario August 16, 1977.

Norman and Anita Harrison

by Norman Harrison

I finished high school in Isabella in 1959, and started work with the Royal Bank in Ste. Rose du Lac, Manitoba. I was transferred to Geraldton, Ontario, and then Somerset, Manitoba, where I met my wife to be.

I left the bank in 1964, and moved to Brandon where I worked for six months.

I married Anita Labossierre from St. Leon, Manitoba on May 8, 1965. We moved to Winnipeg that fall, and I took a course in Power Engineering. I worked at Border Fertilizer until they stopped manufacturing fertilizer in 1966. We moved to Thompson, Manitoba, where I worked for Inco, and my wife worked for the Royal Bank.

We moved back to Winnipeg in 1968. I worked for the Border Chemicals, Building Products of Canada, and then in St. Boniface Hospital.

In 1975, we moved to Notre Dame de Lourdes, Manitoba, to get away from the city, and try country

living. I was employed by the hospital and nursing home.

In 1979, missing city living, we moved back to Winnipeg and I rejoined the St. Boniface General Hospital. We have three children: Sandra 12, Cheryl 11 and Lisa 4.

Stella Harrison

by Jean Norrie

Stella May Harrison was born September 6, 1888, the second child of Josiah and Emily (Reid) Harrison of Blaris. She grew up on the farm SE ¼ 31-14-25, with her brothers Dewart, Harry and Frank and sister Grace. She attended school at Blaris.

Her father died May 13, 1914 at the age of sixty-six. Stella stayed at home to help her mother until 1920 when she went to Winnipeg to work in Eaton's and later the Bay.

In 1935, she came home to be with her mother. Stella and her mother spent the next five summers on the farm. Their winters were spent with her sister and brother-in-law Grace and Gordon Hunter of Kenton.

Her mother died March 13, 1940 at the age of 80. Stella lived with the Hunter family for the next seventeen years.

While in Kenton she took part in community affairs. She wrote stories and poetry, some of which were published. She wrote the first edition of the Kenton history, Cradle to Combine in 1956.

In 1957, Stella moved to Brandon, where she died July 14, 1962 at the age of sixty-five. She is buried in Isabella Cemetery.

Allan Heise

by Allan Heise

I, Allan Davidson Heise, son of Davidson and Margaret Heise, was born on March 14, 1955, in Hamiota Hospital. I have been told that the trip to Hamiota was in the middle of the stormiest, coldest part of the winter. I went to school in Isabella for Grades I-VII. Grades I-IV were all taught in one room by one teacher, Mrs. Johnson. When one was on the east side of the room (which was Grade IV row) one felt like a big kid. I can remember the flash cards for Mathematics and standing at the back of the room for reading. Grades V and VI were in a different room and with a different teacher. This time, we had a male teacher, Mr. Fraser. I think we were a bit awed that there were men as teachers. Finally, the last year at Isabella, Miss Komentz was our teacher. Lunch time was 12-1. Lunches were eaten in the basement — each room to a different table. We had to have tables cleaned of crumbs and to be quiet before we were able to go outside to play. During

those seven years I enjoyed all activities that were part of the school-field days, softball, soccer, Christmas concerts, Hallowe'en parties. I was involved in Cubs, Scouts, Sigma C, church, hockey, and all rink activities.

Grade VIII was a big step. I attended Birtle Elementary School. Quite a few things were different; riding in a bus to school instead of a car, only one grade per room, not all your school chums in the same school, different teachers for different subjects. This was just a stepping stone for high school.

I finished my schooling at Birtle Collegiate, graduating in 1973. I was involved in athletics and co-curricular activities. I was treasurer of the Student Council in my final year.

After schooling I stayed home for a year and then decided that farming was what I would want to do. I enrolled in the Diploma of Agriculture Course at the University of Manitoba and graduated in 1976.

Winter months found me looking for jobs, — Winnipeg, Innisfail, and Calgary. Summer was for farming. In 1979, I took another step to being a farmer. I purchased a quarter from Ted Finkbeiner and a quarter from Johnnie Finkbeiner. (NW and SW 10-15-25). Since then I have had some bush cleared. Dad and I have worked out an agreement of farming.

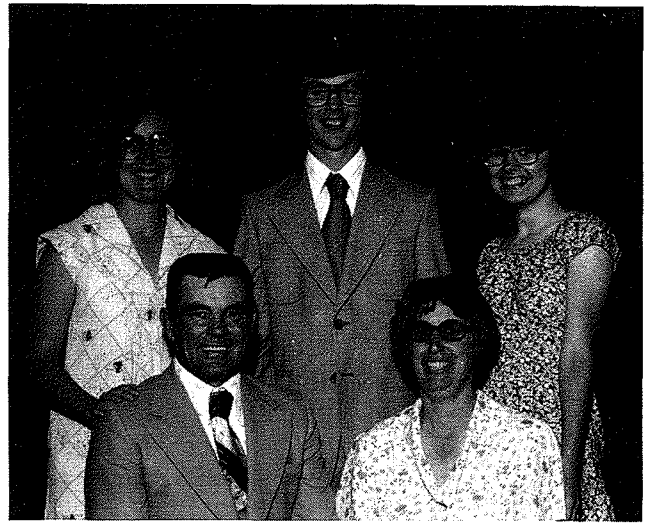
I am on the Isabella Reds ballteam as a coach and player. I have served on the hall board and have helped anywhere that is needed. Isabella may not be a big town but I am proud to say I come from Isabella.

Art and Marg Heise by the Art Heise family

Arthur Nelson Heise, third son of Russel and Thirza Heise, was born January 19, 1932. In attendance were Dr. R. K. Chalmers and nurse Maggie Craig. He grew up in the Isabella district attending church and school, playing ball and hockey with the local teams as well as sharing in the chores at home where he learned to appreciate farm life. When it came time for him to choose an occupation, he tried construction work in Winnipeg. One winter's experience was enough and the next spring he began farming with his father.

Margaret Laura Coutts, elder child of Stewart and Vida (English) Coutts, was born on the farm near Newdale, Manitoba, June 14, 1930. Dr. R. Kippen and Nurse Hill were in attendance. She received her education at Newdale, later taking one year of teachers' training at Tuxedo Normal School in Winnipeg. She taught at Osprey school near Neepawa, at Isabella and at Basswood.

Art and Margaret were married July 21, 1956 in the Newdale United Church. Dr. P. N. Murray officiated. Their first home was a trailer. That fall they



Adele, Kendall, Arla, Art and Margaret Heise, 1980.

moved into the second house in the yard. Lenore Adele was born July 9, 1957; Arla Joyce was born August 30, 1960; and Kendall Lorne on July 26, 1962. All three were born in the Hamiota Hospital.

In 1954 Art rented 3-14-25 near Crandall. In the spring of 1961 they purchased the east half of 5-15-25 from Art's father. July 27, 1962 Art signed the papers to buy the Crandall farm. It must have seemed that having a son born the day before made him dash out to buy land. Two years later Art bought the home farm — west half of 4-15-25. The work force changed with the Pieter Ackermans' family leaving for another area after working with Dad and Art for three years. Stan and Ann Tutkaluke bought the Crandall farm. No one really missed the eight mile move of equipment between farms, nor the countless trips Mother Heise made to carry meals to the men in the fields. They bought the south half of 29-14-25 from Art's mother the year after his dad's passing in 1971. George Ariss helped at this time, driving tractors during the busiest seasons for a number of years. Adele realized an ambition to drive the tractors. Mr. R. L. Stevenson once commented on her straight lines as she cultivated the summerfallow — a compliment she valued. By the time she took summer jobs away from home, Kendall was the tractor operator.

The Holstein herd gradually gave way to beef cattle to lessen the work load. The cream truck no longer made a call although one grade Holstein still supplies milk for the family, one dog, and a number of cats. There are now fifteen purebred polled Herefords registered under the prefix HI-C. Rented pasture keeps the cow-calf operation well fed. Crops of canola and field peas have been added to the crop rotation with summerfallowing practised on 20-25% of total acreage. Chemical fertilizers and herbicides play a large role in field cropping.

Art and Marg feel their family was fortunate having grandparents close during their growing up years. Arla especially spent much time at Grandma's house. They experienced the change from local schools to the larger school divisions. The yellow school bus became a familiar sight. All three children made daily trips to Hamiota where their father and grandfather had boarded to complete their high school.

Adele took Grades I to V at Isabella, Grade VI at Crandall, and completed the rest of her schooling at Hamiota. Here she was smitten by the drama bug having studied English under Ross Poole's direction and enjoyed small parts in the school drama productions. Playing baritone in the school band was another activity she liked. Adele went on to the University of Manitoba where on May 28, 1981 she received her Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Engineering degree. At present she is employed by the Department of Agriculture in Edmonton.

Arla received Grades I and II at Isabella. Due to the patience of her first teacher, Miss Sawatsky, Arla learned how to "talk", a handy skill she has been using ever since! After the Isabella school closed, she kept contact with her Isabella friends by attending Sunday School, community functions, and also could be persuaded to "play hockey" at the rink to even up the teams. She went to Crandall school for Grades III and IV and completed her education at Hamiota, graduating in 1978. She has always valued friendships with people in the areas from Kenton to Isabella. Arla spent the past three years studying Computer Science at the University of Manitoba. Although she lives in Winnipeg, she still considers herself to be living in a suburb of Isabella.

Kendall studied Grades I and II at Crandall school before moving to Hamiota. For a number of years he played the alto saxophone in the school band. He enjoyed playing hockey with a team from Miniota. In 1975 they managed to win the twelve and under Provincial D championship with much credit due to their coach Arni Miller. Kendall enjoys playing with the Isabella fastball team. This past year he has spent at the University of Manitoba in the Agriculture degree course.

Art has been a member of the I.O.O.F. lodge for twenty-five years. He joined the Decker lodge later transferring to the Miniota lodge. Art farms the s.w.¼ 4-15-25, his grandfather J. E. Heise's homestead. In 1982 this land will have been farmed by the family for one hundred years. It might be added that a hail storm July 7, 1981 smashed windows in the old house. In so far as can be traced, this was the first time, since the house was built in 1909, that it had been damaged by hail.

Arthur and Phoebe Heise

by Phoebe Heise

Arthur Charles Heise, elder son of James Edwin and Laura Amelia, was born August 28, 1893. Now 88 years of age, he recalls his grandmother, Christiana Heise, smoked a clay pipe and had a beautiful garden at the William Iverach home where she lived after her husband Peter Heise's death. She told of coming first to Portage la Prairie and of disliking the area because there were no trees. Phoebe remembers her father-in-law, Edwin Heise, telling of their trip to Manitoba. They left Ontario by train from Victoria Square near Markham where he was born. They travelled to Toronto, then on to St. Paul, Minnesota where they left the train to take a boat to Emerson in Manitoba. Their chattels were left in a pile on the river bank until arrangements were made to travel west. Sometimes settlers' possessions might be left as long as three weeks but nothing was ever taken.

Art graduated from the Manitoba Agriculture College with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture degree, in 1918. The college at that time was located in Tuxedo. In 1925 Art married Phoebe Eleanor Harvey of Fort William, Ontario. They have lived in Fort William, in Winnipeg, and in Ottawa where they presently reside. Art was in charge of the Plant Products Division, Department of Agriculture Laboratories for all of Canada when he retired in 1961. He represented Canada at the World Seed Conference at The Hague and Paris in 1956. Phoebe accompanied him and following the conference they enjoyed visiting eight European countries.

In 1975 they celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary. That summer they made a trip which took them back to the farm at Isabella. Art still takes his morning and afternoon walks. In 1953 Phoebe began teaching hooking of rugs and wall hangings in Adult Education classes. She still spends two nights a week instructing and has met so many nice people through her teaching.

Their elder son, Robert Harvey, married Ann Wood of Brockville. Bob is head of a sales division for Dupont of Canada Limited. Their son, Brian Arthur, has a degree in Marine Biology and in 1981 was taking an honors course at Guelph. Pamela Lynn is studying Food Science at Western University in London and the youngest, Keith Russel, is considering an electronics course. Art and Phoebe's second son, Russel Arthur, graduated in Radio and Television Technology from Ryerson. His work has taken him to many parts of the world. Their daughter, Eleanor Elizabeth, moved to Victoria, B.C. in 1980 driving there with her three children Winona, Nicholas, and Timothy, plus Willy from Haiti.

Carolyn Heise **by Carolyn Heise**

I, Carolyn Jane Heise, second daughter of Dave and Marg Heise, was born February 26, 1957, at Hamiota, Manitoba.

My early childhood years are filled with recollections of attending the small 'Isabella' school, the Sunday School, of having piano lessons, and of course going to the Isabella Fowl Suppers!

Isabella school was moved to Birtle when I was in Grade VI. In Birtle I completed my Grade VI — XII education. Junior high and high school brought with it many activities. During junior high I took Highland dancing lessons and travelled summers to fairs and parades with the Rivers Pipe Band. In high school I was involved in drama, yearbook and, of course, athletics. Being in a small school, I took part in several sports: volleyball, basket ball, curling, field hockey and especially, fastball. Fastball and swimming lessons were very important in summer holidays. I have fond memories of attending all the local sportsdays.

Upon completion of Grade XII, I moved to Winnipeg and enrolled in the Faculty of Home Economics at the University of Manitoba.

In the summer holidays of 1976 and 1977, I worked as a summer recreation program coordinator for Miniota Municipality. Swimming lessons, canoe clinics, overnight camp-outs and playground programs were some of the activities that stand out in my mind. In the summer of 1978 I had a unique work experience. I was one of the 'Moustache Riders' who travelled the province of Manitoba in a white Renegade Jeep looking for milk drinkers! This was a promotional campaign sponsored by the Manitoba Milk Marketing Board and the Canadian Dairy Food Service Bureau. From touring through the province that summer and attending all the local festivals and fairs I became more aware of the different cultures, the talents, and the varying landscapes that make Manitoba a friendly Manitoba.

In May, 1979, I received my Bachelor of Home Economics, majoring in foods and nutrition. That spring I was employed as an inservice coordinator with the Manitoba Health Service Commission. Once again, I travelled across the province from Winnipeg to Thompson and points in between, presenting seminars on sanitation and safety to local hospitals and personal care homes.

In July 1979 until June, 1980, I gained experience in the field of foods and nutrition, working as a food supervisor in Dauphin General Hospital. So enthused was I with the food service industry, I decided to take my dietetic internship at University Hospital, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. On August 28, 1980,

after a full year of work and study, I graduated and became a dietitian.

On September 28, 1981 I commenced employment at St. Paul's Hospital, Saskatoon. I am a therapeutic dietitian at the 350-bed acute care hospital. While in Saskatoon I have become involved with several professional activities.

Although I have lived in Saskatoon for one and a half years, 'home' is still the small, friendly, community of Isabella, — a short six hour drive away.

Dave and Marg Heise **by Dave and Marg Heise**

I, Edwin Davidson Heise, was born on June 25, 1924, the eldest son of Russel and Thirza Heise. I attended Isabella School and took Grade XII in Miniota. I served in the R.C.A.F. for three years. I was an air-frame mechanic and was stationed at several Canadian points. In March 1949, I received a Diploma in Agriculture at the University of Manitoba. I was president of the class during the second year. I began farming in the Isabella district by purchasing the N ½ 18-15-25 from Mr. Donald Marshall, April, 1949.



Margaret, Carolyn, Dave, and Allan Heise, 1981.

I, Margaret Ethel Doupe, daughter of Hartwell and Gladys Doupe of Crandall, was born September 5, 1924. I attended school at Crandall and then at Brandon College, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree. I taught 'on permit' at Elkhorn and Beulah High Schools. I then took one year of Education (teacher training) at the University of Manitoba. Following this I taught at Isabella for two years.

We were married at Crandall, October 27, 1951 and have lived on 18-15-25 since then. We lived in the old house for three years. The house was 14 by 24

with no basement, no insulation and just the kitchen wood stove for heat. We installed an oil conversion unit in the firebox of the stove and by burning wood during the day and the oil at night, we were able to be reasonably warm. In the summer of 1955 we started building a one and a half storey house and at the end of February, 1956, we moved into our new home. In 1956 we purchased the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 9-15-25 from Ted and Joan Miller. In 1960 we purchased the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 18-15-25 from Len and Lottie Hall; and, in 1969, we purchased the W $\frac{1}{2}$ 8-15-25 from Bill and Elva Gilchrist.

We have three children: Sandra Louise (Armitage) born May 20, 1953; Allan Davidson, born March 14, 1955; and Carolyn Jane, born February 26, 1957. Each of them has submitted a history.

Our first few years on the farm kept us very close to home. Our family was young and because of our roads blocked with snow in the winter and muddy in the summer, it definitely affected our participation in the community functions.

I, Margaret, taught piano lessons out of our home. This was not a good arrangement for the family. Supper hour was a disaster time! I considered substitute teaching, but in 1964 I was persuaded (due to a shortage of teachers) to teach full time. I began in Crandall High School but the following year transferred to Birtle Collegiate. For fifteen years I drove to and from school. Roads and car gave little trouble. However in 1979 I took an early retirement and have since found many chores to more than fill the hours. History committee work is one of them!

We are living in an era where there have been many changes.

Thirty years ago there was no talk of pollution. Now we have air pollution, noise pollution, water pollution, and soil pollution. There is a necessity to become energy conscious in heating our homes, in operating our cars, and in using farm equipment. I, Dave, remember in university, one of the class mentioned the word, 'smog'. The professor had not heard of the word, so it just shows that thirty years ago no one thought of any ill effects to our environment.

We have also seen many changes to our little community of Isabella. Our community has actually gone through all the stages of 'death and dying'. We have suffered the loss of facilities in town, — elevator, station, garage, schools, and railroad, plus the loss of families because of the increase in larger farms. However, we have survived in being able to function as a community by our endeavors through church, hall and rink. We are an active, viable group and live with the larger communities where our children attend school and participate in team sports. There has been a vast change in the methods of farming, — from the horse to the tractor, from the

binder and threshing machine to the swather and combine. More use of fertilizers and chemicals have increased the economic risks of cropping.

James Edwin Heise

James Edwin Heise received the patent for his homestead on September 11, 1891. The seal on the patent was bright red and about three and one half inches in diameter. Land was cultivated and a small house was built on a knoll near the correction line. Neighbors were few and far between but they had many social gatherings.

There were several years of drought and one year Edwin Heise, his brother, Sim, Will Iverach and three other men put up hay at Dauphin and drove their stock there for the winter. A few years later in 1892 owing to the shortage of water, the Heise family decided to move to the United States, where Ed found work in a cheese and butter factory in Palatine, Illinois. We still have the certificate and medal that J. E. Heise won for the highest scoring butter exhibited at the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893.

While in Palatine, Ed Heise married Miss Laura Amelia Harrison of Milton, Ontario, in 1892, and moved to Barrington, Illinois. Here they raised their family of three: namely, Arthur Charles, Gertrude Amelia and Russel Edwin.

Prosperous times began in Manitoba in 1903, and in 1909, J. E. Heise with his wife and family returned to his homestead. He bought the northwest quarter of section 4-15-25 from Frank R. E. Reid and built the present house, using flooring that he brought from Chicago in a carload of household effects. A carload of lumber was bought in Winnipeg, shipped to Arrow River, and neighbors helped bring it to his farm. A good roof was built on the 34' x 43' barn that was on the farm and a new horse barn 60' x 36' was built in 1916.

The lane had been lined with well-spaced spruce trees that had been secured from north of Shoal Lake by Mr. Robert Reid, hence the name "Spruce Lane Farm". A story is told by Mr. John Clark, who was driving by while the trees were planted.

"What are you doing there?", he called, "those trees will not grow here". One man who had worked in a German Forestry Station answered, "Meester, every tree will grow," and they did.

Mrs. J. E. Heise started a perennial garden with three varieties of peonies from the United States, one of which is comparable to our present day varieties. Mrs. Heise was interested in oil painting and pastel work and gave lessons to many in the district. She held a first class lifetime certificate to teach art in Ontario.



Russel, Ed, Arthur, Millie, and Gertrude Heise, 1908.

The children attended the school which had been built in 1905 and the family attended church which was also held in the school house. The boys later spent the winter months at the Manitoba Agricultural College and obtained their degrees in Agriculture. Arthur became a seed analyst for the Dominion Government, and Russel bought the home farm. In 1941, he bought the east half of 5-15-25, which he sold to his son Arthur in 1961 and bought the south half of 29-14-25. Mixed farming over the years consisted of grain, hay, an accredited herd of Holsteins, hogs, poultry and bees. The parents and daughter retired to Isabella where Mrs. Heise passed away in 1933. Gertrude married Mr. R. Warren in 1934 and now lives in Dauphin. Mr. J. E. Heise was an agent for the Imperial Oil Co. for a few years at Isabella, then bought land and lived in Victoria, B.C. He died on August 5, 1949, at the age of eighty-seven.

Gertrude and Russell Warren continued to live in Dauphin following Russell's retirement as grain buyer for the United Grain Growers. They took pride in caring for their home grounds. Russell was a keen spectator at local fairs and sports events. He was always well informed on the various national hockey league teams and players. His theory on money management was that a well placed loan was a good thing but you could not borrow yourself out of debt. They made regular trips to Isabella to visit relatives often reporting the wild life they had seen along the highway as they drove through Riding Mountain National Park. Gertrude spent many hours doing embroidery and crochet work. She kept scrapbooks to record pictures and accounts of the activities of not only her nephews and niece but also of people from Isabella. Tracing her family tree, taking pictures, music and painting were also her hobbies.

Russell passed away March 30, 1961. Gertrude died January 7, 1964 and was buried in the Isabella cemetery.

John and Merle Heise

by John Heise

I am very proud to be an Isabella kid and to be a part of a family which has been involved in the community virtually from day one. Being born in the 30's would suggest hardship but I was the lucky one who only lived through 5½ months of that decade. I hardly remember the World War II and then came the longest and greatest prosperous period of the western world. We've had the odd bump and we think we are suffering now, but, compared to the majority of the world, we are very, very fortunate people.

Being the youngest of five boys gave me a great opportunity to learn various facets of life. Some good. Some — well!! Being the only red-head added some uniqueness. Community activities such as 4H Clubs, church groups, and sports, plus schooling was an excellent background to take me on to the University of Manitoba where I followed my father's success in receiving a bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture.

My vocation has primarily been in the money business — initially as a farm loan representative, then on in the mortgage business with a trust company and a life insurance company (With brother Lawrence, also developed a Dairy Queen outlet in East Kildonan — one of the best in Manitoba.) Also spent



Kevin, Allison, John, Merle, and Cameron Heise.

three years in real estate development and currently operate a mortgage consulting and lending business. My employment has taken me from Winnipeg to Regina, Saskatoon, Vancouver and for the past 8½ years we have resided in Calgary.

My wife, Merle, always felt left out of the first Isabella history. She held the camera for the Heise family picture. Only months later we were married (in 1963). Merle is the daughter of Art and Jean Branson of Winnipeg. She is a graduate in Home Economics. We have three children: Allison born in

1967, Kevin in 1968, and Cameron in 1972. Calgary is now our home and we expect it to always be; but it is with pride I say I'm from Isabella.

Lawrence and Lynn Heise **by Lawrence Heise**

Lawrence, the fourth child of Russel and Thirza Heise was born on March 10, 1934. He attended Isabella School, Brandon University and University of Manitoba. On completing his education he assisted his father on the farm. In 1960 he took employment with Canada Safeway's milk processing plant; being plant manager for 15 years. In 1981 he left Lucerne to start Western Sanitation & Safety Services, a consulting firm, for the purpose of inspecting and evaluating sanitation and technique in food manufacture, handling and preparation.

Lawrence married Lynn Anderson in 1961 and they have three children: Richard Markham born March 17, 1967, Barbara Rae born on June 8, 1968, and Alana Gail born August 9, 1973. They currently live in the Westwood area of Winnipeg. Lawrence



Richard, Lawrence, Barbara, Lynn and Alana Heise.

and Lynn are active in the community, both serving on the board of Westminster United Church, being involved in Scouts and Guides in the Westwood area and assisting in local community club activities. Lynn continues to be active with the Grace Hospital Nurses Alumni while Lawrence enjoys playing ball with the local team in the area's old timers league.

Other activities include a cottage at Twin Beach on Lake Manitoba, a small acreage at Headingly and antique cars.

Miss Mary Heise **by Mrs. R. Scarth**

Mary Angeline Heise, eldest daughter of Peter and Christiana Heise, came west from her birthplace at Markham, Ontario, with her parents and the other members of the family in 1880. She was then in her early twenties. She had some musical talent and it is said her concertina helped pass the tedious hours for "Prittie's Party" on the long train journey to Manitoba.

Three years later the family moved to homesteads in the Isabella and Decker districts. Mary and her sister Priscilla, who was ten years younger, kept house for one of the brothers and cared for a few cattle and some poultry for the first summer.

Some time during these early years she became engaged and filled a large oak chest with articles for her own home. The man went away, wrote a few letters, sent a collection of beautiful shells from Florida, then stopped writing and was never heard from again.

Her parents sold out and moved to the U.S.A. in the early 1890s. While she lived there with them she took lessons in oil painting. In 1893 her sister married and came back to the Isabella district to live. In 1906 Priscilla asked Mary to come and keep house for her while she went to visit her mother and brothers near Chicago. Their father died in 1898. When Priscilla came home her mother came with her and from that time on "Aunt Mary" and "Grandma" made their home with Mr. and Mrs. W. Iverach and their family.

She continued with her painting and a great number of canvasses were stored and hung in the house. She also did some very beautiful embroidery, inheriting from her mother an aptitude for handicraft, and an ability to make a thing of beauty out of whatever material was at hand. The men were supplied with hats made from braided wheat straw. The house had bouquets of fresh flowers in summer and flowers dried in washed sand made winter bouquets. These were used sometimes as subjects for a painting.

She helped her sister and sometimes neighbors, with sewing or quilting and during the First World War she bought a hand-knitting machine and turned out many pairs of socks for the Sewing Circle. She was the first president of the "Pansy" Mission Band when it was organized in 1907.

About 1929 a man who had come to work on the farm began to pay marked attention to Mary and in 1930 they were married. She was 72. They spent one winter in Winnipeg with her niece Edna Iverach boarding with them. They returned to Isabella in the spring and before the year was out her husband disappeared. Her health, never too good, failed

rapidly. At the end of another year the task of nursing her became too much for her sister. She was taken to St. Boniface Hospital where she died in January 1932, ten years, almost to the day, after the death of her mother at Mrs. Iverach's home.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Heise

by Mrs. R. E. Heise

The Heise family, in company with a number of other families from their home in the old kingdom of Bavaria, now Switzerland, emigrated to America on a ship called the "Adventurer". They arrived in Pennsylvania on October 2, 1727. These first families took up land in the Lancaster and Lebanon townships in Pennsylvania. About forty years later, when the area was surveyed, the deeds for this land were signed by the sons of William Penn, and are in possession of the Heise families who are still on part of the original land.

In 1804, '05, '06, three brothers, Christian, Jacob and Joseph of the third generation left Pennsylvania and came to Canada taking up land in the township of Markham, north of Toronto.

Jacob, who came in 1805, paid one thousand dollars for two hundred acres of land, not far from Richmond Hill.

In 1880, his grandson, Peter Heise, who had married Christiana Snider, came with his family to Manitoba and rented land nine miles north of Portage la Prairie. The father and sons searched for land and finally took up land in homesteads in what is now the Decker and Isabella districts.

Peter Heise located on the southeast quarter of 12-15-25, Henry, the eldest son, located on the northeast quarter of 16-15-25. Edwin's homestead was the southwest quarter 4-15-25.

Simeon's homestead was the northeast quarter of 12-15-25. Another son, Will, had taken ill at Brandon and died in Brandon Hospital. He was buried in Brandon cemetery.

The two daughters were Mary and Priscilla. Mary later married William Williamson and Priscilla became Mrs. William Iverach. Sarah, a sister of Peter Heise had married Abraham Eyer, and settled nearby. Their daughter Sarah married Thomas Irvine who farmed in the Crandall district.

Peter Heise passed away in 1892 and is buried in the United States.

Mrs. P. Heise passed away in 1922 and is buried in the Isabella Cemetery.

Russel Douglas Frederick and Shirley Heise

written by R. D. F. Heise

I was born at Isabella on April 13, 1928, the

second son of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Heise, I received my education at Isabella School.

My farming career started in 1946 when I purchased SW ¼ 29-14-25 from my grandfather, J. E. Heise.

In the spring of 1948, I completed a course at the University of Manitoba receiving a diploma in Agriculture.

October 21, 1950, I married Miss Shirley Ann Schweitzer of Decker, and we lived on my brother's farm for four-and-a-half years. A small house was built on my father's farm, where we lived for four years until we purchased the southwest quarter 9-15-25 from Ted Miller in the fall of 1960. I had also bought the southeast quarter of 29-14-25. In 1960, we sold the southwest quarter of 29-14-25.

In 1960, we sold south half of 29-14-25 and bought the three quarters 18-15-25, formerly known as the Len Hall farm, and originally the farm of my great uncle S. P. Heise. We have four children: Russel Harvey, born July 31, 1952; Glenda Ann, born June 6, 1954; Lorelle Elizabeth, born October 18, 1957; and John Martin Douglas, born February 2, 1961.



Doug, Lorelle, Cathy, Harvey, Martin, Elaine, Glenda and Ron, Shirley, Mrs. Schweitzer, and Mrs. Heise, 1981.

I am a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, first joining at Decker, and later transferring to Parkissimo Lodge at Miniota, when the Decker Lodge closed. I have served on the local school board for the past three years.

Update by Doug Heise

During the past twenty years our lives have been busy and happy ones. In 1966 we built a Nelson home which included electric heat and water works. The following year we decided to go out of cattle and renovated our barn to run a hog finishing operation

along with grain farming. A steel shed and several metal granaries have also been built. At present we farm a section and half of land.

After the closing of the school in Isabella our family completed their schooling at Birtle. They all took part in extra-curricular activities such as sports, drama and festival. Each one continues to be very interested in sports but they all prefer fastball and curling.

Harvey married Cathy McFarlin of Foxwarren in May, 1975. They reside in Brandon where Harvey works at Watson's Auto Body and Cathy works for Manitoba Hydro.

Glenda married Ron Lawn in June 1976. She works at the Hamiota Health Centre. Ron is a farmer and mechanic.

Lorelle has worked at various positions in Brandon since finishing her schooling. She is at present taking her Licenced Practical Nurses trianing at Assiniboine Community College.

Martin married Elaine Prescott of St. Lazare in July, 1981. They also live in Brandon where Elaine works at the Provincial Building and Martin is taking a carpenters course at Assiniboine Community College.

After retiring from coaching the Ladies' fastball team for about ten years we have taken up fishing and camping and look forward to spending weekends at a lake.

Russel and Thirza Heise **by Thirza Heise**

Russel Edwin Heise, born July 6, 1896, son of James Edwin and Laura Amelia Heise, married Thirza Gertrude Smith of Alexander, Manitoba on April 21, 1923. I, Thirza, was born October 7, 1897, the eldest daughter of Frederick and Nellie Smith. Russel and I lived on the home farm 4-15-25.



Doug, Lawrence, John, Dave, Art, Thirza and Russel Heise, 1967.

We have a family of five sons: Edwin Davidson, born June 25, 1924; Russel Douglas Frederick, born April 13, 1928; Arthur Nelson, born January 19, 1932; Lawrence Markham, born March 10, 1934; and John Kendall, born July 17, 1939. The eldest three farm at Isabella, Lawrence lives in Winnipeg and John is in Calgary.

The efforts of the Heise family have always been toward the improvement and progress of the Isabella district through the church, school, sports and other activities of the community.

Until about 1960 we lived and worked on the farm, took part in community affairs, raised and educated our five sons.

With the boys away earning their own living, Russel and I began life as it was years ago, just the two of us in the large farm house. The house was built by Russel's parents in 1909. Russel did not wish to retire elsewhere after selling his farm to our son, Arthur, and was pleased to help the boys when needed.

In 1962 we expected to go to Oshawa, Ontario for a new car when my sister and husband, Hattie and Gordon McCallum, invited us to go to Galveston, Texas. On the way back we took the bus to Detroit and visited my cousins in Dearborn. We went to Oshawa, then to Ottawa where Russel's brother, Arthur, lived. He showed us all the sights of the city, particularly the parliament buildings.

The next year we joined my sister in Florida, going by plane, 'our first ride'. We had a few terrifying minutes when the plane fell into air pockets during an electrical storm.

Again we went south accompanied by John and Merle. We travelled to Washington where the flags were at half mast for Winston Churchill who had died that week; and, on to stand at John Kennedy's grave in Arlington cemetery. Lawrence and Lynn joined us and we went to the Bahama Islands and to Key West, Florida, also crossed the Sunshine Highway Bridge to St. Petersburg, Florida.

Twice more we spent part of our winters in the sunny south, viewed the Grand Canyon and passed through Arizona to the Carlsbad Caverns. My sister, Freda Morrison, went with us once and Mrs. Robert Clark enjoyed the trip back with us.

We were missing Manitoba winters with the attractions of hockey, curling and entertainments, so we took shorter trips to Victoria and Ontario.

In the later sixties Russel was doctoring and the end came February 25, 1971. He was buried in Isabella cemetery.

He had lived a good life — acting as secretary-treasurer of the United Church for fifty years, nineteen years as school trustee, seven of which he was

chairman. He was also a member of the choir and taught Sunday school for a number of years. Hockey and curling were his favorite sports.

I was secretary-treasurer for our Sunday school for sixteen years, my family helping me when necessary. I also enjoyed working with the Drama Society.

In later years I was asked by my cousins to take some grandchildren to visit in Detroit. I took Glenda, Adele, and Martin by plane. The cousins took us to Niagara Falls and Martin, aged 11 exclaimed, "That's a lot of water."

I stayed in my home for eight years and am now a resident in Park Residence at Hamiota. I have made many new friends, not forgetting my dear friends of Isabella.

I was blessed with my first great grandson, August 4, 1980, Brian Donald, son of Dr. Donald and Sandra Armitage.

Mr. and Mrs. Simeon Peter Heise by Mrs. Laura Clark

Simeon Heise was born in 1864, on the old homestead at Richmond Hill, Ontario, the youngest son of Peter and Christiana (Snider) Heise. He received his education at the school of his home district. In 1880 he came with his family to Manitoba, his father bringing a carload of livestock, implements, and household effects to their new home on a farm rented for three years, situated nine miles north of Portage la Prairie. While there, his father and brothers struck out in search of land where they could all settle within easy reach of each other, finally locating in what is now the Decker district.

In the spring of 1883, before the spring breakup, the Eyer family came out from Ontario. Mrs. Eyer was grandfather Heise's sister. Father drove with the team and sleigh into town to meet them. Because the weather was still cold, his mother sent plenty of extra coats and quilts for the long drive home. But the family did not come, so father started for home. Before long a storm blew up which became a wild spring blizzard. The road disappeared and they started to wander. The horses saved him, for they took him to the shelter of an old stable or grain bin. Father covered each horse with a heavy quilt and then wrapped himself up as well as he could, and so weathered the storm. The next morning when the wind went down, they were able to make their way home, where the family had spent an anxious night. The Eyer family arrived safely the next day. They also later located land in the Decker area.

Father's homestead was the northeast quarter of Sec. 12-15-25, just north of his father's, taken when the family moved to Decker in 1883. In 1884 when their house was built, he hauled the finishing lumber

and shingles from Brandon (or Portage la Prairie, I'm not certain which town). He later made a long and dangerous spring trip to have wheat gristed into flour, this time crossing Oak Lake just before the spring break-up. This story and the one about the winter spent with the cattle at Dauphin, are told elsewhere in the history.

Somewhere around 1891 or 1892 father sold his homestead for \$500, and went to the United States to operate a butter factory (creamery). He was married in 1894 to Alice Harrison, the fourth daughter of Charles and Hannah (Walker) Harrison from near Milton, Ontario and went to live at Gray's Lake, Illinois. There, two daughters were born, Laura and Vera. A few years later the family moved to Iowa. Their son, Charles Gordon was born there in 1902.

In the spring of 1907 Father decided to return to Manitoba. Before leaving the United States he bought eight horses, some implements and supplies, and travelled with that freight car to Manitoba. On the trip two of the horses took sick and died, but the rest worked on the farm for many years. Mother and we children followed a little later, and I still remember how bleak the snow covered Dakotas looked. Two years were spent on his brother J.E.'s farm south of Isabella. That first spring Father bought a pair of little pigs from Mr. Decker Sr. for five dollars, and three cows from Russell Lynch at Arrow River. I went with Father to bring these cows home. We took the sleigh, but so much of the snow had melted that it was a difficult trip home with one cow in the box and two tied on behind.

In the spring of 1909 Father bought the south half of Sec. 18-15-25.

In 1887 the Southeast quarter had been taken up by A. F. Kelly.

In 1889 James Renny had homesteaded the Southwest quarter, but he had left there after the death of his mother. Then the Marshall family spent several years there, followed in 1900 by Mr. Trevithick. In 1906 the Vining family lived there, when it was sold to Claridges, from whom Father bought it.

About 1917 Father built the barn which is still in use, and about 1924 the house was built by Mr. Jim Iverach. He had increased his land holding to three quarters.

As an illustration of the development of the Isabella School, when I reached Grade VIII it was necessary to go to Miniota for Grade IX. When Vera and Edith Kelly reached high school, they could take Grade X at home, and then went to Neepawa for Grade XI. Gordon could take his Grade XI at home, but went to Brandon College for Grade XII. The school has maintained Grade XI standing since that time.

Father was always interested, and a willing helper in the welfare and progress of his community. In 1911 he had helped in the organization toward, and then the labor of building the church at Isabella. He was a faithful attendant, and for several years the secretary-treasurer of the church board. In 1922 he served for a year as councillor, before leaving Manitoba for a few more years in the United States.

Father spent his last years in Victoria, B.C., passing away there in 1949, at the age of eighty-five. Burial took place in the family plot in Isabella cemetery.

Gordon Heise grew up on the farm, and went to school at Isabella and then took his Grade XII at Brandon College.

He spent a few years with the Royal Bank, and then went to the United States for several years, until the depression years of the 1930's closed down so much business. Near the close of that decade, he went to Ottawa where he worked in the government position for several years. He was married there to Evelyn Shipman. They have a family of four children, Bruce, Brian, Susan, and Patricia. Their home is now at Ashdad, Ontario.

1982 no update.

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Hickman by Mrs. R. Still

Dick Hickman came to Canada from England in 1920. He came to Isabella to work for his brother-in-law, Mr. Dave Moir. He then farmed with Mr. Jack Stanton on the farm presently owned by Bob Stewart. After Jack married, Dick travelled for Neil Bros. He worked at odd jobs until 1927 when he went to Winnipeg and became a car salesman, later owning a garage and used car business. He was one of the first agents for the Graham Holme Plow. He married Margaret Ostman in 1950 and lived and worked in Winnipeg until his death in 1952.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Hickman by Mrs. R. Still

Fred Hickman came to Canada from England in 1910. He was the first of five of his family to come to Canada. He worked for Warrens, Littles, Hunkins and Houcks for a few years. In 1915 he joined the Winnipeg regiment called "The Little Black Devils" and returned to England. He fought in France until the end of the war. He was wounded once in the hand.

He returned to Canada after the war and started farming in the Isabella district on Sec. 36 — twp. 15 — R26 which he rented from Mr. Doig. In 1936 he bought a farm in the Rothesay district. On April 19, 1938, he married Lizzie Smith of Rothesay.

In 1940, Fred joined the RCAF and was on guard duty across Canada until World War II ended in 1945. They took up farming again until 1950 when he sold out and bought a cafe and home in Birtle. He rented his land to Harvey Still for a year and then to Roy Irvine. While on the farm they adopted two children: Lloyd and Diane. In Birtle he was on the town council, helped with hockey teams, and was generally interested in all improvements for his community. He lived to see running water in his home.

He was active in the Birtle community until his sudden death in 1959. Diane and Lloyd are still attending Birtle school.

1982 no update.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Hickman by Mrs. R. Still

Billy Hickman came to Canada in 1911. He came directly to Isabella where his brother, Fred, worked. He first worked for Mr. T. E. Doran.

During the First World War, he served overseas and at the end of it, returned to Isabella and in February 1918 he married Pearl Still of Isabella. They farmed on Bill Preston's farm for one year and, in 1920, they moved to the north-half of sec. 25-twp. 15-R26. The house in which they lived was built by Jim Still when he rented the farm from Mr. Doig. In 1942, when Mr. Hickman joined up to serve in World War II, Mrs. Hickman and their family of four moved to Birtle to live. When Mr. Hickman returned in 1945, he and his brothers went into the cafe business. Later Fred bought another cafe and they ran the two of them. In February 1961 they sold the cafe business to their daughter, bought a house and retired.

Clarence, the oldest son, married Betty Salmon. They live in Birtle where he is employed in Honey's Service Station. They have six boys: Brian, Dwight, Garth, Wayne, Barrie and Kevin. The five oldest attend Birtle school.

Evelyn married Glen Doran. They now live in Birtle where she runs the cafe. They have four children: Bobby who is working, Billy and Linda and Lois in school.

Ivan married Florence Stebbe. They now reside in Hamiota where Ivan is manager of The Royal Bank of Canada. They have two daughters: Karen and Cheryl.

Harold married Viola, they live in Winnipeg and have two sons, Lyle and Dana. One son died soon after birth, April 30, 1962.

Billy and Pearl Hickman by Bernice Still

Mr. and Mrs. Hickman sold their house and moved to Pioneer Lodge when it first opened. They

celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary on February 26, 1968. On May 12, 1968 Pearl passed away and Billy passed away on September 5, 1971. Both are laid to rest in the Birtle cemetery. Clarence passed away on February 14, 1975. All of his sons are married. Evelyn died on October 21, 1974 and Ivan died in Winnipeg December 15, 1976. Ivan and Florence had a son born in 1963. Harold lives in Winnipeg.

Edgar and Ann Higgins by Ann Higgins

Edgar was born December 31, 1938 at Hamiota Hospital, the son of Gordon and Sadie Higgins. He grew up at Decker where he took his elementary schooling and then finished his high schooling at Hamiota. Edgar farmed with his dad and brothers from 1955 to 1974 at Beulah and Decker. During the same time period from 1969 to 1973 he ran the Shell Fuel Agency and also operated the Decker garage from 1970-72. After selling his farm at Beulah in 1974 he bought Charlie Ariss's farm at Isabella.

On November 1, 1975, Edgar married Ann who had four children from a previous marriage. They are Susan, Karen, Donna, and Gregory. They lived in Brandon for a few months and then on June 29, 1976, they all moved to the farm at Isabella. Ann and Edgar had a son, Jeramy, born April 23, 1977.



Karen, Edgar, Ann, Greg, Jeramy, and Donna.

Ann was born May 24, 1935 at Morden, Manitoba. At age seven she moved to Kenton to live with her grandparents, William and Agnes Wright. At age seventeen she left for Toronto to live with her mother but returned after one year. She went to work for Manitoba Telephone System at Carberry. Subsequent jobs after her grandmother died in May 1954 were at Saskatoon, Kenton, and Toronto. After an unsuccessful marriage, Ann moved from Toronto to Brandon with her four children.

All the children attended school in Hamiota. Susan, now eighteen years old, graduated from Grade XII in 1980. At the present time she is working in Winnipeg. Karen, now seventeen years old, finished Grade XI and hopes to graduate from Grade XII in 1982. Donna, thirteen years old, will be taking Grade IX in 1981 and Gregory (Greg), now eleven years old, will be moving up to Junior High, Grade VII, in the fall of 1981. Jeramy is now four, and will be starting kindergarten in 1982.

Charles Mitchell Hill by Charles Hill

The copy of my birth certificate reads I was born on September 2, 1926, in the farm house of Archie and Merle (Mitchell) Hill, located on section 22, rge 14, tnsdp 26. I understand that it actually was a rainy day, and that harvesting operations were not completed until well into November. I'm the oldest of a family of three. I have a sister (Anna) born March 9, 1930, and a brother (Harvey) born February 5, 1932. I spent my first seventeen years on the farm, just growing up, and going through a few trials and errors like most people do.

I spent the first eight years of my school days attending Blaris school, from 1932 until 1940. An automobile (during the late spring and early fall), a horse drawn sleigh van (in winter), or a wheeled van (in spring breakups) would call for me and some other children along a route. This school was a couple of miles east, and one mile north of the farm. While there, I recall having Miss Joan Vincent, Miss Margaret Luce, and Miss Gwen Taylor as teachers. There were a few others, but, I don't remember their names at this time.

For the next three years (1940 to 1943) I transported myself about a mile and a half north to meet the van going to Beulah, where I got my grades nine, ten and eleven. My teachers were Mr. Paul Robinson, and Mr. Bill Stevenson.

I had also lost interest in farm life, so, when I learned that the Armed Services were taking anyone under eighteen, and being interested in taking various courses, I went to Winnipeg and joined the Trades and Training Corps at Fort Osborne barracks.

I was sent to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, where I took introductory courses in auto mechanics, electrical, and drafting for a few days. I made out well in each, and was allowed to choose one of them to take additional training in, and selected the electrical. In the midst of this course, I contracted scarlet fever, and was admitted to St. Paul Isolation Hospital around the latter part of January, 1944. Darned if I didn't come down with chicken pox just before I was scheduled for release, and ended up having to stay on a bed for about two months. I'm telling you, it's no fun spending all that time just lying or sitting without being allowed to walk around, but, rules were rules, and I kept them.

A few days after I was released, I applied for a leave, and was granted a 72-hour pass. The morning I was to leave on it, though, my group and I went on about a ten mile "route march". We managed to struggle through it okay, and, after duty hours, I went downtown to the railway station and boarded the C.N.R. 'local' homeward. As it was about a ten hour ride, I took off my shoes, curled up in the seat, and slept most of the way. It wasn't long before the conductor was announcing that Miniota station was next, so I tried to put my shoes back on and get ready to detrain. I found that my feet and ankles were swelled so much I couldn't get much more than my toes into those shoes. I had to hobble off the train in sock feet, carrying a suitcase in one hand and my shoes in the other. It was just agony to try and walk, and when the pain was still unbearable the next day, Mum called Doctor Chalmers out from town to have a look. He diagnosed it as inflammation in the ankles, and sent a report up to the commander at Saskatoon that I would be unable to return to duty for a day or two. I got about ten days out of that 72-hour pass, but, somehow, I didn't enjoy it as well as I might have.

Shortly after that, I went on draft to Hamilton, Ontario. While on the way, some of the group came down with mumps, so we were detrained at Toronto and isolated in a building called Allonby Barracks. After about a week, and when it was determined the rest wouldn't come down with the infection, we went on to Hamilton.

My electrical training continued for several more months, during which V.E. Day was celebrated. I can vaguely recall sitting in the middle of the main intersection enjoying a beer. All traffic except street cars were barred from the area, and several thousands of people were gathered there, as I remember.

The next place I was stationed at was Camp Petawawa, Ontario. By this time I was mustered out of the Trades Training Corps and listed as a sapper with the Royal Canadian Engineer Corps. We trained

at setting mines and other explosives, most of which were detonated electrically, and used "dummy charges". (Good thing, too, as we would have been "blown to smithereens" had they been real).

Meantime, the treaty with Japan was signed, and I had the choice of signing on for another three years, or obtaining a discharge. I chose the latter, and soon was back at Fort Osborne barracks, to be discharged in mid-August 1945.

I returned home to the farm and helped Dad for a year or so, then got a job helping a fellow by the name of Elwood (Buzz) Angus who lived near Oakner. I spent one or two months with him sowing oats, and catching up on spring work. In place of wages I got a young sow that was "expecting", and she soon gave birth to about six or seven squealers. These were brought to the weaning age and sold, along with the sow. I didn't keep all of the returns, but, gave most of it to Dad to cover expenses.

I stayed with the folks for a while longer, then went to work for Tim and June (Torrance) Thraile and helped with the harvesting. They had a farm near Cardale.

I became interested in "electronics" after looking through some old editions of Popular Electronics and Mechanics magazines which Mr. Donald Sutherland gave me. He had learned how to repair radios through the help of these books, and I, in turn, by salvaging parts from an old Kolster radio we had used during the '30's, I built my first working radio. It received signals in one of the "amateur bands", and I was so proud and happy, that I stayed up all one night and well into the next morning with my ears "glued to the speaker". Some of these fellows were at Bin-scarth, St. Lazare, Russell, and Foxwarren, and they were in contact with several out in Saskatchewan.

Along about February, 1949, I heard I could use my rehabilitation grant offered by the government to all ex-servicemen, so went to Winnipeg and took an eight week course at the Manitoba Technical Institute. Then, I left my name with the unemployment office as I was looking for employment with anyone that was involved with radio.

I went back home and stayed until the following November, then returned to Winnipeg and obtained employment with a firm called Factory Products. They set me to work making up crystal radio kits for about two months. I boarded in a house on Smith Street, and walked to and from work six days a week. The company then moved from Jarvis Avenue to 88 Arthur Street, and opened a sales outlet and mail order service for all kinds of war surplus goods. I spent from then until the spring of 1959 working there, then went out home for the summer months.

While working with Factory Products, I had met

Felix Capri who was employed with an affiliated firm called Radio Labs. He suggested that I come and stay at his house on Ross Avenue, as it was closer to work, but still in the downtown area, where most of the main shopping centres were still located. Besides that, he was a licensed radio amateur, and I was very interest in that. I made up my mind to move from Smith to 334 Ross Avenue in July 1950.

Felix and I opened a small business in 174 Princess Street in the fall of 1959 registered as Citizens Supply Limited. Shortly afterward, we changed the name to Capri's TV Services, as that became the main line of business we were engaged in.

I learned of a chance of employment with a firm called Sparling Sales Ltd., so went for an interview and was accepted. Felix and I dissolved our partnership, and I went to work for Sparling Sales Ltd. in March, 1961. We are wholesalers of radio, TV, and electrical parts and equipment, and, though there is no radio and TV repairs, we have a mail order department. I am engaged as the shipper, receiver, and part time counterman. The firm has changed management twice since I started working here, and has a salesman going to all the larger Manitoba towns to take orders and bring them in for me to ship back.

As is quite obvious, I have but one hobby — radio, or anything to do in connection with it. I enjoy listening to the radio amateurs with a general coverage receiver that I have purchased. I also have a machine that prints out "slow scan" pictures on a special kind of tube. I have copied the photographs of many amateurs around the world. I have a cassette tape recorder that I can record the signals that will print out these pictures, and I can play them over as many times as I like.

Ah yes, there have been many changes in electronics since I became interested. One just has to go to the different dealers and note how much more compacted and easily carried the new "solid state" portables are, compared with those of a few years ago.

I might conclude that I have enjoyed taking a small part in the making of this history.

Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Hill

On September 27, 1871, David James Hill and Maria Jane Sunley, were married at Eromosa, Wellington County, Ontario. For several years after his marriage, Mr. Hill worked as a teamster for a paper mill at Georgetown, Ontario.

In 1882, Mr. Hill, in company with Mr. Howard, walked from Brandon and located a homestead on the northwest quarter of sec. 14-14-26 where he built their first home. Mrs. Hill and the family came the

following spring to Virden and had a very narrow escape crossing the Assiniboine River as the ice was starting to break up.

They made their home here for eleven years when they moved to south-east quarter 22-14-26 where they built a log house. They lived there until January 1906 when they moved into the present house which was built in 1905. They built the stone foundation for a barn the same year. Stalls and the barn floor were built in 1906 and it was used as a stable until 1911 when the barn was built.

Mr. Hill was a member of the first board of trustees for Blaris School which was built in 1884 and opened in 1885. In 1899 with Mr. John Clark as councillor, Mr. Hill operated the municipal grader and graded the road between sections 1 and 2-14-25, and also built the two miles north of Blaris School. He also operated the first well-drilling outfit in the district. He was councillor for Ward Three for three terms. He was interested in church work and community effort of any kind. Mr. Hill was the first settler in the district to own and operate a binder, doing custom work as well as his own, using one horse and two oxen. He also had a roller mill which he ran by horse power to grind grain for himself and his neighbors.

Mrs. Hill as well, took a large part in church and community affairs being very interested in Sunday School and in the Methodist Women's Missionary Society.

When Mr. and Mrs. Hill came to this district they had five children: Florence Melvina who later married Robert Bell, Aida Priscilla who married George Webster, Bertha Mable who married William Reid, Maud Alice who married Ross Bell, and William Herman who married Alice Long.

These five children were among the first pupils to attend Blaris School.

After settling in the district more children were born to the family. Walter Warren, (the first child born in the Blaris district), later married Gertrude Pocock, Alfred Roy who married Alice Condry, Charles Archibald who married Jessie Merle Mitchell, Alma May married Christopher Brown, and Jane Marie who married Robert Glendenning. Two more sons and a daughter Gertrude died in infancy.

In 1908 Mr. and Mrs. Hill and their two youngest daughters Alma and Jane paid a visit to their old home in Ontario, returning in the spring.

Their second daughter and her husband George Webster, died when their family of three daughters and one son were quite young. From that time, they lived with their grandparents until they received their

public school education and were able to go on by themselves.

Mr. Hill passed away in 1931 and Mrs. Hill in 1936.

1982 no update.

Jim Hill

Mr. Hill was a carpenter. He lived in town. He built the house that the P. Ackermans lived in and the house that J. Coxworth owns. They had one son Gilbert. They moved to California.

Mr. and Mrs. William John Hill by Mrs. M. Kendall

My father, William John Hill was born in Holsworthy, Devonshire, England on June 5, 1861. He emigrated to Canada with his family when he was seventeen years old. He worked a year with the CPR and then with a farmer for some time. On June 10, 1882 he filed on his homestead on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of 28-14-25 and in due time received title to same.

Mr. John T. Beattie began a move to purchase the N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of 21-14-25 from John Reid. On May 7, 1900 a claim deed was drawn up between Mr. John Beattie and my father, relinquishing his claim on the land and my father upon payment of seven hundred dollars to John Reid received the deed for the pre-emption on December 19, 1905.

My mother Isabella Smith Thomson Sutherland was born in Toronto, Ontario on May 28, 1875 and came with her parents, brothers and sisters from Grand Valley, Ontario to Manitoba when she was 14 years old.

On January 27, 1898, my parents were married at Grandpa Sutherland's home near Lucas P.O. Their first home was of frame construction built in 1897 with two rooms downstairs and three upstairs, built over a full-sized cellar with walls of stones and masonry.

My father had a log stable and before too many years had passed had built a barn which is still there. He had three horses and two cows, some chickens and a pig when he was married. There was a buck-board and I think a sleigh. The well he dug in his homesteading days had stone cribbing. It is still being used and has the best water I have ever tasted.

The first load of wheat was taken to Brandon and with the money received he bought lumber and made a table. The fencing as far as we know was done in 1905 and 1906. The house was remodelled in 1912.

In the early days we used a dash-churn, later getting a barrel churn. From 1915 on most of the cream was shipped to Neepawa or Rapid City. For many years we belonged to a beef ring in the summer time. In the winter we had our own meat, usually

selling part to the neighbours. My father always had fish shipped in from Westbourne in the winter and supplied the neighbours with fish; jack, white and tullibeas.

My father was a Methodist and my mother was a Presbyterian but when church union came they became members of the United Church. For some years my father was superintendent of the Sunday School at Blaris. He also belonged to the Epworth League and Christian Endeavour societies.

My mother belonged to the Women's Missionary Society. Some of the Thanksgiving Suppers were held in our home. (the younger ones in the family remember they had hard cookies and cake for lunch next day at school).

Our mail came to Lucas P.O. Manitoba (Frank Campbell's home) from Arrow River. Mr. Wm. Tennant brought the mail twice a week and went right past our door on his way to Orrwold. Afterwards our mail came from Isabella twice a week, Tuesdays and Fridays.

Our family left Manitoba in January 1920 and have lived in White Rock B.C. ever since.

There are seven in our family, two sons and five daughters Magdalene Thomson, now Mrs. Joseph T. Kendall of White Rock, B.C.; Susan Delve, now Mrs. Arthur W. Biggs of White Rock, B.C.; Isabella Irvine, now Mrs. H. E. Andreas of Trail, B.C.; William John, of White Rock, B.C.; Joan Elizabeth, now Mrs. Thos. C. King of Winnipeg, Man.; Jane Grace Sutherland, now Mrs. S. A. Barclay of Fruitvale, B.C.; and F/L Donald Sutherland, of Trenton, Ontario.

My father died February 4, 1938 and my mother on May 11, 1956. They are buried in Christ Church Cemetery in Surrey Centre, B.C.

1982 — no update.

William Hooper by Helen Sutherland

William Hooper was a bachelor and a World War I veteran. He had a quiet personality except to those who knew him well. He came from Bristol, Somerset, England. He farmed the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of 34-15-25 for more than twenty years. He had a neat little two room house (now part of Art Heise's house) and a horse stable large enough for eight work horses with a small lean-to hen house attached. There was a good well. He did not raise cattle or pigs.

After he left the farm he lived with Jack Butler at Crandall for awhile and then went west to his niece where he passed away.

Ronald and Joanne Huberdeau by Joanne Huberdeau

I was born Margaret Joanne Norrie, October 27, 1954, the oldest of the three girls born to Archie and Jean Norrie of Isabella. We were raised on the farm, three miles south of town. It had been homesteaded by my great grandfather, Charlie Craig. I've always loved the farm life and according to my parents, was accompanying Dad to the barn from the time I could walk. As there were only girls in our family, we all helped with the farm work, chores in the winter, field work in the summer. Because we had a large 7 bedroom house and were "home" to many friends and



Ron, Joanne, Jamie, Leigh, Daniel and Joel Huberdeau.

relatives, there was always company throughout the summer. They usually had to join us in the garden or berry patch if they wanted to visit though.

But life wasn't all work, most summers we went camping with the Explorers, then the C.G.I.T. groups, a week of church camp at Wasaga at Clear Lake and a week at Dand with our aunt and uncle, where we enjoyed taking swimming lessons daily at the nearby lake. Sometimes we stayed in Hamiota where we enjoyed the love of "Grampa and Gramma" Harrison. Gramma Norrie died when I was four, so there isn't much memory of "Nanny", but we certainly remember visiting Grampa Norrie in Crandall, listening to and loving his Scottish brogue.

Our home life was good, Mom spending lots of time with us, reading to us, being interested in us, Dad working hard trying to make a good living for us all. As children we were given many opportunities.

We took piano lessons, attended church and Sunday School, Explorers, and C.G.I.T. We were taken to the rink to skate and attended most community functions.

I attended Isabella School to grade seven and then went to Miniota for grades eight and nine, then on to Birtle where I enjoyed meeting new friends and taking part in most social functions. After graduating in 1972, I moved to Brandon, where I worked for a year as a nurse's aid at the Brandon Mental Health Centre, then taking the two year Registered Psychiatric Nurses Course, graduating in the fall of 1975.

Just before moving to Brandon, I had met a very special Frenchman, Ronald Jean-Marc Joseph Huberdeau. He was born Aug. 2, 1955, the fifth of the eight children of Louis and Jeanne Huberdeau of St. Lazare. He was raised on a dairy farm in a predominantly French speaking community. He attended school in St. Lazare, St. Boniface, and Birtle, quitting at the age of 15. Ron worked out several summers, one at Vanance Deschambault's dairy farm, another at Denis Simard's where he helped build their home as well as do farm work. Here Ron developed an interest in beef cattle and learned a lot about running and repairing farm machinery as well as carpentry.

Ron spent most of his free time on horseback with friends, roaming the country, enjoying the beauty and nature of the Assiniboine Valley near his home. Winters, he played hockey until the age of 16. When he was 17 he began work on the C.N.R., which involved travelling as far north as Lynn Lake, east to Thunder Bay, Ontario, or west to Biggar, Sask.

During this time that Ron was with C.N. and I was in my final year of nurse's training we were married October 12, 1974. Ronald Leigh, our oldest was born June 21, 1974 and when he was a year old, Ron quit C.N. to join us in Brandon. There he took a Heavy Duty Mechanic's Course at Assiniboine Community College and then went to work for Frank Lawson and Sons Ltd. for two years, repairing farm machinery.

In 1977 we bought a half section of land from Hector Calder and so became weekend farmers with the help of my parents (Dad with his machinery and helping hand, Mom with her babysitting and moral support).

In the spring of 1978 I took a maternity leave from my part-time nursing job at the Brandon Mental Health Centre, to have our second child, or so we thought! The maternity leave was later changed to my resignation, with my reason for leaving being simply "TWINS". Joel Patrick and Daniel Scott, born March 10, 1978 brought about several changes in our life.

Shortly after I resigned, so did Ron, as we were anxious to begin life near our farm and close to the support of my parents. We moved into and are still renting the former home of Robert and Jessie Scarth, now belonging to Dale and June Still. Shortly after our move, we bought a section of land from Bill O'Callaghan in the Arrow River District and so had lots of work ahead of us.

Jamie Andrew was born May 31, 1980 and so now we have four boys to love and keep us busy, too. Leigh, now seven, is attending Birtle School and doing well, loves all sports and has played hockey for two seasons with Decker eight and unders. Daniel and Joel are very active three year olds, living up to the saying "double trouble". Jamie at a year old is a happy, lovable little fellow, always trying to keep up with his big brothers.

While the boys keep me occupied most of the time, Ron has found time to join into community life, working on the Rink Committee, then the Hall Committee, getting to know the people of Isabella. He also plays hockey with Decker as an 'oldtimer' and enjoys baseball, tennis and golf in the summer.

While the life of a young farmer seems to have so many odds against him, we have enjoyed life on the farm. We love our cozy home, beautiful yard surrounded by shrubs and trees and are enjoying this pleasant setting in which to raise our family. We feel this location is an ideal one for good healthy family living.

L. M. Hunkin

written by Mrs. L. Hunkin

My father was born in Exeter, Ont. on December 12 in the year 1887. While I know very little of his childhood and schooling days, I remember that he and the late Mr. Wilbur Johns went to school together in Ontario. In 1903 he came west to the Hamiota district, and obtained a job as farmhand on the farm of George Delbridge just four miles west of Hamiota and within a half-a-mile of the site of Chumah Church. In fact he spent a good many hours of his first summer helping to build that church. In 1904 he moved to the Blaris district and purchased the northeast quarter of sec. 17-14-25 which is now our present home from a Mr. Frank Percy. My father was still a bachelor at this time, but in 1904, my mother, whose maiden name was Margaret Reid, and her sister Nellie, arrived in Canada from their birthplace Glasgow, Scotland.

Mother had obtained a job working in an ice cream parlor in Hamiota which was owned by Mr. Jim Abbott. Mr. Abbott was my father's stepfather as dad's mother had lost her first husband when she was still quite young and had remarried again. Thus my

father and mother met and on January 1, 1909 they were married in Hamiota and settled on this farm. Shortly after they were married, Dad purchased the southwest quarter of sec. 21-14-25. This then gave him a half section of land which I still farm today.

The first buildings here when dad came consisted of a three-room house of lumber and a stable. In 1916 Dad had a barn built by Mr. Paul Beveridge. On May 3, 1922 the old house was burned to the ground and in order to accommodate a growing family of six the present six-room home was built in the summer and fall of 1922. This house was also built by Mr. Paul Beveridge. The kindness shown by friends and neighbors at the time of the fire was never forgotten.

There were seven children in the Hunkin Family. Marjorie, Glen, Muriel, Laura, Larry (twins), Helen and Shirley. When Marjorie and Glen were old enough to go to school they went to Carlingville School which was situated on 2 acres of land on the northeast corner of sec. 9-14-25. There were no vans at that time and the children either walked to school or were taken by their parents. The teacher at this school then was Mary Craig, now Mrs. Harry Harrison. When consolidation of schools took place this school was moved to Crandall.

While the family all received their school education at Carlingville and Crandall, we always attended church at Blaris, which was only three miles from our home. Mother and Father took a very active part in the activities of the Blaris community and my father taught the young people's Bible class for quite some time and later taught the Adult Bible class. For many years he was a member of the church board. At the time of his death in 1934, he was the secretary-treasurer of the church. He also played Santa Claus for many years at the annual Blaris Christmas concert.

I can remember how my father talked about the plans which the community were making for the 50th anniversary of the Blaris community which was in 1935. Unfortunately he passed away before the much-planned for event took place. He was also very interested in the cooperative movement and was a member of the United Grain Growers' Association when it was formed at Isabella. He was also the secretary of that organization for a number of years.

Mother was very fond of music and was often asked to sing Scotch songs at the Burns Night concerts which were held in the Blaris church. She was also leader of the choir and was called on as a soloist for most events in the surrounding communities. At the annual fowl supper mother could be found in the kitchen making tea. As our family grew up I can remember how Marjorie, Glen, Muriel and Mother too, used to take part in the three-act plays which

used to be yearly events usually held in the spring of the year.

After my father passed away, while accompanying a carlot of stock which was being shipped to Wpg. from Isabella, on September 18, 1934, my mother and Glen carried on with the farm. Then in Dec. of 1939 Glen enlisted in the armed forces, joining the 71st Battery of the Field Artillery from Brandon. He went overseas in January 1940 and spent five years on active duty. He was wounded by shrapnel in the latter part of April 1945. He returned home to Canada in July 1945 and after a year took up farming. In January of 1949 he married Thelma Mitchell of Arrow River. They resided on the Mel Torrance farm for a number of years and later purchased the John Fleming farm at Arrow River — where they are presently residing. They have a family of three sons and two daughters.

My oldest sister Marjorie left the Blaris district in 1928 to live in Winnipeg, where she became a stenographer for a number of years and in November of 1940 she moved to Vancouver where she married J. H. Edmonds and has since resided there.

Muriel, my second oldest sister was married to Sam Wallace of Arrow River in June 1937 by Rev. H. I. Bowman. They were the first people to be married in the present Blaris Church. They reside on a farm south of Arrow River and have a family of two, a son Lawrence and a daughter Arlene. They celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary this year. My twin sister Laura was married in Winnipeg on August 21, 1940 to G. S. Whillier who also served with the armed forces for two years. They are still residing in Winnipeg and have a family of two daughters. In 1941 mother and my two sisters Helen and Shirley moved to Wpg. Helen obtained a job as a clerk in a drug store and Shirley continued on with her schooling. In June 1946 Shirley was married to William Charles Bardwell who also served overseas during World War 2. They had a family of three sons and were living in Winnipeg. In September 1957 Bill was accidentally drowned in Lake Manitoba. My sister carried on for three years and in Oct. 1960 was remarried to Mark Lindquist of Winnipeg. They now have a little girl and are residing in Winnipeg.

My sister Helen who had worked in Winnipeg since 1941 was married in June of 1956 to Arthur Penelton formerly of Miniota but then of Winnipeg. They have one son Bradley and are still residing in that city.

As for myself Larry, I was married to Doreen Lelond of Arrow River in Nov. 1941. We have a family of two, Allan and Wilma. I too have tried to help my community by being active in church work, the local pool elevator board, municipal council, and

wherever I may be called upon to act. We are still farming on what is known as "the home place" and it is my desire that when I am ready to retire and leave the farm that my son Allan will wish to carry on where I left off.

1982 no update.

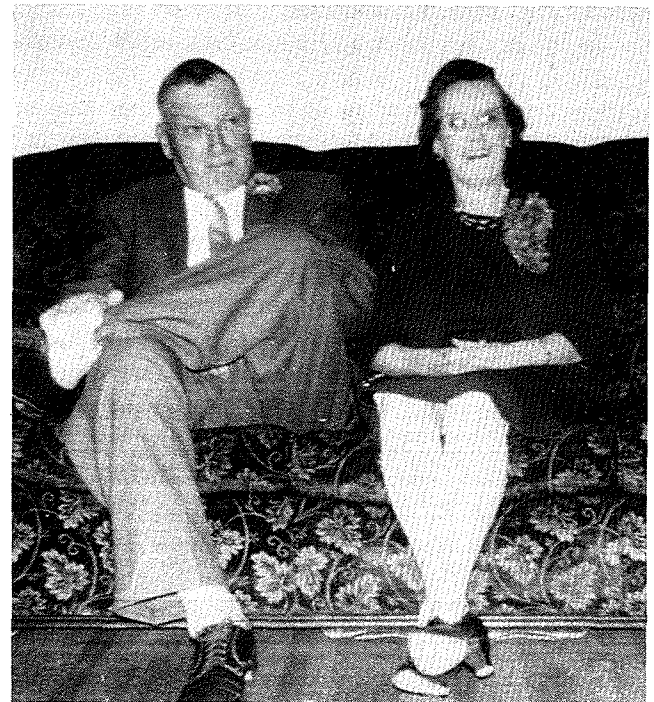
Gordon and Grace Hunter

by Emily Turner

Grace Mildred Harrison was the youngest child of Josiah and Emily (Reid) Harrison. She was born on September 19, 1898, at Isabella. She attended Blaris School, and later, Isabella and Crandall.

She was a tiny, delicate baby and so small that when she was born, her mother's wedding ring would slip over her hand. As a child she would frighten her family by holding her breath. The remedy for this was to splash cold water on her face. Her brothers, Harry and Frank, loved to tell of one day, when "Gracie", as they called her, was left in their care. During the afternoon she began to turn blue — she was holding her breath. They ran to the rain barrel for water, only to find the barrel empty, except for some mud in the bottom. They scooped up a handful of the mud and splashed it on her face. The brothers said that Gracie never again held her breath!

She went to Normal School in Brandon in 1916 and later taught at Langvale, Orangeville and Ingelow schools. In 1921 she went to teach at Kenton where she met, and on November 14, 1923, married Gordon Hunter.



Gordon and Grace Hunter.

They lived and farmed there until they retired to a house in the village of Kenton. Both were active in community affairs. Grace sang alto in the United Church choir and taught the Bible class in Sunday School for many years.

They had five children: Emily, Clare, Kenneth, Kay and Garth.

Emily was a teacher and married Hope Turner and they live at Carroll. They have four children. Jack and his wife, Sharon, and son, Devon live at Pinawa. Jack is an instrumental technologist at the Atomic Energy Research station and Sharon nurses. Wendy is a Systems Analyst in the Training and Education department of the Bank of Commerce, in Toronto. Craig is a Wildlife Biologist, and he and his younger brother, Brent, work for Arrow Drilling and live in Edmonton.

Clare married Norma Millar and they had five children. Valerie and her husband, John Leone and two sons, Ryan and Currie, live in Eugene, Oregon. John is a social worker there. Valerie was a teacher as was her sister Bonnie who married Dennis Martin, who is in the R.C.M.P., at Oakbank, Manitoba. They have two children, Jodi and Cory. Carla, their third daughter, married Wayne Borley and with their son, Josh, live at Airdrie, Alberta. Rilla married Jim Wilson and they farm at Kenton. Darren lives in Kenton with his mother. Clare married Carol Jezzard, and they farm at Kenton.

Ken is on the home farm at Kenton and he and Donna (Stevens) have four children. Leith married Phil Corney, who is the manager of the Credit Union in Kenton. They have two daughters, Devon and Brin. Zane married Rhonda McKinnon of Virden. Zane is the manager of the Credit Union in Rivers. Todd works in Kenton and manages his father's dairy herd. Julie is at home.

Kay was a teacher and married Omar Aschim, a chemical engineer with the pulp and paper plant in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. Their oldest son, Kevin, is in University in Edmonton and Joni, Michelle and David are at home.

Garth and his wife, the former Lynda Foster, live in Calgary, with their two children, Christie and Jeff. Garth is president of Interlalia Associates.

Gordon Hunter died August 14, 1965 and Grace died July 15, 1974. Their family remembers them as loving, caring parents in a home full of affection and fun and love.

Mary and Erik Hurlin **by Mary Hurlin**

After our marriage in April, 1959, in Isabella, we lived on Erik's farm at Miniota. Our first son,

William Russell, was born June 6, 1960, and Garrick James, was born on May 22, 1963.

We farmed until 1972, when we purchased the Miniota Motor Motel. In 1975, we sold the farm to Mr. Sid Laxdall and we lived in a mobile home just west of the hotel. In 1978 we built a new home and moved into it on October 8, 1978. We sold the mobile home to my youngest sister, Sharon, and her husband, Bob McKenzie. Our son, Bill, now lives in Calgary where he works for Canadian Formost. Rick works in Winnipeg for an insurance company. He is taking a course in chartered accountancy.

Mary Hurst **by Mary Hurst**

I am the oldest daughter of Barbara and Bruce Wallace, born December 2, 1907 in the Blaris district. I received my education in the Blaris, Isabella and Arrow River schools. I took my teacher training in Brandon in 1927-8 and taught in Meadow Portage and Rorketon. Wages were cut to almost nothing, and I did housework for awhile.

I married Alonzo Hurst in May, 1938. We lived in Shoal Lake where he carried on draying.

I curled for years. I am a member of the UCW. I worked in the Post Office during the war years.

In 1947 we adopted a wee girl, Barbara. After finishing her schooling, she trained as a registered nurse. She has travelled and nursed in many places, some being Germany, Winnipeg, Petawawa, Pukatawagan, Niasset, Nelson House, and is now in the operating room of the St. Boniface General Hospital.

During this time, I worked for eight years in the kitchen of the local hospital.

Alonzo passed away in February, 1979. I am still living in my own home, and keep busy with my garden and handwork for local fairs, for which I get many prizes.

Bill and Minnie Ingram **by Hazel Grossart**

The Ingram family arrived from Winnipeg on the old Beulah Bullet in a terrific rainstorm in August, 1944.

Bill took over as principal, and as no house was available, we lived the first six weeks in the old tin school. We used blankets to curtain off rooms, and one coal-oil lamp for light. By October we moved into the R. L. Stevenson house. Bill was superintendent of the Sunday School, he was on the official church board and in the men's choir. He enjoyed curling and baseball. During the summer he painted

houses and barns in the surrounding area with Jean and Hazel helping.

Minnie helped with Mission Band and belonged to the Women's Institute. She enjoyed curling too. We spent six, very happy years at Isabella.

After leaving Isabella, Bill taught at Cardale, Myrtle and Brookdale. Following a year at university to obtain his B.A. degree he taught at Neepawa Collegiate and received his degree in education in 1962. Since his death in 1964 Minnie has continued to live at 537 Third Ave. S. in Neepawa. She enjoys friends and relatives dropping in as they pass through Neepawa.

Jean, the oldest girl, took a business course and was receptionist at Hamiota Hospital. She married Arnold Fortune in 1952 and they farm near Cardale. Jean has an active interest in ceramics. Their daughter, Diane, graduated from Brandon General Hospital and is nursing there. Brent is farming at Cardale. Mark and Rae are working on oil rigs in Alberta. They maintain a close contact with the farm.

Hazel graduated from Winnipeg General Hospital and nursed for several years. She married Doug Grossart in 1963 and they farm south-east of Brandon. Their children, Ian, Bill and Kathie attend school in Brandon.

Jessie graduated as a Licensed Practical Nurse and worked in Morden and Minnedosa. She married Ellis Williamson in 1960. He is in the Armed Forces and they have lived in Calgary, Oromocto, N.B., Trenton, Ont. and at present in Winnipeg. Patti took a course for flight attendants. Patti and Brad are working in Winnipeg and Ted is at school.

Wilma graduated in Home Economics from the University of Manitoba. While working for Manitoba Agriculture at Carman and Morden she married the agricultural rep., Dennis Garlick in 1967. They now farm and operate a seed cleaning plant at Roland. They have two girls: Valerie and Nancy.

Mr. and Mrs. John Irvine by Roy Irvine

John Irvine was born at Kincardine, Ontario in 1871 and passed away at Brandon in 1961.

He came to Crandall as a boy of eight, with his father, brother and sister. He worked out herding cattle as a boy and doing farm work as he grew older. He saved enough money to go back to school for a few months for several winters. He learned to read and write and enough arithmetic to get by on.

While working out he learned to run steam engines and usually had that job on the big threshing gangs. He married Agnes Stubbins of Arrow River and settled in Hamiota for a time, working in Stinson's machine business. The eldest daughter Pearl

was born there. In 1907 he moved up north of Isabella on the quarter section of 22-15-25. This quarter had been homesteaded by his father, Thomas Irvine, but it hadn't been proved up.

Incidentally records at the Municipal Office in Miniota show the first taxes on the quarter were paid in 1906 by Thomas Irvine, the amount being \$25. On this quarter he built a small house of lumber and a sod stable for the stock which consisted of two horses, an ox, and a milk cow. He broke up quite a lot of his first land with the two horses and the ox hitched as a team. Blanche was born in 1908 and Roy in 1910.

He then acquired the northeast quarter of 21-15-25. He built another piece to the house and by that time had another stable built of lumber. Later on he bought the southwest quarter of 28-15-25. As time passed the rest of the family came along: Cecil, Henry, Esther, May, Fay and Garth.

The family was all raised on that same farm and received their education at Isabella School.

As they grew up they started leaving home. Kitchener was the last one at home to work the farm. They had a sale in 1942 and went to Crandall to live and from there went to Brandon. Mrs. Irvine lives in Brandon.

Pearl (Mrs. Clifford Vance) lives in Calgary. Blanche (Mrs. Milford Beamish) lives at Faust, Alberta. Cecil lives in Regina, Henry, Garth and Esther (Mrs. Wm. Beautridge) live in Winnipeg. May (Mrs. Alex Lean) lives at Moline. Fay (Mrs. Ron McCaw) lives in Vancouver. Kitchener farms at Shoal Lake and Roy north of Isabella on the north half of 5-16-25 which was originally settled, built and broken up for cultivation by Harry Cuffe.

1982 no update.

Eric Irwin and Kim Law: My contribution to the Isabella History Book by Eric Irwin

W. L. Morden has written the most definitive history of Manitoba and in the preface, he states "with the great Ontario immigration of the 1870's and 1880's, Manitoba became a land of steady ways. The countryside has been one of relatively small farms and definitely small towns. In it, the simple sturdy values of hard work, thrift and neighbourliness have been cherished and transmitted. Though a western province, Manitoba has been on the whole conservative, and rural Manitoba has often been impatient with the improvidence and recklessness, by rural standards, of the great, self-centred city in its midst."

If my life is a reflection or commentary on the short span of years between my birth in 1955 and the present, it is that the rural, Ontario influenced back-

ground of our community changed dramatically during that period. Although my reflections and commentaries lack the depth and breadth of those of my elders on this point, particularly Mrs. Rose Finkbeiner who can recall both the arrival and the dismantling of our railway through out community, the period of my years was one of great transition.

We lost a school, an elevator, several businesses and a great number of our friends and neighbours but the spirit of neighbourliness and cooperation has remained.

When I remember growing up in Isabella, I remember hockey. I remember playing at home or going to Decker or Crandall or Elkhorn, often dressing in our hockey clothes at home before going to the rink and in the early days at least, coming out on the short end of a rather lopsided score. In later days, whether through perseverance or improved skills, we could boast one of the best teams in the district. Cyril Norrie had a lot to do with it. As the coach, he taught more than just hockey skills. Playing the game for fun and making sure that everyone who came out had an equal opportunity to play were as important to him as the game itself. As a result, I learned to love the game, not just the winning.

School and school activities were also very important to me. From water fights to Christmas concerts to sports days, I was an ardent participator in them all. And I was in the last Grade 7 class at the Isabella School. From then on, it was Miniota for two years and Birtle for the rest of my high school.

Histories are simply a series of memories. For me, they include going to John's store for a Crispy Crunch bar after an outing at Cubs, serving tea at the fall supper, and standing around for an after church chit-chat on Sunday. For the Isabella community, the memories would have to include the loss of the school, the closing of the elevator, the coming of Sunday sports days, and getting the odd liquor license for the hall.

Our community has contracted but it has also changed. The small town southern Ontario mores which W. L. Morden referred to have been altered through time, and many of its sons and daughters have had to go elsewhere in order to seek a living. I graduated from Brandon University in 1976 with a Bachelor of Arts degree and went on to law school. I graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1979 with a law degree and now practice in my own law firm in Dauphin. I married Kim Law, a city girl with a degree in agriculture in 1979, and since moving to Dauphin, we have purchased a small farm and have purchased a few livestock.

I suppose getting back to the farm is really a reflection of my Isabella upbringing.



Kim Law and Eric Irwin, 1979.

If my little story says anything about the community of Isabella, it is that it taught the value of work, an appreciation for the land, and an appreciation for Christian values. While the Isabella community has lost its school, its elevator, and many of its residents, communities are not judged by their size nor their population, but rather by the values and principles which it teaches its sons and daughters. Despite the loss of buildings and neighbours, the community acquitted itself well in this regard. I still call it home.

George and Florence Irwin **by Florence Irwin**

George Irwin, son of Thomas and Mary Ann Irwin, was born at Brampton, Ontario on July 12, 1887.

He came west to Manitoba with his parents in May, 1891, travelling to Shoal Lake by train, and the next day by team and wagon to the homestead.

Following the death of his father in 1911, George farmed NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 28-14-25 and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 33-14-25.

He married Florence Rutledge in December 29, 1926.

They left the district in 1938.

They had one son, John Nelson, born January 12, 1929. John married Elinor Shaver on December 26, 1953. They have two children: Stephen John, born March 29, 1963 and Kathleen Ann, born August 25, 1967. George died January 16, 1971.

Mrs. Irwin still resides in Richmond Hill, Ontario.

Lloyd and Margaret Irwin **by Lloyd and Margaret Irwin**

I, Lloyd George Irwin, was born September 3, 1923 in Toronto, Ontario. My father was Wilbert Thomas Irwin and my mother was the former Laura Duffy.

I began school near Grand Valley, Ontario in 1929. Later that year we moved to Manitoba. Here I attended school at Decker, Isabella and Miniota. After completing Grade Twelve at Miniota, I took teacher training at Winnipeg Normal School in 1942-43. In the years following I was a substitute teacher at Endcliffe, Crandall, Isabella and Beulah. During this time I also farmed with my father.

I, Isabella Margaret (Small) Irwin, was born September 13, 1926 on SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 14-13-19 W1, four miles southeast of Rapid City. I am the elder daughter of William Brand Small and Isabella Leitch (Martin) Small, who emigrated from Scotland to Manitoba in 1925.

I attended school in Rapid City from Grades I-XI. My sister and I travelled to school by sleigh in winter and by buggy or bicycle in summer as transportation was not provided.

Later I attended Brandon College from which I received my Bachelor of Arts degree in 1950. In September of that year I came to Isabella to teach grades V-VIII inclusive. The Blaris School had been closed that June so the pupils were transported to Isabella. Transportation was provided by the school board by car in fall and spring and by horse-drawn van in winter. There was a great depth of snow that winter and at one point school was closed for most of a week. There were enough people living in Isabella village, then, for at least two rinks so we did lots of curling during our 'holiday'. I boarded with Mr. and Mrs. T. Kennedy.

In 1951 I attended the Faculty of Education at the University of Manitoba. The following spring I received my Bachelor of Pedagogy degree. I taught school at Birtle Collegiate from 1952-54.

August 12, 1954 Lloyd and I were married at Hunterville United Church which is at the junction of highways 10 and 24. After a honeymoon in North and South Dakota we moved into our new home. Lloyd, his dad, and my dad had built the basement and shell. There were only two rooms partitioned off when we moved in. On our farm, which Lloyd had purchased from his dad in 1953, we had beef cattle, grain and bees.

Since we didn't have an all weather road at that time, a community shower, which was to be held in our honour, had to be postponed for a week because a heavy rainfall made the road impassable. This was the era when Isabella had a blacksmith shop, garage,

machine shop, general store, post office, grain elevators, fuel business and twice weekly train service.

On November 3, 1955 a daughter, Heather, was born to us, but she lived only a day. Lloyd's mother and father continued to reside on the farm until October 1956 when they moved to Hamiota. In 1957 we adopted Eric Brock, our eldest son, who was born September 6, 1955. In 1958 we adopted our second son, Keith Martin, who was born October 13, 1958. Our third son, David William Thomas, was born August 9, 1961.



David, Keith, Eric, Lloyd and Margaret Irwin.

In 1960 we had our last wood sawing bee. We were assisted by Joe Harrison, Archie Norrie, and Cyril Norrie in sawing up thirteen loads of wood. 1961 was the hottest, driest year since the 1930 era and our crops suffered from drought. June 26, 1963, about six p.m., we had a hailstorm that appeared to completely destroy the field crops and damage the trees. However the crops recovered but many of the trees did not. In the early morning of July 5 of the same year we had ten cattle killed by lightning. Lightning also struck a telephone wire. When the veterinarian, Dr. Hodge, came to inspect the cattle he joined the broken telephone wire to the barbed wire fence and we had phone service again. We sold our beef cattle in 1966 and launched into dairying and pig finishing. The following year we began our poultry enterprise. Two years later Lloyd and the boys dismantled the Isabella community barn and used the material to build a double garage. We sold the dairy herd in 1975 and started a herd of purebred polled Herefords. We are still in the Hereford business but now house them in a loose housing building rather than the barn. In addition to this we produce grain.

Since Isabella is a friendly and active community we have become involved in a variety of organizations. I, Lloyd, have served on the church Board of Stewards, Rink Board, Hall Board, Pool Elevator Board, Birtle-Miniota Wider Parish Council, Drama Club and Miniota Municipal School Board as trustee and chairman.

I, Margaret, have held offices in the United Church Women's organization and Women's Institute. I taught and was Secretary-treasurer of the Sunday School as well as secretary of the Birtle Presbyterial. I am also Returning Officer of the Bird-tail River School Division no. 38.

Keith obtained his education in Isabella, Miniota and Birtle schools. Upon completion of grade XII he welded at Metals Industries in Brandon. Later he was employed at the United Conservatory of Music in Winnipeg. In 1978 Keith went to Sweden and Scotland. In Scotland he worked on a dairy farm. He also became acquainted with his Scottish relatives. He returned home in March 1979. He worked at a variety of jobs until the summer of 1980 when he joined Allan Barrett at Rock It Ventures, a musical training organization where he is presently employed. Keith has always been keenly interested in music, motorcycles and carpentry.

David received his education at Isabella, Miniota and Birtle Schools. He was a member of the last class to start school in Isabella. Upon completion of grade XII he rented a quarter section of land and increased his herd of registered polled Herefords which he had been building. At the age of nine years he purchased his first purebred heifer from Mr. Jack Frazer of Beulah, Manitoba. He has always been interested in cattle, sheep, pigs and farm pets. He is serving on the rink board. Presently he is farming with his parents.

Eric's history appears separate from this history.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Thomas Irwin by Mr. and Mrs. L. Irwin

I, Wilbert Thomas Irwin was born in London, Ontario in 1884. Our family lived on a farm near Brampton Ontario before we came to Manitoba and I remember living there.

My father Thomas Irwin could get employment for only seven months of the year at \$18.00 a month. This was inadequate to raise a family of six. Consequently in 1890 when my mother's aunt, Mrs. Haney, who lived south of Decker wrote my father telling him about Manitoba, he journeyed west to their place. That fall he was employed by a farmer in the MacDonald district.

In May of 1891 he took up his homestead on the northeast quarter of section 28-14-25. That spring his wife Mary Ann and family of three sons Jim, Wilbert

and George and three daughters Rebecca, Margaret and Ethel joined him. A fourth daughter Minnie was born on the homestead. We travelled by train to Shoal Lake where we stayed overnight. The following day we journeyed by horse-drawn wagon to the homestead. The one incident of the trip from Ontario to the homestead which stands out most clearly in my mind, took place at Rat Portage, where I got my first glimpse of a gopher. I jumped off the train to catch it but before I could get near it, it had disappeared.

Our first home on the homestead was a three-roomed house, which had been built by Mr. Jim Torrance, who had the farm for a short time before my father. This house was built of two ply of lumber and not lined up. Our only source of heat was a cook stove which failed to keep the frost off the walls. The only other building was a sod stable in which to house the livestock.

Our furniture and machinery came by train from Ontario to Shoal Lake. My father and Mr. Jim Young had shipped their effects in one carload. When I was a boy my sister Maggie and I herded cattle daily, rain or shine, for five months a year at the rate of one dollar a head. I attended school one week and she the other. It was often difficult to keep track of the cattle because of the limited visibility caused by prairie fire smoke. There were twelve acres of land broken when my father took over the homestead. There were no fences and our only source of water on the farm was from sloughs. Since these dried up in the early summer, in the early years we had to take our livestock four miles to water in the summer.

In the winter time we either hauled water or melted snow. The cows were often obliged to lick snow. In the winter there were terrible blizzards and I remember that in 1896 the snow completely covered the sod stable. We had to dig a tunnel down into it.

In 1896 we were completely hauled out except for a small acreage of oats on a rented quarter-section north of our homestead. That winter we had no milk or butter or coal oil. My father had to haul wood forty miles from the Riding Mountains. That same winter my mother, sisters Maggie and Minnie and brother George, visited in Ontario. Upon their return home in March, George became ill with scarlet fever. My father drove with horses to Birtle for a doctor. Jim did not take the disease, but my sister Minnie and I took it, and I was as sick as I can ever remember being. Rebecca and Ethel died.

Mixed farming was carried on by my father, the first few years he reaped little grain as it was too dry. The first grain was delivered in bags and marketed in Shoal Lake or Birtle. The price was very poor. Frost was the greatest hazard when there was any crop.

Our shopping was done at Old Beulah, a distance

of 10 miles. We traded our butter for groceries, and sold our eggs for 5¢ a dozen. We used to trap muskrats and sell their hides for 10¢ apiece. Later our nearest railroad points were: Hamiota, Crandall, and Isabella, where livestock and grain were taken to be shipped and marketed. However we did not travel much in the early days, just once a week to town and once to Blaris church. From the time when we arrived until 1914 we got our mail at Lucas Post Office, which was in the home of the present Frank Campbell farm. The mail came by horse-drawn vehicle from Arrow River. The route also went to Arrowton and Orrwold. The telephone system which was owned by the municipality was built about 1910.

The first two or three years we were here, my brothers, sisters and I attended school at Blaris. We walked to and from school. And since there were no roads we followed the winding trail through the country. Later in 1893 we attended Arrowton school my father was one of the first trustees of this school. Classes were held in the spring and summer but later in winter as well. Each pupil progressed according to his ability.

I believe the first cars used in the community were those of Ted Little and John Clark in 1914. We bought our first car, a McLaughlin, in 1916. The previous year we purchased our first tractor which was a single cylinder International. The only person I can remember having left the community prior to 1914 was a Mr. Albertson in 1891.

Margaret died while living in Ontario in 1901 and Jim in Hamiota in 1939. My mother died of diabetes in 1921, and my father of appendicitis in 1911. After his death the homestead northeast quarter of 28-14-25 and southeast quarter 33-14-25 which was purchased by my father in 1907, was taken over by George, and I took over the southwest quarter of 33-14-25. George sold his two quarters to Eastcotts in 1941. They are the present owners.

I was married in March 18, 1914 to Laura Duffy of Grand Valley, Ontario. We have three children, Mrs. William O'Callaghan (Eleanor) of Arrow River, Lloyd, married on the farm at Isabella, after trying his hand at teaching, and Hazel of Hamiota, a teacher.

My wife and I moved to Hamiota in October 1956, where we still reside. George lives in Richmond Hill Ontario, and Minnie (Mrs. N. Lawson) at Orangeville, Ontario

The history of S½ 33-14-25.

I homesteaded at Harrowby near Russell in the years 1905, '06, and '07. In 1907 my father bought the south half of 33-14-25 from Mr. Osterhout who had purchased it from Doctor John Frazer who may have been the first owner. When my father took over

the half there were no fences on the place and only thirty to forty acres broken. The only water supply was a slough. Later in 1930 a hundred-and-thirty-foot well was drilled and more recently (1961) a dugout was added. In 1911 the southwest quarter became the property of myself and the southeast quarter became the property of George.

The first buildings were erected on the southwest quarter in 1923, when a frame house was moved onto the site of the present buildings and a stable was built. A new barn replaced the stable in 1939. I used my first tractor (a Case) in 1938. My son Lloyd took over the ownership in 1951.

The history of NE¼ 29-14-25.

Originally this was part of a school section. When a sale of school land was held in Virden in 1907, Mr. William Rowles bought this quarter section. There was no land broken there when he purchased it. In 1912 I bought this quarter from Mr. Rowles. By this time it was pretty nearly all under cultivation. I plowed this quarter for seven weeks. At the end of that time I had to stop to attend to other work. The quarter was hailed the year before and the grain which had been pounded into the ground grew on the unplowed area and we were able to harvest a fair crop that fall.

There were no fences on this quarter and sloughs were the sole water supply. The only building to be erected on this land was a stable to shelter ten horses while work was being carried on down there. At noon-hour we walked one and one-half miles for dinner. A few rows of caragana, ash, maple, and Russian poplar trees were planted part way along the north end of the quarter in anticipation of the building of a house. The quarter is now owned by my son Lloyd.

Update by Lloyd Irwin

In 1964 Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Irwin celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at their home in Hamiota.

Mr. W. Irwin died December 29, 1969. Mrs. Irwin married Charles Gompf November 26, 1977. They reside in Hamiota.

Mrs. Norman (Minnie) Lawson died August 24, 1969. Mr. George Irwin died January 1971.

Bill and Mary Iverach by Mary Iverach

Bill Iverach was born in 1898, at the farm home at Isabella. He attended the local school and later enlisted in the Air Forces, stationed in Toronto. He had nine months training when the war ended and returned home to farm north of town, where he stayed for several years. He then went to Gray, Saskatchewan to buy grain. On to Vibank and then to Kennedy.

He was with the Saskatchewan Pool. We were married at the beginning of the Depression never dreaming what was ahead with the drought and depression.

We were married less than a year, when the Pool decided to let some buyers out and replace them with superintendents, in order to have them when conditions improved. That didn't happen for seven or eight years.

Bill was without a job and had a wife and infant son Garth. There were no jobs to be had, so Bill and my oldest brother hauled wood from the Moose Mountains 14 miles to the south by sleigh and team. They left home early in the morning and left in the dark, and it was dark again before they arrived home. All for \$2.50 a cord. Wood now retails anywhere from \$80.00 to \$125.00 a cord.

One month in that jobless year, Bill took in one dollar and a bag of potatoes. In the spring he had a job with a bridge building gang on a new bridge over the Pipestone River, 13 miles from Kennedy. His wages were 15 cents an hour plus meals. That summer he was back buying grain in Odessa, Saskatchewan. During this time our daughter Edna (Teddy) was born. After less than a year at Odessa we were moved to Bender a small town west of Kennedy, where we stayed three years. During that time the drought was well established. We were all becoming weary and discouraged from the winds, dust and lack of rain and gardens. Every spring we put in a garden, but ended up with nothing.

When the rain finally came after a whole year of not even a sprinkle, the whole town of six families gathered together and wept. We had a Jewish couple in the store and Edie, the wife, was a big buxom woman and was very high strung. She really wept. Then when the rain was over, we all went to see how much soft water we had caught at an old hotel across the street. After so long without rain the sparrows had all the eave troughs plugged and not a drop was saved. Edie wept all over again. I had to hurry away because I had to laugh at Edie as she put on a real show. The kids had a glorious time wading through the mud and water. In 1940 we were moved to Bradwardine, which looked like Heaven to us. So fresh and green and lovely trees and gardens. After a year we all began to feel rested and refreshed in spirit. We really could write a book on the drought.

Bill was moved to Pitlockry near Hamiota for a year. Then to Minnedosa in 1941 when he was appointed Inspector for the Affiliated Inspection Bureau for the line Elevators a job he held until he retired in 1966. He then worked at a local drugstore for four years before ill health forced him to really retire. The years of working in dust took their toll,

and he developed emphysema, bronchitis and a heart condition. It finally caused his death August 3, 1977.

I am living in Minnedosa and am quite happy to have the Harrisons, (our daughter Teddy) only two miles out on a farm. I enjoy her five children, two boys and three girls, the four eldest making their way in the world, the youngest has one more year at home.

I enjoyed visiting occasionally with Garth, his wife Olive, and twin daughters, Patti and Lisa. Garth is a biochemist and does research for a company connected with the oil industry. He says at the present time the oil industry is in quote "complete chaos", due to government interference.

I remember fondly, my visits to Isabella where I always received a warm welcome at church or community gatherings. The visits to the Scarth farm were always a delight, with the lovely setting for the house, the flowers, and lovely garden but above all Jessie's lovely organ music. I always came home refreshed in spirit. I'll always be grateful for the opportunity to get to know Rev. Bowman and am proud of his gift of friendship. I'll always have fond memories of Isabella.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Iverach

written by Mrs. Austin Adams

Donald Iverach was born at Harpsdale, Scotland, in 1869. In 1884, he came with his mother, brothers and sisters to Canada. His first home in Canada was on a homestead taken by his brother James near the present townsite of Decker.

About 1895 Donald obtained land of his own on section 16-15-25. He farmed this land until 1912. In the early years he received his mail at Beulah and attended church services at Blaris.

About 1899, he rented his farm for a year or two and spent his time working in a cheese factory. He also worked for a year or so on a sheep ranch in Montana, with his brother-in-law Mark McKay.

About 1902 he was ill in Winnipeg and was nursed in the hospital by Miss Susanna Minnie Neely, a native of Ontario. They were married in Winnipeg in January 6, 1904 and came to live on his farm at Isabella. They had twin girls and a boy all of whom died at birth.

Mrs. Iverach continued nursing during her years on the farm. In 1912 they rented the farm and moved to Calgary where Mrs. Iverach had a nursing home. However as Mr. Iverach was not well, they returned to Manitoba in 1913. They were for a time employed at the Indian Residential School at Birtle.

In 1914 they sold their farm and built their home in Isabella. Mrs. Iverach had a nursing home. In 1918

Mr. Iverach became postmaster and continued as such for twenty-three years.

They sold their house in 1928 and moved to a smaller one as Mrs. Iverach could not continue her nursing. She died February 24, 1933. At her funeral in Isabella Church a double line, reaching from the steps to the road, of children and adults, whom she had cared for at birth, formed a guard of honor.

Mr. Iverach passed on, on May 10, 1941.

Jim and Esther Iverach

Jim, son of James and Maggie Iverach, married Esther Harrison. They have two children: Patricia and Evelyn. Jim was manager of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce at Athabasca, Alberta, until his retirement in 1974.

While living in Athabasca, Esther worked as matron of the Blunt's Nursing Home from time to time, to allow the regular matron time off.

Patricia completed training as a registered nurse at Archer Memorial Hospital in Lamont, Alberta, and married Orvis K. Schneider. Orvis took over the home farm from his father and since 1963 they have been operating the farm east of Fort Saskatchewan, raising registered polled Hereford cattle. Their place is called Elk Island Farm. They have two sons: Glen, born in 1963; and Jeffrey, born in 1966.

Evelyn qualified as a Certified Nursing Aide after finishing high school, and in 1967, married Milton Ramey. They lived in Bentley, Alberta for a few years where Milton operated a garage. From there, they went to Grand Cache, Alberta, where Milton worked for the Mannix Company as a heavy duty mechanic. A son, Ronald James, was born in 1970 and a daughter, Sarah Christine, was born in 1973. From Grand Cache they went to Sparwood, Alberta, in the same line of work. Milton later changed from Mannix company to Ferguson Supply Ltd., and they moved to Blairmore, Alberta.

After retiring in 1974, Jim and Esther made their home for two years in an apartment in Red Deer, Alberta, during the summer months. Beginning in January, 1975, they have resided in Deserama Mobile Ranch in Mesa, Arizona, each winter. In 1976 they purchased a home in Alix, Alberta, next door to some old friends. They live in Alix through the summers.

James Iverach

by Mrs. Austin Adams

James Iverach was born on a farm near the village of Harpsdale, in Caithness county, Scotland. As a boy he herded sheep on his father's farm. Being the eldest in the family he left home at an early age. He

trained as a carpenter, then served for a year or two on the London Metropolitan Police Force. The decision to go to Canada was made after the death of his father in 1883, with the idea that the new land would offer more opportunity for himself and his brothers and sisters. They followed him to Canada a year later. He spent his first year in eastern Canada in lumber camps. In 1884 he filed on a homestead about two miles east of Decker.

A paragraph of this history should be devoted to Mrs. Janet Iverach who, although she was then a widow about fifty years of age had the courage to bring her family of children and young adults to face a pioneer life in a new land. She with James, Barbara, William, Jenny, Donald, David and Peter lived for several years on James' homestead. A neighbor of hers told me that she organized the first church services. She gathered people into her home for divine services. If the minister could come, he did; if not they carried on without him.

William, Barbara and Jenny soon left for homes of their own. In 1892 Jenny died in Chicago, leaving a baby girl. Mrs. Iverach made the long journey alone to Chicago, and brought her three month old granddaughter, Jean McKay, home to live with her and her sons. Donald obtained land of his own about 1895, and for several years Mrs. Iverach and Jean made their home with him in summer and in Winnipeg with Peter in winter, as by then they were attending college.

While living with Donald she did her shopping in Beulah and attended church in Blaris. She died in Winnipeg in December 1901.

James lived on his farm until some of the brothers could carry on, then worked in various lumber camps, at carpentry work, and on large threshing gangs, etc. In 1889 he sold the farm and moved to Winnipeg to make a home for his mother and Jean.

On July 29, 1902, he married Maggie Maud Foster at Homefield, Man. She was born of Irish parents near Enterprise, Ontario on Jan. 3, 1875. The Foster family moved to the Killarney district in Manitoba about 1887. Miss Foster attended Normal School in Portage la Prairie in 1893, and in Winnipeg in 1899. She taught school at several rural points, some of which were Enterprise, East Selkirk, and Holmfield. The couple resided in Winnipeg where James Iverach was an elder in Knox Presbyterian Church.

Four children, Janet, Anna, John and James were born in Winnipeg. Mr. Iverach worked in the building trade and in 1910 came to Isabella to open a hardware store and lumber yard for the Imperial Elevator and Lumber Co. prior to the railway reaching that point from Hallboro. The business was later

bought from the company by James and his brother William under the name of Iverach Bros.

Between 1910 and 1919, three sons and a daughter were born: William, Donald, Margaret and Hugh. The first real tragedy in the family occurred on August 8, 1919, with the death of Mrs. Iverach. Although the children were all under sixteen years of age, they managed with the kind assistance of their aunt, Mrs. Donald Iverach, to stay together. The neighbors were also very kind.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Iverach were active in church and community activities. He retired from the store business in 1922 and for several years worked at the carpenter trade.

During the Second World War he was proud to have all five of his sons serving in the Canadian armed forces. John, the eldest, was with the ill-fated Winnipeg Grenadiers at Hong Kong and died in a Japanese prison camp. Donald and Hugh went overseas with the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry in the First Canadian Division. William served in Canada with the Royal Canadian Air Force and James with the Royal Canadian Artillery. Mr. Iverach passed away at Isabella on September 30, 1945.

Janet married Ernest Bedford and lives in Brandon. They had three children: Gerald, Ronald and Muriel. Anna trained as a nurse in Grace Hospital in Winnipeg and married Austin Adams. They live in Isabella and have two children: Joyce and Noreen.

John married Margaret Stevenson and he died at Hong Kong. James married Esther Harrison. They have two children: Patricia and Evelyn. He is the bank manager at Athabaska, Alberta. Donald married Ruth Thompson. She died in 1952. Donald is a male nurse in the Colonel Belcher Military Hospital in Calgary. William married Louisa Sigurdson. They have two children: Robert and Sheila. He is in the head office of the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation in Ottawa. Margaret trained as a nurse in Neepawa. She married George Linis in St. Louis, Missouri. They have two sons, James and Donald. Hugh is a foreman in a motor coach works in Winnipeg. He married Dorothy Suffron and they have two daughters: Colleen and Heather.

Update on the James Iverach Family by Anna Adams

My sister Margaret died in January 1975. Her husband George died in 1974. They had two sons. Jim and his wife, Peggy, live in St. Louis, Missouri. Don and his wife, Kathy, live in Columbia, M.O. They have two boys.

Jim Iverach and his wife Esther live in Alix, Alberta in the summer and in Mesa, Arizona in the winter. They have two daughters Pat and Evelyn. Pat

is married and has two boys. Evelyn is married and has a girl and a boy.

Bill was transferred to Vancouver in December 1964, where he and Lovey still live following Bill's retirement in 1975. Their son Bob is married and lives in Halifax, they have a son and a daughter. Sheila lives with her parents in Vancouver.

Don married Gertrude Jones, a widow with two children. Don is retired and lives in Calgary.

Hugh was transferred to Rosswell, New Mexico, where he and his wife Dorothy live. They have two daughters: Colleen and Heather. Colleen is married and lives in Florida. Heather is married and lives in Winnipeg. They have a boy and a girl.

Janet's story appears in the Bedford family history.

Mr. and Mrs. William Iverach This Old House by Mrs. R. Scarth

It stands on the northwest quarter of Sec. 16-15-25, where it was built in 1893 on land that was homesteaded by my father, William Iverach. The lumber was hauled by horses, a distance of 35-40 miles, from the Big Bend saw mill which was located north of the present site of the town of Strathclair.

A cellar was dug and a fine field stone wall lined the cellar and served as a foundation. The fact that the wall is still sound in 1962 testifies to the excellence of the workmanship.

The building was a story-and-a-half, 16 by 20 feet. The downstairs was divided into two rooms at first, a partition across the west end made a bedroom. There were three small rooms upstairs.

The walls were filled with "grout", a mixture of lime and gravel, poured between the joist. At first it was thought that this was used as an attempt at insulation, but we have been told that this method of construction was used by the early settlers to make walls proof against attack by Indian arrows, which was not necessary when the house was erected as Indians were never anything but friendly at that time.

The lumber was all rough and unfinished, but all that was available. The first attempt at interior decorating was a covering of building paper, and I can remember by mother saying how much she liked the smooth sand colored walls.

Later the upstairs walls were covered with "Sanitile", quite like table oilcloth, in a soft beige color with a brown stripe pattern. This made bedroom walls washable.

The upstairs floor was covered with brown building paper, pasted down. Another coat of paste was used to fill the surface and when this was thoroughly

dry it was given a coat of yellow floor paint. It is amazing how many years that floor covering lasted.

Downstairs, wall paper in a dark green color with a large medallion pattern was pasted over the building paper and a few years later these walls were plastered.

The outside remained unpainted. Then a product came on the market, a heavy sheet metal in squares that could be nailed on. The original color was dark red and although it added nothing to the appearance, it did make walls windproof and later when it was painted a buff color, was quite attractive.

A lean-to kitchen was added. Until now the original little bachelor shack was used for a summer kitchen. Now it was pulled away into the barnyard and used for a tool house and work shop.

Into this home my mother came as a bride in November, 1893. She was born in Markham, Ontario and came as a 12 year old girl with her parents to Portage la Prairie in 1880. They stayed in that district for three years then her father and brothers drove with horses looking for land of their own. They found what they wanted in this Decker and Isabella area. Her parents built a house just south and west of the present site of the town of Decker.

One brother settled on a half-section next to my father's land, and there my mother and her sister spent the first summer. She described it as a carefree summer, with two cows, two calves, some chickens and geese to care for.

The cows occasioned many a long walk as there was endless unfenced prairie for them to roam over. She mentioned two neighbor women, a Mrs. Woods, who was sick and whose little two year old boy she cared for frequently. Another woman lived quite close to the Woods home.

The Heise family returned to the U.S.A. and in 1893 my father went down to the Chicago World's Fair. They were married there and returned to his homestead.

He was born in Harpesdale, Caithness, Scotland in 1865 and lived on a farm with his parents until his father's death. His widowed mother decided there were more opportunities in Canada and came with her five sons and two daughters. They settled first near Ottawa and came west a few years later. My father worked in lumber camps in Wisconsin and in Manitoba before settling on his land.

Few women, even among the pioneers, could pass through such an experience as my mother had when her first baby was born and live to raise a family.

In those days many of the necessities of life, especially items of food, were to be had from the

local store in trade for butter or eggs, and long drives were part of the bargain.

My parents did their early trading at Beulah, that town being established on the stage and mail route between Elkhorn and Birtle before the railroad came through here.

Eggs were collected and packed in tubs of bran for safe carrying. Butter was packed in wooden tubs, layer by layer as cream collected to be churned. A layer of salt over a clean cloth protected one layer and was removed when a second churning was ready to be added. The tub filled and the eggs packed, off they set on the 7 or 8 mile trip to replenish their store of food.

So one fine harvest day my mother carried her tub of butter and her eggs up from the cool cellar to the buggy and set off for Beulah to do her shopping and get the mail. By the time she reached town she was not feeling very well. The storekeeper's wife noticed that she was very pale and invited her in to have a cup of tea and asked if she would like to stay awhile. But she, being young and inexperienced, thought she should hurry home.

The old trail angled across the prairie, skirting the low places, passing between the poplar bluffs and the pony jogged along until she was nearly home. By now the pain was severe and it was impossible to sit. She got out and there on the prairie her firstborn arrived — a seven month baby but strong enough to cry. She rested awhile, the pony standing patiently. Then she gathered her baby in her skirt, put her arm over the pony's neck and walked the rest of the way home. They had a young boy helping them with the harvest. She called to him to hurry for help and she was soon in bed, but her baby was dead. The wee child was buried under the trees, just west of the house. The grave is unmarked, no one knows the exact spot, just the old house knows and remembers.

In 1906 my mother took me with her and went to visit her mother and brothers in Illinois. Her sister Mary came to look after the home and the two little boys in her absence and when we came home Grandma Heise came with us. This with a growing family, made a crowded house so three lean-to bedrooms were added to the west side. The partition was removed to make a larger livingroom, a furnace was installed and linoleum laid on the floor. Up till now the floor had been covered with a home-made rag carpet that had come from Ontario with the Heise family. When it began to show signs of wear it was filled with a glue-size and painted. The new linoleum was laid right over the rag carpet and it made a very good underlay.

In the kitchen cupboards new cooking utensils of grey granite began to appear, to take the place of the

old three-legged iron pot in which porridge was cooked for breakfast, the potatoes for dinner and the soup for supper. Some days it was only off the stove to be washed and put back.

Flour was stored in a baketray, a chest on four legs with a removable cover that was turned over and used for a bakeboard. A drawer under the flour bin held the rolling pin, cookie-cutters, etc.

A cream separator replaced the flat tin milk pans in which the milk was set to cool until the cream rose to the top and could be skimmed off. The pans empty, they were washed, scalded and set in the sun until milking time again. I can remember a sudden summer storm that hit the porch one hot afternoon and all the little flat shiny pans took off like birds, to be flattened against the trees.

The house by now was surrounded by grass and flowers, and the vegetable garden, cared for largely by Grandma Heise, was a source of pride to all and provided wonderful food that was shared many times with friends and neighbors as well as with the stranger who happened to pass by. All helping to broaden the outlook of the children who lived in the old house.

When we were tiny there were winter evenings when we were taken on our father's knee. He would open his coat and say "Come under my wings," then rock us and sing to us. As we grew older we all learned to sing around the old organ, one of the first in the community, the purchase of which was made possible by the sale of a colt, which could profitably have been used in the fields. The old organ, now in the form of a desk, is still in the old house.

More land was broken, a good herd of Shorthorn cattle was being established, good horses were being raised or bought.

In 1905 the school was built, my brother was one of the first pupils. From that time on our father took a great interest in the local school and in rural education, doing a great deal in later years to further the forming of consolidated districts and the Miniota Municipal System. He served on the Advisory Board of the Provincial Department of Education and on the Board of Governors of the University of Manitoba and in 1942 was rewarded by the conferring of an honorary degree.

Church and Sunday school were always important to him. In the old family Bible, this is written, "William Ewart Iverach, Baptized by Rev. J. McArthur, Presbyterian minister of Beulah Manitoba, at the home of H. Alexander, sec. 4-15-24: on December 2, 1898." That minister and many others, were always welcome and deeply respected guests in the old house.

The first water supply for house and livestock

was from shallow hand-dug wells, but these often failed and an attempt was made to find a more permanent supply. Still all by hand, Mr. R. H. Calder helped my father dig a well 90 feet deep. They almost gave up hope of success when they reached a stone that refused to be moved. They pried and thought there was some movement, then left to eat dinner. When they came back there were six feet of water in the well. That well never failed until it caved in following days of terrific rain about 1946 or 47. Then Mr. Calder's son Hector helped fill it in.

The first land was broken with a walking plow drawn by a team, a horse and an ox. The prairie sod was turned first, then trees were pulled out with horses and a chain to square fields and increase the cultivated acreage. Harvesting was done with horse drawn binders, sheaves stooked, then stacked. Sometimes they stood waiting until cold weather, until the big threshing machines, with great gangs of men came to do the job. The outfit belonging to Mr. Charles Crockart of Beulah is the only big outfit I can remember. Later small groups of neighbors joined together and bought a machine. Our men worked with Mr. Duncan Kelly and Mr. R. Warren for several years. This ended the business of housing and feeding huge gangs of men.

This old house could tell stories of tasks that are no longer done in modern homes. Like the making of soap with lye produced by letting rain water seep through a barrel of wood ashes; the making of vinegar, using yeast spread on brown paper and placed in a crock of snow water sweetened a little with brown sugar. After a while "mother" would form and this was used to start a fresh supply of vinegar when the snow started to melt next spring.

A very good ointment was made with unsalted butter and the buds of the Black Poplar trees and there was a recipe for a sticking plaster that healed cuts and festering sores which was borrowed and used by Doctor Frazer when other medication failed on one occasion.

The old house could tell of many quilting bees, of rugs made in long winter days. It can, I am sure, remember the smell of the good homemade bread, baked twice weekly, 13 loaves at a time. Or maybe the smell was of a favorite supper dish called "Stir-about". It was made by frying onions in a pan until they were tender, then coarsely chopped cold boiled potatoes were added and allowed to get very hot. In the meantime a batter was prepared, of flour, salt, eggs, and milk. More fat was added to the pan and the batter poured over the potatoes. This was allowed to brown, then turned in large portions to brown on the other side; a good filling supper for a cold winter night.

The old house rang with laughter and fun or echoed to the sound of mother's whistle as she went about her work and it stood silent in times of tragedy as when an accident took the life of the little two-year-old daughter, Flora.

In the spring of 1918 my oldest brother enlisted in the R.A.F. When he came home again he started farming on his own. I went to Normal and taught two years, then married and made our home at Binscarth. Sister Edna and brother Charlie were still at home.

My husband's parents were pioneers in the Binscarth district. His father was born in Binscarth, Orkney Islands, trained to be a banker but advised to come to Canada because of ill health. The advice was surely well taken, he lived to be 92. His mother was born in Scotland but lived as a girl in Liverpool where her father was a sea captain, Captain Stewart, who brought the first Empress of Britain to Canada on her maiden voyage. His daughter sometimes made the voyage with him and finally remained to make her home in Canada. We lived on the next farm to my husband's parents for four years. Our daughter, Flora was born there and in June 1924 I came home to have our second child at Mrs. Don Iverach's Nursing Home in Isabella. Robert was born on June 29th. I came home to stay at mother's for a few days. Next morning they carried brother Charlie in from the road where he had been injured when the horse he was riding slipped and fell on him. He died a few hours later.

In 1925 we left our home at Binscarth and came to live on my older brother's farm. He had gone back to the old home, but Charlie's death was the end of the old family home. Bill went to work for an elevator company, Edna went to Normal and went teaching. In the spring of 1926 my parents had a sale, rented the farm and went to live in Isabella.

In September of that year our daughter Shirley was born in Birtle Hospital. It was a fall to remember. On September 23rd, when I was ready to leave the hospital and go home, travel was impossible. A raging blizzard was howling and roads were blocked with snow. No harvesting was done. Our good help in the house (Clara Percy) used to look out the window and say "Well Boss, there's your money and mine out there, safe as a bank." The weather cleared; she got her money and we got ours.

In the spring of 1933 we moved to the home farm and the old house. The house was feeling its 40 years badly and the farm run down and heavily mortgaged to try to save the hardware business which, like many another small town business, was not able to stand the depression and a Debt Adjustment Act that forgave the debts of one group of people and expected another group to pay up.

But gradually the debt on the farm was paid off. Six children were fed, clothed and educated, our aim — to give each one a Grade 12 or its equivalent. Kathleen and Barrie were born while we lived on my brother's farm and Margaret was born after we moved to the old house. Now all six have homes of their own and upon occasion the Old House rings with the voices of the grandchildren and the walls bulge to make room when they all come home.

In 1957 the house was re-modelled and made more comfortable, but at the bottom of the lawn still stands the old Manitoba maple tree. When it was quite small a summer storm split it in two. My father put the pieces together and bolted it fast. It soon grew and hid the bolt. Now it spreads well over 50 feet but the branches have separated with the weight and the bolt is visible again. Closer to the house are two big spruce trees that mother carried home from Edmonton in a little cotton sack. Many times when we wondered if we would ever be able to clear the land of its burden of debt I would look out at those trees and say "No one has a better right to live on this little piece of Manitoba than we have." And so we fought and struggled and won.

My father died in 1947 and my mother in 1956. They lie in Isabella cemetery, so they tell me, but I know they walk this house and yard and garden with me.

My brother married Mary Dermody. They have a son and a daughter and four grandchildren. My sister married H. R. Shipley. They also have a son and a daughter and two grandsons.

Our six are as follows:

Flora, who married Clifford Holdsworth, works in the Medical Clinic in Winnipeg.

Robert married Dorothy Willson. They have two daughters, Lorna and Isla. Robert works with the Child Guidance Clinic in Winnipeg.

Shirley married Carman Ryan. They have two daughters, Patricia and Julie. They live on a farm at Foxwarren. Kathleen married William Kelly, banker. They have two daughters Margaret Ann and Judith, living at present at Pierson, Manitoba. Margaret married Lyle Littlejohn, banker. They have one son, Bruce. Their present home is Winnipeg.

Barrie married Shirley Runchey. They have three sons, Allan, Michael and Robert. Present address Burnaby, B.C.

So a second family have left the old house, but like the first family, they still love to come back home. So, we hope that wherever they go, some of the sweetness and goodness of this house and farm may go with them.

1982 update found under Bob and Jessie Scarth.

Mr. Jackson

Mr. Jackson lived in the Ed Heise house. He was a stone mason and carpenter. This was about the year 1914.

Mr. Jardine

Mr. Jardine lived on the N½ of 33-14-25 selling out to Mr. Fisk who later sold to S. Ross.

Jefferson

Mr. Jefferson lived on the Bill Preston farm on the east half of 26-15-26. No other trace has been found.

Mr. and Mrs. Jewell

Mr. and Mrs. Jewell ran the boarding house for a few years. One of their sons married Rev. Ross's daughter.

Morgan S. and Eleanor Johnson by M. Johnson

I was born at Miniota, Manitoba, and attended school in Beulah and Birtle and one year at the University of Manitoba.

After a time in the RCAF, I returned to Birtle and married Eleanor Stoughton. In the spring of 1946, we moved to the Isabella district where we had purchased a farm through the Veterans Land Act. This farm was the former Bridge farm located two miles southwest of Isabella.

Three of our children were born at Isabella and attended school there. With us, they enjoyed the community activities and the many friends we made while living there.

In 1960, we made the decision to quit farming. At this time we had an auction sale, rented our farm to Ray Still and moved to Birtle where I accepted a job as field supervisor for the Veteran's Land Administration until the spring of 1961, when we were transferred to Kenora, Ontario. After one year spent in Kenora, we were transferred back to Morden, with our four children: Brian, Greg, Karen and Kim.

Update by Eleanor Johnson

After six happy years at Morden we were moved to Winnipeg in 1968.

Brian, our elder son, graduated from Morden Collegiate, and then went on to the University of Manitoba, where he received his degree of Bachelor of Commerce. In June, 1968, he took a job in Calgary with Mobile Oil. That year, he married Shyrl Slywka of Gimli, Manitoba. They have lived in Swift Current, Saskatchewan; Fairfield, Connecticut, USA; and are now back in Calgary. They have two

sons; Brian Jeffrey, born June 10, 1969, and Jason Kelly born March 20, 1973.

Greg, our second son, chose not to finish school, and spent several years working in isolated areas in the north, with oil crews. About 1972, he had grown tired of the north, and took a job with the British Columbia Department of Highways. In September of 1973, he married Betty Ware of Creston, B.C., and since that time they have lived in Slocan, Duncan and Cranbrook, B.C. They have one son Kurtis Bradley born May 26, 1977.

Karen graduated from Westwood Collegiate in Winnipeg, then took a secretarial course at Red River Community College. She lived at home and worked in Winnipeg until August 23, 1975 when she married Bryan Ness, also from the Westwood area. Bryan works for Western Alloys, and in January, 1980, they were transferred to Vancouver B.C. Karen was also able to get a job with the same company she had worked for in Winnipeg, Westroc Industries. She worked there until their baby girl, Dana Leann was born, December 22, 1980. They live in Maple Ridge, B.C.

Kim, our youngest daughter took all her schooling in the Westwood area, and graduated from Westwood Collegiate. Kim was employed with the Royal Bank, and then changed to the Mercantile Bank, downtown, where she is presently employed. She married Mark Woods, also from Winnipeg, on June 26, 1982.

Morg is still employed with Veterans Land Administration, and looks forward to retirement in a few years.

I work two days per week for Proctor Silex Company. We both enjoy a little curling, golfing, visits from our family and travelling. On April 2, 1981, our family had a 35th Anniversary party for us, thus making it 35 years since we arrived in the Isabella district.

Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Johnson by Stuart Johnson

In attempting to write a history, I shall not go back to where our ancestors swung through the trees, as it usually ends with the sad realization that there was more sap in the family tree than one had realized.

Stuart Johnson was the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Morgan H. Johnson. He arrived in this cruel world on a September morning in 1931. This period is referred to as the "dirty thirties". There may be some connection, I'm not too sure. However, the happy event took place in Beulah, Manitoba, and the town has never been the same since.

The Johnson name originated in Sweden, where, many centuries ago, the Johnsons were among a

religious sect which was persecuted for its religious beliefs. As a result they emigrated to England. It might be added that the family has never been bothered because of their religious beliefs since that time.

Stuart, or Stu, received his education in Beulah, Birtle, Solsgirth, Crandall and Isabella. In 1950 he was employed as a telegrapher by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and worked on the Brandon and Kenora Divisions.

During the years 1953-54, in a moment of weakness, the above named and Miss Donna Douglas decided to combine their talents and were married on July 7, 1954.

Donna was the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Douglas of Crandall. She received her education in Palmerston, Crandall and Miniota schools. Following this she took teacher training and in 1953 was accepted as the primary teacher at Isabella.

In 1954, after their marriage, Stu and Donna came to live in Isabella in what was known as "the caretaker's house". In the late fall of 1954 the new school was opened in Isabella and Donna continued to teach the primary room. Stu commuted to such points of employment as Shoal Lake, Elkhorn, Bin-scarth, Kelloe, Virden and Brandon.

In 1960 Stu decided he was wasting his time and talents on the C.P.R. and returned to school for two years at Isabella to complete his senior matriculation and become, without doubt, the only student attending Isabella School and collecting the old age pension simultaneously.

In 1963, Stu began three years of commuting to Brandon University to continue his education. In 1964 he graduated from Teachers' College and in 1966 he received his Bachelor of Science Degree, so was ready again to tackle a career and earn a living. Thus came to an end the years of residence in Isabella.

In the summer of 1966, Stu and Donna moved to Winnipeg where they had accepted teaching positions in sunny St. James and Fort Garry respectively. Both continued with further education. At present they live in Fort Richmond, an area in the southern part of Fort Garry.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson ran the boarding house for a time. Mr. Johnson had a habit of raiding the neighbour's woodpiles when he ran short. One time he found himself with a slight explosion which took the side right out of his furnace. The neighbour's wood was extremely powerful.

Burton and Marie Johnston

by Burton Johnston

I was born at Roland, Manitoba, April 7, 1925, to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Johnston — first of three sons. Next was Lyall, and ten years younger than I, was Claire. I attended Pomeroy School until 1939 when my parents moved to Arrow River, and from there I attended school at Arrow River, Isabella, and for a short time at Miniota. In 1943 I joined the Canadian Army, where I spent the next two and one half years in the Armoured Corps, most of this time at Camp Borden, Ontario.

Marie was born at Miniota, Manitoba, August 8, 1930, to Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Sunley — first daughter in their family of five, after Vern and Ray, and older than Glen and Beverley. Blaris School was located on the corner of their farm, and Marie attended there to grade eight, and then attended Isabella School.

On September 28, 1946, Marie and I were married in the United Church manse in Isabella, by Reverend H. I. Bowman, attended by Jean Harrison (Norrie), and Lyall Johnston. For the next ten years we lived on the "Drummond" farm one and one half miles east of Isabella, farming with my father and my brother Lyall. During the next nine years our three children were born — Freddie, LeeAnn, and Calvin. These were very precious years in our lives.

Reminiscing over these years brings many memories, one of which was our first winter conveyance — the stoneboat with a chicken coup for a seat, pulled by Alice the horse. Alice often successfully decided to separate us from her and our conveyance, leaving us to walk the remainder of the way.

Heating the house was achieved by burning two to three foot logs in a long furnace. There was considerable variation in house temperatures, and it seemed at least annually the chimney caught fire from the tar deposits.

Neighbors were great, always responding when wood had to be sawn, or the pump needed repairs, or when it was chicken picking time, or the time I was sick with rheumatic fever, and the neighbors all came and put the crop in.

Early in 1956 we decided to quit farming, and we moved to Foxwarren where I started work in the Pool Elevator with Mr. P. K. Peterson. In April 1957 our little mongoloid son, Freddie, who had spent the last six months in the Manitoba School in Portage, passed away, and was buried in Isabella cemetery.

In May of that year, I became manager of the Pool Elevator at Foxwarren where we lived for the next eleven years. LeeAnn and Calvin started their school life there, and Marie spent those years working with 4-H and with other community groups, and being a great mother to our family. I worked with the Agri-

cultural Society and church board during most of those years. "Skidooing" in the winter became fun for our whole family, which included weiner roasts in January.

In July 1968 we moved to Dauphin where I worked for the next eight years as District Manager with Pool Elevators. Marie continued her work with 4-H children, mainly in sewing classes, and she sewed beautiful clothes for our whole family and did custom sewing as well.

Then in July 1976 we moved to Neepawa where we still live, and I continue to work in the same capacity, now having completed twenty-five years employment with Pool Elevators. Since coming to Neepawa, Marie became very ill with cancer, and only by the will of God is she well today.

Our family has now been away from home for some time. LeeAnn was married in February 1976 and lived at Foxwarren where she worked at the Credit Union, and at Birdtail Equipment at Birtle. In November 1980, her husband left their home, and she is now living at Fort Smith, N.W.T. where she works in the bank and assists in the work of the church there.

Calvin attended the University of Manitoba for two years, taking electrical engineering, and then took a two year course on electrical technology at Red River College. In June, 1979, Calvin and Cindy Esler of Dauphin were married, and he started employment with Manitoba Hydro, later moving to Thompson. They now are living at Melville, Saskatchewan, where he works with CNCP Telecommunications.

Marie's mother passed away in November, 1971, after a lengthy illness, and she is buried in the Isabella Cemetery.

Dad and Mother spent their retirement years in Victoria and enjoyed almost annual visits back to Manitoba. They passed away within a year of each other — Mother in July 1975, and Father in July 1976. They are buried in Roland Cemetery.

Marie and I have been richly blessed with thirty-five great years of marriage, and a family that we love. And we enjoy our life in Neepawa, where we attend Calvary Chapel Church.

Claire and Pat Johnston **by Claire Johnston**

I, J. Claire Johnston, am the youngest son of Joe and Maggie Johnston and brother of Lyall and Burton Johnston.

I attended Isabella primary, elementary and high school (fairly regularly) until age fifteen. That was in 1951 when I went off to Youbou on Vancouver Island and then to Goldbridge in the interior of British

Columbia in 1952. I worked in a garage and at building a hydro dam respectively.

The winter of 1952-53 I was with the Hudson's Bay Company freighting from the railhead at Savant Lake, Ontario to several trading posts of Northern Ontario by "cat" train.

I joined the Royal Canadian Navy in 1953 and retired from same in 1974. I married Pat Best of Qualicum Beach on the 9th of October, 1959. She was a wonderful teacher before, in between, and after, the birth of our three daughters. Kelly was born in 1961, Sally in 1964 and Nancy in 1966. Obviously, not all my time in the navy was spent at sea.

Presently I am manager of C. H. Cates and Sons Ltd., a towboat firm which berths and assists all ships entering and leaving the port of Vancouver.

Mr. and Mrs. J. F. M. Johnston **by Mr. J. Johnston**

I was born Joseph Frank Mitchell Johnston in Glencoe, Minnesota, April 12, 1888, where my father and his family were farming. They had lived previously in Simcoe, Ontario. When I was nine years old, my father died, and I set out to seek a livelihood. Between walking and catching rides on carts and wagons, I made my way to Canada and found employment on the farm of Jack Burnett at Roland. I stayed in the Roland district for some years, and then returned to Minnesota for a year-and-a-half where I took mechanical training. I came back to Canada then and worked for Ford Motor Company at Regina, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert.

In September, 1914, I joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force, and after a training period near Ottawa, I went overseas where I served for four years and eight months. While with the 4th Field Ambulance, and after extensive advances by the Canadian Expeditionary Force near Cambrai, I was decorated at Bourbon Woods where I received the Distinguished Conduct Medal "for Distinguished Conduct in the Field".

Upon returning to Roland from overseas, I took up farming on my own on a quarter section northeast of town. I was a member of the Presbyterian Church, later the United Church, and of the Masonic Lodge.

On October 11th, 1922, Margaret Evelyn Reid, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Reid, became my wife. Her father and mother had a livery business in Roland. In 1927 their home was destroyed by fire and they moved to Isabella, where they farmed the south-half of 9-15-25 for several years.

While we were farming at Roland, three sons were born to us — Burton Roy, born in April, 1925, Lyall Lawrence, born in February, 1927, and Claire Joseph, born in August, 1935. They each received



Back Row: Burton, Marie, LeeAnn, Calvin, Pat, Claire, Jean and Lyall. Front Row: Margaret, Kelly, Nancy, Sally, and Joe Johnston, 1972.

their early schooling at Pomeroy School on the banks of Tobacco Creek. I was councillor of ward 1 of the Rural Municipality of Roland for five years and was an auctioneer, which was part of my occupation during all the years when I was farming.

We moved from Roland to the Harry Dowell farm, southeast quarter 18-14-25, at Arrow River in 1939. We attended church at Arrow River and took part in all community efforts and projects. The children attended Arrow River school and Sunday school.

After farming at Arrow River for five years, I bought the Cliff Drummond farm, section 15-15-25, one mile east of Isabella and farmed there. The next year we moved to Austin Warren's farm, part of the northwest quarter of 9-15-25 in Isabella, farming both farms until Burton was married to Marie Sunley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Sunley of the Blaris district, in September 1946. They lived on the Cliff Drummond farm until 1956 when they moved to Foxwarren where Burton was employed as grain buyer for the Manitoba Pool Elevators. They have three children: William Frederick, born in October, 1947, passed away at the early age of nine-and-a-half years and was laid to rest in Isabella Cemetery; Brenda Lee Ann, born in June, 1952, and Calvin Burton, born in January, 1955. Burton and Marie are members of Foxwarren United Church, and both teach Sunday School. Marie holds the office of Noble Grand of the Rebeccas, and Burton is Noble Grand of the Oddfellows. Both are very interested and take quite an active part in all community projects.

In 1949, I bought the John Coxworth farm, the west half of 13-15-26, two-and-one-half miles west of Isabella. Lyall farmed there until the fall of 1956 when he left to work in the mines at Wawa, Ontario. The next year, on July 20, 1957, he married Jean Livingston, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Livingston of Nesbitt, Manitoba. Jean had taught

school in Isabella for five years and is still teaching at Wawa. Lyall is also on the fire brigade there and drives the ambulance when needed.

In 1951, Claire left school, worked in British Columbia for one year, and then joined the Royal Canadian Navy. He is now a Petty Officer. In October, 1959, he married Patricia Best, a school teacher and they have one daughter, Kelly Patricia, born in March, 1961.

While we lived in Isabella, we were members of Isabella United Church. Margaret was president of the Women's Missionary Society for a couple of years and took a very active part in the W.A. She was also convenor of Red Cross work for several years. A great many quilts were made in our living room, with the help of the neighbor ladies.

In September, 1958, we sold out in Isabella and moved to Victoria, B.C., where we have been living for the past four years.

1982 Mr. Johnston passed away July 11, 1976 and Mrs. Johnston in August 1975.

Mr. and Mrs. O. D. Johnstone

by O. D. Johnstone

Douglas Johnstone was born at Clearwater, Manitoba, where he received his education. His parents came from Scotland.

On September 6, 1939, he joined the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada and spent six years, less one month, in that branch of the service. While taking part in the Dieppe raid, on August 19, 1942, he had the misfortune to be wounded and was taken prisoner-of-war, spending the next thirty-two months in different camps throughout Germany and Poland.

On October 10, 1945, in Winnipeg, he married Muriel Marguerite McLennan, formerly of Mather, Manitoba. Two children, Marilyn and Jimmie, complete the family.

After Doug's return from overseas the Johnstones spent one year in Winnipeg, three years at Delia, Alberta, one year at Silverton, Man. and from there to the store in Decker which they operated for nine years from 1950-1959.

In the fall of 1956, he took over the J. H. Finkbeiner farm and in the spring of '57, the south half of 14-15-25, making a complete section.

1982 no update.

Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Kelly

Mr. Kelly was a homesteader in 1887 or earlier. He was on the south half of section 18-15-25. He sold the west quarter to Mr. Rennie in 1889. There is very little known of them. Mrs. Kelly used to bake bread for the neighbours.

Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Kelly

by Mrs. C. Lints

On the 28th day of April, 1891, Duncan Kelly of Guelph, Ontario, born the 10th day of January, 1868, and Martha McDonald of Port Lampton, Ontario, born the 12th day of January, 1868, were married, and came to Manitoba that spring to farm two miles north of Harding, Manitoba.

In the year 1902, Mr. Kelly came from Harding and purchased the W ½ of 8-15-25, then all prairie land. That year, he broke up some of the new land, with the help of Mr. Wm. Miller (Earle and Lorne Miller's father), preparing the ground for a crop the following spring, 1903. That summer he broke more new land, and built the main part of the house which still stands, also a car-roof-stable with the help of Mr. John Miller (brother of Mr. Wm. Miller).

On November 26th, of that same year, the family and the remaining livestock were moved from Harding to the new farm home. Most of the livestock had been moved during the summer as the fences were built. Mrs. Kelly and four daughters: Margretta, born November 26th, 1893; Marion, born January 7th, 1895; Edith Lillian, born March 15th, 1897; and Mabel Pearl, born August 18th, 1898, were the family that moved.

The late Mr. Wm. Miller's family, which included Mrs. Miller, and daughters, Laura and Allie, were also moved from Harding and lived with the Kelly family for the winter. They went to their own farm southeast of Blaris Church in the spring. Uncle John Miller continued to work for the Kellys for two or three years. During that time, more land was broken. Young horses were raised for future horse power, and the cattle herd was enlarged to more milk cows. Pigs and lots of chickens were raised, also ducks and turkeys. The faithful broody hens were reliable incubators.

A son, Cecil Duncan was born on March 20th, 1905, and a daughter, Edna Elloise was born on April 28th, 1910. Early in 1910, a new addition was added to the north side of the original house, consisting of a kitchen, bathroom and verandah. A verandah was also built to the south side of the main part. A complete new paint job gave the home a very fine appearance.

In 1915, a new barn was built by Mr. Paul Beveridge, a contractor. This barn replaced the old stable, which had served its purpose. It had had a board kicked off here and there, and one time, in particular nearly the whole side of the barn was damaged, by the "boy-friends" high spirited horses. More than once, a repair job was waiting to be done on Monday morning, with a warning under the breath, that if that kicker ever came back, it could stand outside. But

somehow the rule was never enforced, and the doors of the new barn were opened many times again for the same steeds.

In the summer of 1914, the first new Ford was purchased, but the family drivers, democrat, and buggy were still kept on hand. There was always the great sentiment of kindness shown towards the drivers, as well as the work horses on that farm.

On January 16th, 1921, Mr. Kelly passed away following an ulcer operation. Mrs. Kelly carried on farming with the help of hired men, until the fall of 1924, when she had a sale of livestock and implements. She rented the farm to Archie Stewart, who worked it until 1930, when Mr. R. Adams rented it. He worked it until 1934, when Mr. B. Robinson rented it until 1941. It was finally sold to Mr. T. Gilchrist of Miniota, and it is now worked by his son, William, the present owner. The number of times the doors of that old home have been opened and closed to welcome neighbors and visitors from the years 1903 to 1962, could not be estimated, and the same welcome is still on the doorstep. It is a real pleasure for those who once called it home, to return there for a visit. Many improvements have been made, and pride is shown in the upkeep of the buildings and grounds.

The good crops of the earlier years were stacked for threshing. A gang of men numbering ten or twelve, followed the machine for the threshing season, one machine threshing for all the farms for miles around. Often threshing was not completed before November and even December. The grain was hauled seven miles to Arrow River, until in 1910, the C.N.R. railroad was built which crossed the north end of our farm. This was a boon to the early and new settlers of this part of the country. It was then that the town of Isabella came into being, named after a dear old lady, Mrs. Taylor, the oldest resident of the district at the time. First a little grocery store was built, operated by Mr. Heddeshimer; then came a grain elevator; a blacksmith shop was built by Mr. Kennedy; then there appeared a large general store, a hardware store, and the Post Office run by Mr. J. Iverach and Mr. Wm. Iverach.

The first school was built in Isabella in 1905. The older members of the Kelly family attended Blaris School before the Isabella School was erected. It was a happy day for all, when the new school was built. The first teacher was Miss Ella May Cole. She was eighteen years old and came from Cypress River, Manitoba. She boarded with the Kellys and was like one of the family. She was an aunt of Mrs. Dewart Harrison and her mother used to live in the Shamrock district when Rose was teaching there.

The school lent itself to Sunday School and

Church services, before there was a church. Many of the older children received their entire education in that little school, under the supervision of Miss Margaret Elliott, who taught there for nine years. The first attendance was five and then seven. Gradually more residents came to the district, the children started school at an earlier age, until more room was needed to accommodate the pupils. Now, a modern new school shows progress in education in the community.

The fifty one year old Church still stands, which was erected by the older and earlier settlers. Many descendants of the pioneer families still worship there.

Margretta married Crawford Lints and lives at Shoal Lake. Edith lives at Wellwood, Manitoba. Mabel is at Indian Head, Saskatchewan. Cecil passed away in July, 1936, in Russell Hospital, at the age of thirty-one years. He is buried in Isabella Cemetery. Marion passed away in November, 1960, at Stouffville, Ontario, at the age of sixty five. Mrs. Kelly passed away November 2nd, 1958, at the age of ninety years. She was buried beside Mr. Kelly in the Isabella Cemetery.

Update by Edna Miller

This is an update of the Duncan Kelly family, with the exception of Margretta, Marion, and Edna whose stories appear under the heading of Crawford Lints, Archie Stewart and Edna (Kelly) Miller.

Edith Lillian, third daughter of Duncan and Martha Kelly went to Blaris School with Retta and Mae after the family moved from Bradwardine in 1902. In 1905, when school opened in Isabella, they attended there. I believe she took some schooling in Crandall, and completed her grade XI in Neepawa. After Edith took third class Normal school training, she taught at Carlingville, near Crandall and Rookhurst, near Minnedosa. She stayed home the year Mother and Dad were operated on in Brandon General Hospital in 1920-1. After completing her second class Normal, she taught at Newdale. Later she accepted a teaching position at Portreeve, Saskatchewan. There she met and married Lewis James Wardell on July 8, 1929. In 1936, due to the drought in Saskatchewan, they moved to Wellwood, Manitoba, where they farmed and owned and operated a general store. They had five children: William, Edna, Clifton, Helen, and Donald. Edith died in 1968, and is buried in Neepawa Cemetery. Her husband resides at Wellwood.

William died at the age of three, at Portreeve.

Edna married Gordon Russett of Birtle in 1955 in Wellwood. They lived at Birtle, later moving to Boggy Creek. They have a family of six Carol, Janice,

James, Robert, Edith, and Richard. Ellen was born in 1956, and married John O'Connor of Yellowknife, North West Territories. They now live at Fort McMurray and have two children Timothy James, and Kerry Ellen. Janice Gaye born 1957, married Donald Lenderbeck of San Clara where they farm. Their children are: Sheldon Lewis and Craig Allan. James Blair was born in 1959 and is employed in Brandon as a mechanic. Robert Gordon was born in 1960; he is working in Edmonton. Edith Mae was born in 1961 and lives at Fort McMurray. Richard Lewis was born in 1963, and resided in Brandon, until his death in 1973. He is buried in Neepawa Cemetery.

Clifton (Bud) farmed at Wellwood until his death 1973. He is buried in Neepawa Cemetery.

Helen married Alex Wells of Wellwood where they farm. Their five children are: Kelly, Bradley, Grant, Susan, and Philip. Kelly married Judy De Pape of Holland. They have two children: Danny and Brent. Kelly is United Grain Growers elevator manager at Melita. Bradley farms at Wellwood. Grant is a Nurse's Aid at Carberry Hospital. Susan lives and works at Fort McMurray. Philip goes to school in Carberry.

Donald married Sharon and they live at Yellowknife. They have five adopted children: Kim, Kara, Shelley, Eric and Michael who are all going to school.

Mabel Pearl, fourth daughter of Duncan and Martha Kelly was born August 18, 1898, on a farm at Bradwardine. When she was four years old the family moved to Isabella, where she received her schooling. After she took her third Class Normal training, she taught at Thuno, where she boarded with the Dick Reid family. She also taught at Edrans. Her interest in music, sports and art aided her greatly as a teacher. After completing her second class Normal training, she taught at Jellicoe and Solsgrith. In 1927 she went to Saskatchewan and taught in a number of schools there. She married Cecil Cargo Holden of Indian Head on December 25, 1936. As he was a grain buyer they lived in Lebret, Saskatchewan, then Hythe and Grimshaw in Alberta. While at Grimshaw, she enjoyed many happy hours with Mrs. Shelley and family. Mrs. Shelley had been her teacher in 1906. After a brain tumor operation at Regina in 1955, she was never able to enjoy life again. She died in Saskatchewan Hospital in Weyburn on June 27, 1970, where she had spent seven years. This was a very sad ending for one who had loved life.

Cecil Duncan Kelly, son of Duncan and Martha Kelly was born on March 20, 1905 at Isabella. He

was seven years younger than Mabel. While on the farm he always had a dog and a horse to ride or drive. He was athletic, and loved all kinds of sports, and excelled at baseball. He completed his grade IX the year that Dad died, and then he helped with the farm work. The following winter, he attended a course at the Agricultural College, Winnipeg. He continued to farm, until he decided to become an agent for the Manitoba Pool Elevator Company. He trained with Mr. Joe Chisholm at Beulah. His first elevator was at Eatonias, Saskatchewan. His next move was to Roncott Siding. Here he met Isla Davis, and they were married July 15, 1928. Their first child, Shirley Doreen, was born August 11, 1929, and was just a baby when they moved to Pipestone, Manitoba. Sheldon Warren was born there on April 27, 1933. Later Cecil took charge of the elevator at Chillon Siding, near Binscarth. Lois Edna Marie was born October 27, 1934. Cecil was able to enjoy his family only for a short time as he was operated on for a stomach ulcer in July 1936 and died due to peritonitis. He is buried in Isabella Cemetery. On December 26 of the same year another son was born, Cecil Robert Duncan. The children now have homes of their own. Shirley married Meiro Chorney. They had four children: Tyra, Rea Shawn, Lana Dawn, and Dale. Shirley had an untimely death, as she was shot May 24, 1974 in Salem, Oregon, where they lived. Sheldon completed his schooling and was a teacher for a year or two. He then took RCMP training at Regina. On December 1, 1956, he married Norma Jean Leyden of Camrose, Alberta. They have four daughters: Darice born January 22, 1957; Dianne, born November 22, 1961; Linda, born March 10, 1964; Sharon born July 27, 1968. Sheldon served on the force in Alberta, Ontario and New Brunswick. They are now living in Edmonton, Alberta where he is superintendent, officer in charge of Administration and Personnel. Lois married Clement Baschenis in Ottawa on August 5, 1959. They now reside at Calbourne, Ontario. Robert married Shirley Campbell of Listowel, Ontario, August 22, 1963. Their two children are Lisa, born September 5, 1965, and Philip born May 13, 1967. In 1965 Bob worked in the office of Trade Relations, Department of Trade and Commerce. At this time they lived in Ottawa and Vienna, Austria. They now reside in Manotick, Ontario, where he is head of the Agricultural Division of the Interimco Company. This takes him to many foreign countries promoting Canadian products.

Isla married again to George Gray of Binscarth on November 14, 1942. They live there. They have a daughter, Glenda, who is Mrs. Glenn Cook. Glenn and Glenda have three children: Sheldon, Deanna, and Jodi.

James (Bud) and Janet Kelly

Editor Note: The first part of this story by Janet Kelly is found in the William and Dave Bell history.

We were living in Ottawa at the time of the last publication and had two daughters born while there. Joanne was born on January 22, 1964 and Katherine on June 18, 1965 at the Ottawa Civic Hospital.

In February, 1966 we transferred to the Radar base at Gypsumville, Manitoba and lived there until September, 1967 when Bud got out of the service.

We moved back to Ottawa and bought a home and were there until August, 1969, when we sold our house and moved to Pinawa.

Bud is a project engineer at Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. I started work as secretary at the F. W. Gilbert Elementary School in January 1980. Joanne is going into Grade 12 and Katherine Grade 11 at Pinawa Secondary School. Both Joanne and Katherine are working at Gold test level in figure skating, Joanne having attained a gold medal in free skating in March 1980.

Tom and Eva Kennedy

by Olive Colbert and Vera Borland

On January 4, 1905, Thomas Kennedy and Eva Borland were married at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. Borland, pioneers of the Carlingville District. This was later called Crandall when the C.P.R. line to Miniota was built. Mr. Kennedy was born in Winnipeg of Irish parents in June 28, 1877. Winnipeg at that time was in its infancy. At the age of four, Tom went with his parents to a farm in the Wawanesa district where he grew up. He attended the old Northfield School, where Mrs. Nellie McLung (Nellie Mooney) was also a pupil. One of their prized possessions is the book "Black Creek Stopping House" mailed to them after Mrs. McLung had visited Isabella. On the fly leaf is a paragraph about "School Days" written in her own handwriting.

In 1899, Mr. Kennedy bought the south half of 14-14-25, two miles north of Crandall. It was to this farm that he took his bride. The next year he bought a half section west of Decker. It had been the Henderson homestead. There was an old house on the farm, two rooms downstairs and two up. The next year they built on a good frame kitchen. In later years Mr. Quinton bought the farm and the house was moved to Decker. This farm was partly broken. Mr. Kennedy broke more of the prairie land with his horses and a single furrow plough. He also did custom threshing for farmers with his steam thresher. The grain was hauled to Crandall in wagons over prairie trails. They lived here for two seasons, moving back to Crandall

in the spring of 1908 so Mr. Kennedy could learn the black smith trade from Mr. H. Petch. When the C.N.R. branch line was built from Hallboro to Beulah, a townsite was laid out at Isabella. Here Mr. Kennedy built a blacksmith shop in 1910 and continued at this trade until 1955 when ill health forced him to retire. He also had the Massey-Harris Implement business. He dug the first well in town, which was quite near the present well.

The Kennedys were ever ready to assist in all worthwhile community activities. Mrs. Kennedy taught the beginners class in Sunday School for twenty-nine years. Many of her first pupils were parents of the children she taught in the last years. She was treasurer for the Women's Missionary Society for many years, a charter member of the Women's Institute, the Ladies' Aid and also a faithful Red Cross worker. There being no hotel in town, Mrs. Kennedy boarded many of the teachers. Oft times an extra plate or two was added to the already full table in order to accomodate strangers in town and when the elevator was being repaired she fed "the gang".

The Kennedys had a family of three: Merle, Gordon and Olive.

Merle attended Normal School in Brandon and taught for several years. She married Alex Watt of Kelwood, November 16, 1932. They had one son, Gerald, who was in the army for many years. He now has his discharge and lives in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He has a family of three. Merle died April 5, 1970 and Alex August 6, 1980. Both are buried in Kelwood cemetery.

Gordon was a lover of hockey and played in the home team during the thirties. He served in the Canadian Army in the Second World War and spent some time Overseas. Upon returning, he worked for Dominion Bridge Co. until his retirement in 1979. On June 5, 1948 Gordon married Violet Davis. They live in St. Vital, have one son Terry, who is now married and has two sons. Gordon also has three stepchildren, Gary, Lynn and Gail who all live in Winnipeg. Their father was with the Winnipeg Grenadiers and was killed in Hong Kong.

Olive, their youngest daughter, took a nurses' training course at Neepawa and Winnipeg. She is still nursing in 2ECU-Extended Care Ward, in St. Boniface Hospital. On October 10, 1941 she married Orin Colbert. They had a family of three: Jim, Marlene and Gordon. Jim, and wife Stella, live at West Hawk Lake. Marlene and husband, Leo Anderson, live in Transcona. They have a son and daughter. Gordon lives in Prince George, B.C. with his wife and two children. Orin died February 9, 1977 after a long illness. Olive still lives in Transcona, not far from her daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy's 50th Wedding Anniversary was a gala occasion for them. The family insisted in 1954 that they must come to Winnipeg for Christmas, which they did. On December 30, Olive and Orin held "Open House" in St. Vital and invited the Winnipeg relatives and their Isabella friends living in the city. It was a very enjoyable evening. It was supposed to be a come and go affair. Everyone came and stayed all evening. The living room was full — also the basement room. They arrived home in time for their real Anniversary date, January 4, 1955. Their relatives there had prepared a surprise turkey dinner. Later in the evening they were escorted to the Community Centre where all the folk of the district were gathered to extend their best wishes. They presented gifts, congratulations and a short program which included a chorus by Mrs. Kennedy's beginners' class. That was a Red Letter Day always to be fondly remembered.

In December 1959, Mr. Kennedy suffered a severe stroke which made it necessary for him to be taken to the Assiniboine Hospital, Brandon, where he remained on extended care until his death July 26, 1963. When Mr. Kennedy went to Brandon, Mrs. Kennedy's brother, Edgar, insisted that she come to Virden and live with him so he could take her back and forth to Brandon to visit her husband. She closed up her house, came over to Virden and was never back to live in Isabella. In 1964 a lovely Senior Citizen's Home (The Sherwood) was built in Virden. She put in an application and in the beginning of July, 1965, she went there to live. Dec., 1981, she took up residence in Westman Nursing Home, Virden, is 95 and hasn't an ache nor a pain. As she puts it "Just her ears and memory are 'worn out'".

Rev. W. J. King by Idabel Grayston

W. J. King was born in Wiltshire, England in 1883. He came to Canada when he was 25 years old as a student minister, and attended Wesley College, Winnipeg, where he received his degree in theology.

He married Lola E. Grose of Virden in 1917, and they moved to Shoal Lake, Manitoba. Throughout the years the family lived and worked in Shoal Lake, Isabella, Man., Central Butte, Sask., Drinkwater, Tugaske, and Welwyn, Sask., High Bluff, Man., Newdale and Clanwilliam, Man. Upon retiring to Winnipeg, Mr. King served as supply minister. This work took him to Clanwilliam in 1949, where he died suddenly in March, 1950.

Mrs. King returned to her home in Winnipeg where she lived until her death in July, 1965.

Mr. and Mrs. King had three children — Mae, Harold, and Idabel.

Mae trained as a nurse in Winnipeg General Hospital and married Lieutenant J. A. Shirkie in 1943 in Newdale. They lived in Winnipeg for a number of years until work took them to St. Catherines, Ont., where they still reside. They have two children — Linda and Rowan.

Harold took teacher's training at Normal School and taught until he enlisted in the R.C.A.F. He served overseas and was listed as missing and presumed dead in July 1944.

Idabel worked in Winnipeg and lived there with her mother until her marriage to John Grayston, formerly of Newdale. They moved to Brandon, Man. where they have been in business since. They have four children — Norman, Margaret, Garry and Isobel.

The Kirk Family

by Annie Kirk and Edith Brown

Robert Kirk was the first member of the Kirk family to arrive in Canada in March 1910 as a young man. He was born in Yorkshire, England and he died in Victoria, B.C., September 1966. He served in the Canadian Army during World War I, fought at Vimy Ridge and in other battles. He was badly wounded and returned to Manitoba in 1917. His farm was located south west of Isabella. He lived there just over 30 years, farming successfully. He had good friends and neighbors and enjoyed social events in the district. He remained a contented bachelor.

Edmund W. Kirk (Ted), Bob's brother, joined him in March 1922. He was born in Bishop Moncton, Yorkshire, England, May 23, 1893. He died October 11, 1980 in Toronto, Ont. During World War I he served with the Durham Light Infantry and was awarded the Military Medal. He farmed on the "Taylor farm" south west of Isabella for several years before moving to Toronto in 1941, where he was employed by the Massey Ferguson Co. until he retired in 1963.

After Ted retired, he and Annie, both in their seventies, decided to see a little more of Canada. They travelled through the provinces, visited many of the capitals and other places of interest. They paid visits to good friends in Manitoba, and in 1973 celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Al Clark in Hamiota. Invited guests came from Isabella, Blaris, Birtle, and Hamiota. It was a very enjoyable event, meeting many old friends. They wish to thank Vera and Al, former farm neighbors.

They have also paid a return visit to England and Scotland, meeting families and friends. In 1976 they enjoyed a pleasant time with Irene, Angus and boys in Miami, Florida.

They feel grateful for a good life in Canada and wish the younger generation much prosperity in this great land.

Ted's fiancé, Annie Robinson (born Yorkshire, England, Feb. 13, 1895) arrived in Canada in April 1923. They were married in Winnipeg and worked for the Bell family (of Blaris) for a year or two. Annie presently resides in Toronto, enjoys her garden and has many friends amongst Senior Citizens Groups.

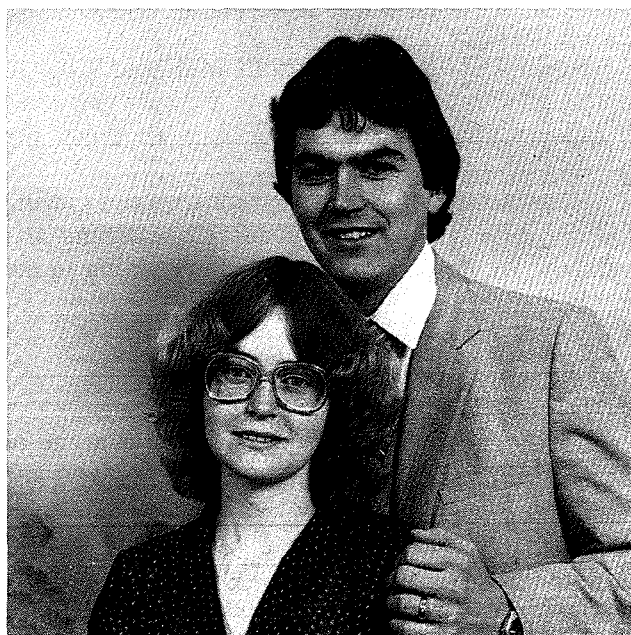
Ted and Annie had two daughters, both born on the farm at Isabella, (sec 6-15-25). Irene Isobel Kirk Lamont, born June 23, 1929, has two sons, Donald and John. Her husband, Angus D. Lamont, died April 14, 1981. At present Irene lives in Miami, Florida. Both her sons are in Toronto. Edith Marion Kirk Brown, was born March 11, 1935, is married and has one daughter, Pamela Anne. Her husband's name is Harold Ross Brown. They all live in Toronto.

Irene and Edith both attended public school in the two-room school at Isabella. The family attended the United Church and many social events in the district. During the 18 years the family lived near Isabella they made many friends and still have close ties and happy memories. They greatly admired the early settlers who pioneered there under many hardships and severe weather conditions. They helped to make it easier for later farmers.

Terry and Janice Klassen

by Janice Klassen

I am the second of three girls born to Archie and Jean Norrie. I was born October 26, 1956 in Hamiota Hospital. As a child I enjoyed living on the farm.



Janice and Terry Klassen, 1980.

When we were small we spent many hours playing in our attic. It was full-sized and Mom had made it into a pretend town where we spent many hours dressing up and pretending. When we had friends over that's where we were to be found. While growing up I enjoyed reading, horse-back riding, and bicycling. Helping Mom with the gardening and Dad with milking the cows and feeding the livestock also took up some of my time. I went to Isabella School for grades one to six, to Miniota for grades seven to nine and Birtle for grades ten to twelve. I graduated in June, 1974. I then took a Psychiatric Nursing Course at the Brandon Mental Health Centre from September of 1974 to September of 1976. Here I met my future husband, Terry Klassen, who was also in training.

Terry and I were married in November, 1975, at Isabella. We lived in Brandon until I graduated. I worked on an admission ward at the Health Centre for one year. We moved to a rural location ten miles west of Brandon where we lived in a trailer for three years. I attended Assiniboine Community College and graduated with a Social Services Certificate. I have been working at the International Nursing Home in Brandon for the past two and a half years on a part-time basis.

Terry was born at San Clara, Manitoba on May 5, 1954. He was raised on a farm and took grades one to seven at San Clara. He and his family moved to Calgary in 1967 where he took grades eight to twelve. Terry moved to Brandon in 1972 and started training as a psychiatric nurse in 1973. Terry changed careers and started employment at a wholesale lumber company, Henderson's Distributors, August, 1975. He is presently taking an income tax course in the evenings, as well as working at Henderson's during the day.

We moved two miles south of Rapid City in October, 1979, where we still live. We have two acres of land, a house, a cat and a dog; we enjoy the serenity of country living.

Terry is interested in photography, enjoys golfing and plays the guitar. I like reading, gardening and walking. We both enjoy cross-country skiing in the winter.

Barrie and Jo-Anne Knight **by Jo-Anne Knight**

Barrie, son of Bruce and Myrtle Knight of Decker came to the Isabella area with his wife and family in August 1973 from Flin Flon.

They operated the seed cleaning plant and the farm of the late Larry Hunkin.

Jo-Anne and Barrie have four children: James, Dianne, Sandra and Richard.

Jo-Anne was a member of Isabella Women's In-

stitute becoming an avid learner of crafts, gardening and curling.

In 1979 they purchased the trucking firm in Decker and continued to serve the people of Isabella.

At present, they are living in Leduc, Alberta where Barrie is employed as a mechanic in Nisku.

The fond memories of a close-knit community of caring people are always with us.

Mr. and Mrs. J. J. and Philip Knowles **by Mrs. F. Reid**

John Jevons Knowles was born in Kidderminster, Worcestershire, England on March 5, 1867 of well-to-do parents. He was given a good education but no special training. He was an exceptionally good athlete and acquired a name for himself in cricket and football before coming to Canada in 1902 to seek fame and fortune in a land of promise, but succeeded in neither. He made various attempts at farming, his parents making payments on farms, but he was never able to completely own one, as he was not adaptable enough to his new environment.

His marriage to Dorothy Heape took place on April 1, 1905, in Miniota. Mrs. Knowles was born on May 26, 1884, in Stratford-on-Avon, Staffordshire, England. She came to Canada with her parents in 1904. They had purchased a farm in the Beulah district, now known as the William Williams farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Knowles farmed in the Arrow River, Glenlochar and Miniota districts and finally moved to Isabella in 1937 where they resided with their son, Philip, on the west half of 3-16-25.

Three children were born from this union:

Elizabeth May — born February 9, 1906, received her education at Glenlochar, Brighton and Arrow River schools. She trained as a maternity nurse in Grace Hospital. She married John George Lees in September, 1929, and since then resides in Winnipeg.

Helen Grace — born March 27, 1908 took her schooling in Glenlochar, Brighton and Arrow River schools. She graduated from Success Business College as a stenographer in 1928 and was sent out by the College to the Wawanesa Mutual Fire Insurance Company where she was employed until the time of her marriage to Jack F. Fisher on November 12, 1932. They farmed 2 miles west of Wawanesa until 1958 and then moved into the village. Philip John Knowles was born November 12, 1910, and received his education at Brighton, Arrow River and Miniota schools. He worked on the C.N.R. Mainline as a section hand for the summers of 1927-8-9, then he took over the rented farm from his parents, owned by the C.N.R. and situated at Rea. In 1937 he rented the west half of 3-16-25 in the Isabella district (in the

R.M. of Birtle.) In 1944, he bought the adjoining quarter of 34-15-25 in the Isabella district in the Rural Municipality of Miniota.

Mrs. Knowles was a quiet, kindly lady who loved a friendly chat and a cup of tea. She also loved house plants, was a good gardener and raised very nice poultry.

Mr. and Mrs. Knowles, Philip, Mr. and Mrs. E. Lawn and George enjoyed many a good game of cards (500) and had many a laugh over the outcome of the bidding.

Mrs. Knowles was not blessed with the best of health and she passed away in Grace Hospital following a major operation in November, 1945, and was laid to rest in Winnipeg Cemetery.

Mr. Knowles lived with his son, Philip, until he was hospitalized in the Attaché Home in Winnipeg, five months prior to his death in April, 1957. He was laid to rest beside his beloved partner.

Philip — "Phil" as he was known to all his many friends and acquaintances was a good neighbor, a kind friend, and many people were helped by him in his own quiet way. He was a good farmer. He grew grain and raised cattle and a few hogs. In winter he ran a trapline which was quite a success.

In 1947 he bought the former Levi Miller house in Isabella and moved it to the farm. It had five rooms and was heated with an oil furnace and wood stove. The water supply was from a shallow dug well. The fences were barbed wire.

In 1887, Mr. Henry Spicer paid the taxes on this land. Mr. Peter MacPherson homesteaded it. The next persons to farm it, as far as the records show, was Mr. Sid and Jack Butler. Jack left this farm and moved to the Hamiota district in the spring of 1943. Mr. William Brooks then rented it for one year and then Phil bought it in 1944.

Phil had a full line of power machinery and did a lot of custom work. He was interested in everything pertaining to agriculture and helped in all efforts that would make the community a better place in which to live. He was a member of the Sons of England Lodge.

After a short illness, Phil passed away on January 18, 1960, and was laid to rest in Hamiota Cemetery.

Georges and Cheryl Kristolaitis **by Cheryl Kristolaitis**

I am Cheryl Elaine Still, daughter of Elsie and Harvey Still. Currently I live in Toronto, Ontario. I am married to Georges Kristolaitis.

Georges is originally from Timmins, Ont. He is presently a student in social work; he is in the Masters of Social Work program, specializing in com-

munity development, at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario and will graduate in spring, 1982.

I have just completed a Masters of Divinity Programme at Trinity College of the Toronto School of Theology, I expect to be ordained in the Anglican ministry in the spring of 1982. Next year I will be chaplain for St. Mildred's — Lightbourne School — a private Anglican school for girls.

Georges and I have one child. Johanna was born on March 29, 1981.

Alexander W. Kupperts **by Maurice Kupperts**

Alexander was born on the T. E. Doran farm in April, 1922. He attended public school at Isabella. He also attended the Isabella United Church.

When Alex finished school there was not much farm work in the summer and fall seasons so he went to Portage la Prairie to work. He worked in Portage for a year or so then moved to Winnipeg and joined the Royal Winnipeg Rifles.

Alex was trained by the Royal Winnipeg Rifles at Deburt, Nova Scotia and was then sent overseas in 1941. They spent time training in England before landing in Normandy on D Day — June 6th, 1944. Alex was wounded twice, once seriously. He travelled through France, Belgium, Holland, and part of Germany. Alex was trained for various occupations — he was trained to be a sniper, a dispatch bikerider, and during the time of the flooding of Holland by the Germans he operated anti-tank guns.

In 1945 he returned to Canada and was discharged from the Royal Winnipeg Rifles in Winnipeg.

During his years overseas Alex had been corresponding with a Winnipeg girl. When he returned home, he and Del, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Oejasz of Redwood Avenue, were married in 1945. Alex worked at various places and finally was hired full time by the Canadian National Railway as a switchman in the yards around Winnipeg.

Alex and Del have four children — Kirk, Garry, Trudy and Lori.

Kirk has his degree in education which he earned at the University of Manitoba and he is employed as a Guidance Counsellor. He is married and lives in Winnipeg.

Garry is University of Winnipeg educated and works for the Advertising Department of C.K.Y. television and is married. They have one daughter, Kelly, and they reside in Winnipeg.

Trudy completed her high school in Winnipeg. Trudy lives in Vancouver, B.C. and is married to Gene Dalman. They own and manage Red Giant Disposal Services.

Lori completed her schooling in Winnipeg. Lori lives in Vancouver and is employed as an assistant supervisor of the Cosmetics Department by London Drugs.

Alex is still employed by the Canadian National Railway and works on the running crew, which mostly travels from Winnipeg to Rainy River. He and his wife Del live on Church Avenue in Winnipeg.

Ivor P. Kuppers **by Maurice Kuppers**

Ivor was born in the house on the Isabella school grounds in May, 1925. He completed his schooling at Isabella and also attended the Isabella United Church.

He left home at an early age and went to Regina and was employed by the Aviation Section of the Department of Transport. Ivor tried to enlist with the Armed Forces several times but was medically rejected because of his eyesight. After the war he moved to Winnipeg where Mother and Father were living. He was trained and employed by Simmons of Canada as an upholsterer. While so employed he met Marion Deas, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Deas of Winnipeg, and they were married in 1946 in Winnipeg. Ivor and Marion worked at Simmons for a short time and then moved to Vancouver, B.C. In Vancouver, Ivor was employed as an upholsterer for a short period and then obtained full time employment in the Maintenance Department of Woodward's Store.

Ivor and Marion have three children — Tom, Karen and Patricia.

Tom was born in Vancouver in June, 1950. He is married to Cathy and they have two children, Jennifer and Jamie. Tom is employed by British Columbia Electric.

Karen was born in Vancouver in 1953. She is married to Dennis Bordignon and they have two children, Michael and Tricia. They live at Langley, B.C. and Dennis is the Manager of a plumbing supply outlet.

Patricia was born in Vancouver in 1955. She is married to Rod Hamilton and they have one child, Christina. Rod works in the C.P.R. Accounts Office in Calgary, Alberta.

Ivor and Marion live along King George Highway in Surrey, B.C.

Maurice S. A. Kuppers **by Maurice Kuppers**

My father, Sydney R. Kuppers, my mother, Dora R. Kuppers and I were born in Newton Abbot, Devonshire, England.



Dora (Kuppers) Seales, 1980.

My father's people were railway workers and mother's father was a cabinet maker by trade. Mother's father owned his own business.

After my father was discharged from the army (1914-18 war) he immigrated to Canada in 1920 and a year later mother and I followed him. We settled at Bob Stowe's farm in Miniota, Manitoba. The next move took us to Isabella to a few more farms — D. Blleloch, T. E. Doran, Harry Reid — then into the town of Isabella.

I recall many incidents that make me remember Doran's farm but of the many, two stand out vividly in my mind. Most important of all was that my brother, Alex (Refer to history of Alexander W. Kuppers), was born on the Doran farm in April, 1922. The other is a rather humorous incident that I think happens to most children. Glen and I were walking around the farm one frosty winter morning licking the hoar frost from the metal tools in the tool shed



Maurice, Alex, and Ivor Kuppers.

and we both ended up with our tongues stuck to the same hammer head. It was extremely painful and I have never forgotten the experience!

We moved to Harry Reid's farm from Doran's and then Dad moved us into the town of Isabella, into the house that used to be on the school grounds. Dad planned to help Charles Seales with draying etc. and mother was to be the housekeeper. Charles Seales had three daughters and at that time Dad and Mom had two sons; so it made one big family. Ivor was born in this house in May 1925. (Refer to history of Ivor P. Koppers)

My Dad worked in town for a short time but I do not think he was too happy with farm and country life, so soon after he went to Winnipeg to seek employment and his visits to Isabella were less and less frequent.

My mother and Charles Seales were married in December, 1929 and we were now one family.

I attended school at Isabella and I was a member of the Isabella United Church. While I lived at home there was always work to do and we all worked at maintaining the schools and church. We also had to do the draying, unloading of coal, the delivery of groceries and hardware goods for Iverach, Beveridge Hardware and Brad's Grocery Store. We plowed gardens and drove the school vans, etc.

I will never forget the race we used to have in the morning during the drought years of the Hungry Thirties — the first one to the town well got the water. I used to be first most of the time. Three days a week the train would come through from Beulah at 5:00 a.m. and the people that met that train sure gave me stiff competition but I only missed but once! In later years the town well went dry and it was my job to haul water in from J. Finkbeiner's farm. They had a beautiful well on the hill south of their big barn.

After school and during the summer and fall months I worked on various farms but mostly for Hector Calder and it was the next best thing to being home. The year I turned thirteen I worked for Ernie Lawns during the fall, and George Lawn and I have many fond memories of this time. I also enjoyed working for Mr. T. Ariss, who was my Uncle Tom by marriage. He was always a lot of fun and treated everyone fairly. I think that my working late in the fall made me lose out at school though!

I worked voluntarily for Mr. Brisbin so I could learn the grain buying business. The day I was offered a part time job for the busy season by United Grain Growers, I also received an offer for full time employment from the Portage la Prairie Home for the Mental Defectives and I accepted the latter position. I left Portage la Prairie in 1941 to join the R.C.A.F. as a Hospital Assistant.

My first posting out of the Manning Depot at Brandon was Regina Recruiting. This was where I met my wife, Vaila. We were married at her parent's farm in Moosomin, Saskatchewan in September, 1942. After our marriage we did the postings together.

In 1944, while I was in the service, my parents, Charles and Dora Seales, moved to Winnipeg.

Our son, Bruce, was born in Vancouver, British Columbia in March, 1945.

I was discharged from the R.C.A.F. late in 1945 in Winnipeg. After my discharge, I returned to school and upgraded my education to Grade XI. I then obtained employment with the Canadian National Railway as a sheet metal worker in 1946.

In May, 1946 Pa Seales died at the age of 64. After his death Mother moved to Vancouver where she spent many happy years. My brother, Ivor, and his family lived in Vancouver and Mother had her own home until the day she died, which was this April the 29th, 1981. She died at 84 years and ten months of age

In June, 1949 our daughter, Cheryl, was born in St. Boniface Hospital in Winnipeg.

Bruce and Cheryl obtained their schooling in the St. Vital area of Winnipeg. Bruce continued with his education after high school and graduated from the University of Manitoba with a Ph.D. in Chemistry. Bruce married Lillian Gallant in 1980 and now teaches at St. John's Ravenscourt.

Cheryl completed her schooling with a business course and obtained employment with the Department of Highways in Winnipeg. Cheryl married Victor Reynolds in 1971. Cheryl now works as secretary to the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources.

I retired from the Canadian National Railway in December, 1980. I reside on Berrydale Avenue in Winnipeg.

Mr. and Mrs. Lambrick

Mr. and Mrs. Lambrick ran the boarding house in town. No further trace can be found of them.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest George Lawn written by Mrs. G. Lawn

Ernest George Lawn was born February 11, 1919, in Mrs. Don Iverach's Nursing Home at Isabella. The house is now owned by Harry Brisbin. George attended school at Isabella. He was always interested in farming, so at the age of nineteen, he rented the northwest quarter of 27-15-25 and in 1943 he rented the northwest quarter of 22-15-25 for three years. In 1946, he bought the west half of 27-15-25 from Mrs. Eva Gilbert. Then in April 1947, he married Blanche



Ron, George, Glenda, Jim, and Blanche Lawn.

Gammack of the Decker district. She received her education at Decker. George then built a three-roomed house where they resided until 1955. Then he rented his father's farm until 1961. In 1957, he bought the east half of 27-15-25 from George Phillips. He now farms all of Section 27. With the passing of his father, he was left the home-half where he, his wife and family now reside.

There were two children born to this couple — James, on September 13, 1948, and Ronald, October 24, 1950, who now attend school at Isabella.

Update

by George and Blanche Lawn

We still reside on the home farm S½ 34-15-25. Our sons, James and Ronald, finished their schooling at Hamiota Collegiate, as our High School was closed in 1963. Jim, upon completion of school at Hamiota, entered the Brandon Vocational Centre (Industrial Division) at the Agricultural Centre and acquired his certificate in Automotive Mechanics in 1965-66. After Ron finished his schooling in 1966 at Hamiota, both Ron and Jim enrolled in the Chicago Vocational Training Centre, Edmonton, Alberta. It was one of their former principals, Mr. Anton Ritalter who enrolled them in this course. In the following year they received their diplomas in Diesel and Automotive Mechanics. They then worked for Murray Van Buskirk in his garage at Hamiota for the winter. Finally, after a lot of persuasion from a few farmers in the area, they opened up a general repair business on the farm under the name of Lawn's Ser-

vice. Tragedy struck when a fire destroyed the shop and contents in May 1970, but through determination and help from the community they were soon back in business. They constructed a large cement block building.

They have farmed along with their father through the years. They bought land of their own, W½ 3-16-25 (Birtle Municipality) and NW¼ 34-15-25 (Minitota Municipality) and in the spring of 1981 they rented Lorne Carscadden's farm (one section) in the Birtle Municipality.

Ron and Glenda Heise, elder daughter of Doug and Shirley Heise, were married on June 26, 1976. They reside on E½ 27-15-25, just across the road from us.

We have a mixed farming operation and enjoy it very much, even with all its ups and downs. Wheat, barley and oats are our main crops. Our land is well cleared now making it possible for us to crop more acres and gradually we have bought bigger machinery to meet these needs. We still keep a few cattle and chickens for our own use. A big blow came to our community when our rail line was closed late in 1979 and finally the rails were lifted. This meant that farmers in this area had to buy larger farm trucks to haul their grain a greater distance. We presently haul our grain to Cargill Grain, Solsgirth, a distance of seventeen miles, when once we could haul to Isabella, a distance of five miles. They tell us this is 'Progress'. Let's wait and see!

In 1973 George and I had our first aeroplane ride when we went to Scotland for three weeks. We met many relatives and enjoyed our holiday very much. In the following year we had two young lads from Scotland venture out to visit us. Then in 1975 we took to the air again back to Scotland and England this time, meeting more relatives and since then more have come out to visit with us.

Jim still lives at home with us. He and George like to help in all community activities and work for the good of the community. George has served on several boards and at present is on the Cemetery Committee. I help with community activities too whenever I can. At present I am a member of the Isabella U.C.W. and W.I. So far life has treated us kindly and we still enjoy farming and recently we reduced our land holdings to a half section having turned section 27 south of us over to our sons. We still hope for some grandchildren in the future and just maybe the farm will still carry on as "Lawn View Farms".

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Lawn

written by G. Lawn

Ernest Albert Lawn was born in Norfolk, En-

gland in 1890, and came to the Isabella district at the age of twenty one, in March, 1911. He spent his first summer working for Mr. Sim Heise. The following year-and-a-half, he worked for Mr. Morley Crandall. Then in the spring of 1913, he started farming on the east half of 5-15-25, in partnership with Francis Brown. In spring of 1914, he was called home because of his father's illness, but his father had passed away before he got home. So he immediately returned to Isabella bringing his brother, Sidney, with him. Sid found employment with Sim Heise.

In the meantime, Beatrice May Varley, born in Norfolk, England, in 1892, arrived to take up employment at the David Wright (Sr.) home, in 1915. She worked here for one year, then she and Ernest were married on March 21, 1916, at the manse at Isabella.



Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Lawn, Ron and Jim, 1953.

The same spring they started farming on their own, renting the west half of 12-15-25 owned by Jim Young. They also rented 9-15-25 owned by Charles Craig. Ernest's brother, Sidney, farmed with him until 1919, when they gave up the Craig farm. Sidney then moved to Crandall and rented a farm. In the spring of 1919, Ernest bought the south half of 34-15-25 (university land), now owned by his son George. This land was all virgin prairie. He first drilled a well, then fenced the outside of the farm with page wire. He also built a small stable to house his horses while breaking and working some of this land. Then he bought a Titan tractor and breaking plow to help make the breaking a little easier.

In 1923, he built a little three-roomed house, gave up the west half of 12-15-25 and moved with his wife and two small children, Helen and George, to their new home. He and his wife were a hard-working couple and accomplished very much in the years that followed. Then in 1926 another daughter, Betty, was born to them. Ernest belonged to the Independent

Order of Oddfellows, having joined as a young lad in England years before.

In 1944, he built a large barn to house his growing herd of cattle and in 1948, built a new six-roomed cottage. In the meantime, Mrs. Lawn's health began to fail and was poor for a number of years. She still showed a great deal of interest in her flowers, garden and poultry and carried on until her death in Hamiota Hospital, in March, 1954. Ernest then with the help of his son, George, carried on farming until 1955. He then took a trip back to England and on his return he retired to Hamiota where he resided until his sudden death in December, 1961.

Ron and Glenda Lawn **by Ron and Glenda Lawn**

Surrounded by family and friends, Ron and Glenda were married by Rev. Norm Velnes on June 26, 1976 in the Isabella United Church. They took up residence in the new home they had built that year on NE 27-15-25.

Ronald Alexander Lawn was born October 24, 1950 in Hamiota, Manitoba, the younger son of George and Blanche Lawn. After completing his early education in Isabella School and attending Hamiota Collegiate, he ventured to Edmonton where he received a diploma in mechanics. Ron and his brother, Jim, worked as mechanics in Hamiota until 1969 when they began their own garage business on the home farm. In May 1970, the business experienced a major setback when the shop and its contents were destroyed by fire. A new cement block building was constructed that fall and the business has continued to expand ever since. In 1969, Ron and Jim purchased the NW¼ 34-15-25 and the W½ 3-16-25 from E. Lints and began farming in addition to their mechanic work.

Glenda Ann Heise Lawn was born on June 5, 1954 in Hamiota, Manitoba, the second child of Doug and Shirley Heise. She attended Isabella School for seven years, transferring to Birtle Elementary for Grade VIII and Birtle Collegiate for Grades IX-XII. In high school, Glenda participated in many activities but enjoyed the Drama Club most of all. During those years, she acted in a number of school productions, the most memorable being "The Death of the Hired Man", which placed first at the Brandon Drama Festival. Following graduation from Grade XII, Glenda moved to Winnipeg where she spent four years studying nursing at the University of Manitoba. In April 1976, she graduated with a Bachelor of Nursing degree. After working part-time general duty, she became employed full time by the Hamiota District Health Centre where she fills the role of Public Health Nurse and Health Educator.

Ron and Glenda both take pride in and enjoy living and working together in this community and look forward to many years of continued happiness here.

Homer and Florence Lelond by Florence Lelond

I, Florence, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Wallace, married Homer Wilfred Lelond on October 22, 1936. We started farming on S ½ 8-14-25 in the Crandall School District, the land owned by Mrs. Wallace. In later years we bought this farm. Through the years we added to our home, also purchased more land, milked cows and raised chickens and turkeys. The first few years horses were used to till the soil. Later we changed to tractor and power machinery. We worked hard but had many good times. We took an active part in our community, and both enjoyed curling. For several years prior to selling our farm, we rented the land but continued to live in our home.



Florence and Homer Lelond.

We have two children: Wallace, born in 1937, and Christine, in 1940. Both children received their education at Crandall School.

After leaving school, Wallace went to Brandon where he tried several jobs. He finally settled on the Brandon Transit System for his employment. In 1961 Wallace married Elaine Stephens of Brandon. They have two children, Darren and Melorie, who are attending high school in Brandon.

Christine, after completing high school, took a Business Course. She was employed by the Department of Highways until her marriage to William Medd of Brandon in 1959. After their marriage, Bill passed his Civil Service exams and became a Conservation Officer. Since then he has been employed at Killarney, Swan River, Cranberry Portage, Lynn Lake and Snow Lake. This past summer they were moved to Thompson. They have three children: Dianna, Lawrence and Robert. The children completed their education in Lynn Lake.

Since high school Dianna has worked in Snow Lake and Brandon. At the present time Lawrie and Bobby are employed at the mines in Snow Lake.

In the fall of 1972 we bought a trailer home and decided to go south for the winter months. So with everything packed and Homer going through his first experience hauling a trailer behind the car, we ventured out to find a trailer park called Pine to Palm in Weslaco, Texas. My sister, Mattie, went with us. We had a wonderful trip, made many good friends and found it all quite an experience. We did this for several years, pulling the trailer to and from, before deciding to buy a home in the park.

We had enjoyed this for several short winters, before Homer died suddenly in February, 1980 while we were in the south.

I have since sold the farm, and have made my home in Brandon, Manitoba, continuing to go south for the winter months.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Levins by Mrs. Levins

My parents, George and Louisa Levins, came from Ontario in 1882. My father was a blacksmith and woodworker, a trade he had learned at Walkerton, Ontario.

He thought that he would come west and farm, but after a couple of unsuccessful attempts he sold out, and started a blacksmith shop in Crandall, Manitoba. These were the days of the steam threshing outfits and he was often called to fix a big steamer. With great gangs of men ready to thresh, time could not be wasted. I remember, as a lad of about eight or nine, going with my father to fix an engine on Mr. Iverach's farm. It was my job to burn straw to make enough light for my father to see to fix the engine.

In a couple of years, Mr. Ed. Doran went into partnership with my father. In 1904, he sold out to Mr. Doran and tried farming again. In 1910, he moved to the Lenore district where he bought a blacksmith shop and remained here until his death in 1929.

I, Harry, was the eldest of the boys, and I worked as a hired hand until enlisting in the Army during World War I. I signed for overseas duty and served with the 27th Infantry in France.

I got my discharge in January, 1919. On August 4, 1920, I married Catherine Agnes McKinnon of Lenore, Man. We moved west to Heward, Saskatchewan, where we farmed for eight years. During this time we only reaped one paying crop. I was thoroughly disgusted with farming. We had a sale of farm equipment and spent a winter in Winnipeg, taking a barber's course. After getting my diploma, I barbered at Hanesworth, Saskatchewan, and Lenore. Here, I also worked as a helper in the Manitoba Pool Elevator, and in 1935, I was sent to Lyleton, Manitoba, as agent.

In 1944, I was forced to leave this district because

of my health. The ragweed caused me to have asthma and I moved farther north to Basswood, Manitoba. I was transferred to Isabella in 1945, and worked there until my health forced me to retire in 1953. I remained in Isabella. In 1954, I bought what was called "the Tin School," the old Omar school, after a nice new modern school was built in Isabella. We converted it into a very comfortable house.

After my retirement from the elevator, I drove a tractor for four summers on the farm of the late Mr. Robert Clark. I helped do carpenter work, but all through the years have continued to do some barbering.

Our family consisted of three boys and one girl, all of whom were born in Saskatchewan. The boys received their schooling at Lyleton, and Catherine at Isabella. During the Second World War all three boys served in the R.C.A.F. We lost our second son, Milford, on a mission over Deuschburg, Germany, on May 13, 1943. When the war was over, our eldest son Jack, was on his way to the Pacific. To date our family are all married and we have seven grandchildren. We are both interested in the work of the church, and my wife is a member of the United Church Women.

Through the years we were interested in sports, especially baseball and curling. We have enjoyed our life in Isabella and have found the people very friendly, and we have some especially fine neighbors.

Update by Catherine Gilmour

In 1963 Mom and Dad moved their house to Foxwarren so they could be near us, as Dad's health was failing.

On August 4, 1970 they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in their own home. Many Isabella friends came to join them for this occasion.

In July, 1971 they moved to Park Residence in Hamiota. There, they could be close to Hamiota Hospital and "Dr. Ed."

In August 27, 1973 Dad passed away at the age of 78.

Mother continued on in the Residence until her own health failed, and she died July 6, 1979 at the age of 85.

Both are buried in Isabella Cemetery.

Fred Levins married Elaine Deedman of Belmont on December 18, 1947. Fred worked for Federated Co-ops in Winnipeg for 29 years, as hardware manager. In 1979 the family moved to Tsawwassen, British Columbia, where he manages a hardware store in Ladner. They had four children: Carol, Brent, Carey and Jody. Carol Heather is deceased. Brent was born July, 1950. He works for MTS in telecommunications and lives in British Columbia. Carey was born February 7, 1956, took nurses' training at St. Boniface Hospital, and now works at the Vancouver

General. Jody was born November 23, 1964. She lives at home and is going to school.

Jack and Anna Levins

by Anna Levins

Jack Levins, son of Harry and Agnes Levins, married Anna Rowe of Neepawa on March 16, 1946. They live on a small farm west of Virden. Anna works in the West-Man Nursing Home. Their family consists of: Wayne, Glenda, Scott and Greg. Wayne, born February 28, 1947, works for Bob Clark and lives at home. Glenda was born May 2, 1953. She married John Rosenthal, a carpenter, and they live at Red Lake, Ontario. Scott was born September 27, 1957. He is married to Mary Lee Yeomens, and works for AEL Microtel in Winnipeg. Greg was born May 25, 1964. He is at home, and is going to school.

Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Lewis

by T. C. Lewis

I was born in the village of Caversham, Oxfordshire, England, on July 14, 1877. Our village boasted of over eight thousand persons and ran down to the River Thames, as did our garden. Our sports were fishing, swimming, and boating across the river. Across the river, was the county of Berkshire, and its capital, Reading. I went to a boarding school called Caversham House Academy, a very large place, with beautiful gardens. On the opposite side of the road, was the playground which was surrounded by an eight foot brick wall. A subway under the street was used to travel back and forth. Our football and cricket playing fields were behind the school, running down to the banks of the River Thames.

After I passed my College of Preceptors exam, I went to work for my uncle George, who was in the lumber and sawmill business at the time. After three years, I went to the London office, to manage his yard there. However, the dampness of the docks did not agree with me, so I had to leave London. I obtained a post in the office of a large estate in the pretty village of Sonning-On-Thames. The estate and large mansion, standing in a beautiful park, was owned by a man named Wade Palmer. The Oxfordshire Estate, Hurst Estate, and the Holm Park Estate together contained some five thousand acres, all rented to different farmers. I enjoyed the country life and keeping the Estate books was not a difficult task. While there, the call came for volunteers for the R.A.S.C. to go to South Africa. I left, joined the Army and left for South Africa. After the Armistice, I obtained permission to remain there and took a position with the Table Bay Harbor Board. After the war, there was a boom, and then came the slump. I bought a suit of silk underwear, imported from India, for \$1.00. So many firms went bankrupt, that I de-

cided to leave South Africa in 1905, and try Canada. I was told that I was crazy to go to a frozen country. People there knew nothing about Canada, nor did I, but I had a sister living in Toronto, Ontario.

I left England aboard the three thousand ton ship named "The Dahomy". Five days off Newfoundland, we encountered a gale, the like of which even the sailors had never seen. Ninety percent of the passengers were sick and we were locked in the cabins below deck. How thankful we were to reach St. Johns.

I went to my sister's home and decided to go West with two friends in the fall. Not knowing anything about the West, we left Toronto, booked for Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. On the way, the train stopped at Minnedosa, Manitoba, where a farmer, named Mr. Maxwell, came on the train to see if we wanted work. He said he had threshing at \$2.50 per day, so we joined him. For the first few days we suffered plenty, but we soon were used to the work, and enjoyed it. Threshing over, I worked for Mr. C. Rear, stacking oat sheaves and then stayed on through the winter. I enjoyed the concerts. People were so friendly. I continued through the spring, went to another place for awhile, then returned to Mr. Rear's farm.

While I was there, he hired a man to bore a well and I was to help. The man's name was Abraham Schapf. We bored the well, then Abe asked me how I would like to go into partnership with him. I agreed, and we sold the boring outfit and bought a drill. We drilled around Minnedosa and Franklin, then moved to Isabella.

Abe and I bought a half-section north of Isabella. We built a shack and broke about fifty acres. I later sold my east quarter to Mr. J. Irvine. I sold the drill and bought a half section south of Minnedosa. Before leaving Minnedosa to go to Isabella, I had met Abe's cousin, Hetty Brugger. On my return to that area, I married Hetty and settled down to farm.

We raised seven children: Marie, now Mrs. P. Price, has two boys; Dick was killed overseas; William also served overseas; Harvey married and has one son; Joyce, now Mrs. Bonbrest of Washington, D.C., has three sons; Amy, now Mrs. Boyd Grant of Brandon, has three daughters and one son. They all farm except Marie, Joyce and Amy.

I was assessor for the municipality of Odanah for years and for the town of Minnedosa for awhile, until the government took over all such work. I was school trustee for eighteen years and am still director of our Agricultural Society. I was secretary for the Dairy and Poultry Co-op and am still enumerator for our municipality. 1982 — no update.

Mr. and Mrs. Crawford Lints **by Edith Cecilia (Lints) Edmundson**

I have just finished gardening, without using stakes to make sure the rows were straight. As a child, gardening with my mother, I detested the chore, because my mother being an exacting person and particular in any undertaking be it sewing or teaching music, made sure we took time to do it right. Today and in past years, I use my "eye."

My mother, born Margretta Kelly, November 26, 1892 at Harding, Manitoba to Martha and Duncan Kelly, was the eldest of a family of six. Her parents had come from Guelph, Ontario and farmed near Campbell's two miles north of Harding. When it was time to start school, Retta and Marion, (Mae) next oldest child, walked 3½ miles to Rowan school near Bradwardine. On Sunday they, along with their mother, would walk across prairie fields strewn with wild flowers, about 3 miles to Anwoth church.

Retta was ten years old on the day the family, now including two more sisters Edith and Mabel, moved to the Isabella district to become a great asset to the community. There was very little snow and it was cold the 26th of November, 1902, when Grandpa Kelly loaded up all their belongings, plus three little girls snuggled in the hay and buffalo robes in a sleigh box, and drove thirty miles to their new home. Grandma and Retta drove behind in the buggy. There was a welcome stop to warm up at Uncle Andy's hotel in Hamiota, run by his Mother and sister, Aunt Mabel, who became Oswald of Birtle and the mother of Victor Kelly of Beulah.

Grandpa Kelly's farm was the west half of 8-15-25 and here four small girls shared a happy childhood with a brother Cecil and another sister Edna.

At this time there wasn't any school at Isabella so they attended school at Blaris until 1905. Later my mother wrote her entrance exam at Arrowton School and then went to Brandon College to become a music teacher. She taught music to many in the surrounding areas using the black driver her father had given her as her transportation. She was also given a new Dominion organ, which one pedalled with their feet and pumped with their knees at the same time; not like the organs of today. With the organ went the promise to teach her sisters to play. Her first music teacher was Miss Eaton of Crandall. In the community my mother was organist for both Presbyterian services in the morning and Methodist services in the evening until these churches became the United Church.

My Dad, Crawford Lints, was born March 1, 1892 and had come from Clifford, Ontario to work for his brothers, Edgar, Henry, and Alfred who were

already on their farms north of Decker. Sisters Martha and Dorothy kept house for them until they married. Only Norman and Howard, of a family of eleven, are still living.

Dad had curly red hair, which I envied, and he had a fun loving nature. He often talked about the ball players who were his team mates and the signals they would use to win a game. In later years he became an adept curler, often travelling through snowbanks to Isabella and Decker to curl with Charlie Darrell, Bill Kenward, and myself or a school teacher as his rink. In later years our daughter Vivian skipped her team to second place in the Manitoba High School Championships. As a wee girl she would drive with her grandfather to watch games so I guess it was inherited.

My parents, Crawford and Margretta, were married at the Kelly farm house, enjoyed a wedding breakfast and then drove by team and cutter six miles to Dad's farm which was the south half of 23-15-25. Here they farmed for six years. Two prized possessions were purchased which are used by their granddaughter Rhonda today; a beautiful piano which my Dad brought home in his buckboard from Hamiota and a cabinet sewing machine. March 1921 they moved to a new home on NE ¼ 8-16-25 six miles north of Isabella. Plantings of elm, Russian and white poplars, maple, lilacs and caraganas were made. Two Russian poplars at the end of the lane were called Jim and Jack for two friends. Later another half section was added and this was paid for by hardwork inspite of hardships and disappointment due to rust, hail, frost and the dirty thirties.

They gave me life on June 4, 1921. Dr. Fraser of Crandall was in attendance. As an only child I learned to entertain myself with reading and music. At ten years of age I played for Sunday School at Rothesay. Teachers were Mrs. Longdon and Mrs. Milne. Services were taken by Rev. Bowman from Isabella who drove out every other Sunday evening. At first Mother played for church accompanied by Archie Milne on the violin but later I played when Mother felt that I was qualified. I remember Mrs. Alex Curtis singing "My Task" at one service.

Rothesay School was built in 1910, and closed in the early sixties, now a home to the Bill Whyman family. At first the school was located in John Young's yard where Mother would leave me as a baby while playing for the Christmas Concerts at the school. In 1925 it was moved to its present location. So I walked to school for ten years just across the road from our home. I completed high school by correspondence courses writing final exams at Isabella. My dad was secretary-treasurer and caretaker at the school for many years and many teachers

boarded at our home. Some of the substitute and practice teachers came from Isabella. They were: Mildred Warren, Florence Brown, Edna Kelly, and Frances Berwick. School starting in the fall meant a new dress and shoes, and above all new books which had a lovely smell all their own. How anxiously I would await their arrival by mail from the Eaton's catalogue.

On Saturdays, Mother and I drove "Old Net" pulling the buggy to Isabella to sell eggs and butter and there purchase the groceries for the week at Brad's store where the selection was just fantastic. Then to the post office and the station for my parcel of books. As we drove home in the shimmery haze of a harvest afternoon Mother would recite Robert Louis Stevenson's poem "Autumn Fires." By the same route of mail came my Christmas presents of an Eaton Beauty Doll, a baby doll, a moveable doll of white kid leather and my first pair of skates.

My parents both exhibited produce at fairs. They would take sewing, eggs, garden produce, baking and Yorkshire pigs. I learned knitting and embroidery which I showed at Hamiota, Shoal Lake, and Rosburn. Brandon Fair was a highlight in spite of the long drive.

I met my husband at a Rothesay picnic. He had come from the Buckleyville district to play ball. We were married in Birtle by Rev. Bowman and Rev. Stevens of Birtle Sept. 30, 1943. Our home was the former Isabella post office moved by Ray Cooley as a wedding gift for us. We lived on Arthur's parents' farm twelve miles south-west of Shoal Lake. In 1945 on June 22 our daughter, Vivan Lorraine, was born. In 1948 we moved back to Rothesay district. In 1949 we moved our house to SE ¼ 17-16-25 which we bought from my dad. We shopped at Isabella and attended church there where Mrs. Kennedy was Vivian's Sunday School teacher.

We tried for success but rust took our wheat crop one year, erysypis hit our purebred pigs and so Arthur looked elsewhere to supplement our income. He worked at the North America Lumber Company in Birtle, then in 1956 we moved to Shoal Lake where he drove the milk truck for the creamery until 1960. At that time he took the weed supervisors position for Strathclair, Shoal Lake and Birtle towns and municipalities.

Our daughter, Vivian, became a teacher and married Bryce Warren of Shoal Lake on July 5, 1969. They have two children: Jason, born June 14, 1971 and Teresa, born October 4, 1973. They live in Greenwood, Nova Scotia.

Our daughter, Rhonda Elaine, was born May 16, 1951. She graduated as a registered nurse in 1972 and married Myron Kremko of Thunder Bay, Ontario on

August 5, 1979. They have a daughter, Erin, born Feb 4, 1981 and they live in Winnipeg.

Then Derrick Edlin joined our family October 3, 1956. He is a pilot and an Air Traffic Controller since 1975. On May 12, 1979 he married Donna Armstrong of Steinbach, Manitoba and they live in Winnipeg.

Music was always a main part of my life. Since Arthur played the violin, for many years we played for dances with the Birtle Night Hawks orchestra. I've played for church services and weddings, first learning to chord as Dad played the mouth organ. Every father has a secret ambition for his child. I know mine hoped for a career in politics for me but the closest I have come to that is being elected to the Shoal Lake Village Council in 1980.

In 1964, due to heart problems, my father gave up farming and moved to Shoal Lake. Lawrence Smith now owns the farm with William White owning ours. Dad passed away April 25, 1975 and for the next four years Mother made her home with us. She loved to read and to crochet with the aid of a strong magnifying glass. One thing I never knew until she lived with us, was that blue was her favourite colour. Just small trivia, but how many of us know much about our parents, personally. Mother passed away March 30, 1980. Both are buried in Isabella Cemetery.

Life goes on, memories of my prairie town, Isabella, are very poignant and dear. Thanks so much for the opportunity to keep my parents' memory alive.

Parents

For love that makes the world worthwhile
Because it serves and gives.
For faith that blesses with a smile
For loyalty that lives
For these that gladden all my days
With strength and comfort too.
I gave my love, my thanks, my praise
Dear parents mine, to you.

Barbara and Spence Littlejohn by Barbara (Wallace) Littlejohn

I, Barbara Wallace, third daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Wallace, was born Nov. 17, 1911. I received my education at Isabella, Blaris, Arrow River and Virden schools. After taking teachers' training in Winnipeg, I taught school for three years in the Rorketon district. I married Spence Littlejohn in 1934. We began farming and lived on the farm in the Arrow River district, two miles south of Quadra. We had three children: Ronald Edward born in 1935, James Lyle born in 1937, and Catherine Isobel born in 1939.

Spence joined the R.C.A.F. in 1940. He served as



Spence and Barbara Littlejohn, 1976.

navigator in the air crew during the war years. The children and I lived in Crandall for most of this period. After the war we returned to the farm. The children received their educations at Arrow River and Crandall.

Ronald has made teaching his career. He has his B.A. and B.Ed. and is presently principal of the Buchanan Elementary School in St. James. In 1961 he married Joyce Bernick of Dauphin. They have one son, Ronald Brent born in 1963 and one daughter, Bonnie Lynn, born in 1967. Brent is taking first year arts at the University of Manitoba and Bonnie is attending high school.

Lyle has been with the Royal Bank since high school. From Miniota he was posted to Winnipeg. In 1958 he married Margaret Scarth of Isabella. Their four children were born in Winnipeg: David Bruce in 1961, James Ian in 1963, Robert Douglas in 1966 and Carol Louise in 1967. They left Winnipeg for the Bahamas in 1970. Since then they have lived in Montreal, Jamaica and New York. Just recently Lyle and Marg had another move. This time to the Barbados where Lyle is manager of the East Caribbean. Due to the lack of good schooling in Barbados, Doug and Carol are continuing their high school in Canada. Bruce and Jamie are attending university in the United States.

Catherine also worked in the Miniota bank after completing high school. In 1958 she married Robert Peel. Bob was then working at a service station in Souris. They lived at Souris for a short time and then were moved to Deloraine. While in Deloraine their two sons were born: Brian James in 1960 and Robert Craig in 1961. Laurie Dawn was born in December, 1962, while they were at Oakburn. Their next moves were to Reston, Melita, and Assiniboia, Sask. While at Assiniboia, Catherine took a position in the Bank of Commerce.

In the spring of 1976 Bob decided to farm. He

took over his father's farm in the Miniota district and also rented the Spence Littlejohn farm. The family took up residence in Miniota. Brian, Craig and Laurie completed their high school at Birtle. Brian has been attending the University of Manitoba. This year he will get his degree in physical education. Craig has started his second year at Red River Community College, taking a course in Business Administration. Laurie is employed with the Royal Insurance Co. in Winnipeg. Since coming to Miniota, Catherine has been working at the Municipal Office.

Spence and I still live on the farm. During the fall and winter months Spence does tax consulting work and prepares income tax returns.

Lloyd

Mr. Lloyd lived in the house that was situated north of Harry Brisbin's house. He worked on the railway.

Sheila and Hunter Lobban

by Sheila Lobban

Our second son, Robert James, was born October 2, 1962. In 1975, Ian was taken from us, and he is laid to rest in Wawa cemetery. Robert is taking his final year at school, and he intends to train as a diesel mechanic. We still reside in Wawa, Ontario.

Mr. and Mrs. Locke

Mr. and Mrs. Locke worked for Mr. W. Iverach but he found farming not his type of work. He moved to Isabella to the house now owned by A. Adams. Here he taught music for a time and played for the church. They had four children Marie, Enid, Iris and Jack who suffered a lot from illness. Mr. and Mrs. R. Scarth have the piano that he originally used.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Lothian

Mr. and Mrs. Lothian lived on the Rob Clark farm. He stayed only a short time, and no other information is available.

The James Lumsden Family

by Bob Lumsden

James Lumsden was born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland in 1883. In 1907 he came to Cobourg, Ontario. The same year he came west to Morden, Manitoba on a harvest excursion. Later he was employed by a Winnipeg cartage company. Mrs. Lumsden came to Canada from Inverness, Scotland in 1907. They were married December 25, 1907 in Winnipeg.

In the spring of 1908 they moved to Oak Bluff to farm for a year. Because of the illness of Jim's mother,



Mr. and Mrs. James Lumsden.

they returned to Scotland in 1909. In 1912 they returned to Canada renting farms in the Isabella district. They lived on the Wallace farm, the Geo. Sunley farm and then in 1919 they moved to the Beulah district to the farm where Jack Tomiski lives. From here they moved to Kane, Petersfield, Clandeboye, Marchand, Winnipeg and Rapid City. Jim passed away suddenly in January, 1944. Mrs. Lumsden moved into Rapid City where she lived until her passing in May, 1963. They are buried in the family plot in Rapid City.

Mr. and Mrs. Lumsden had nine children.

Alex, the eldest, was born in 1908 and was killed accidentally August, 1916 on the road between Decker and the Wallace farm where they were living. He is buried in the Isabella cemetery as are two infant girls who died in 1915 and 1916.

Harry was born in 1911 at Forras, Scotland and returned to Canada with his parents. He took part of his schooling at Blaris school. Later he lived in Stonewall. He joined the Army Service Corps and served from 1939 to 1945. He returned to Stonewall physically disabled and still resides there.

Jean was born at Forras, Scotland in 1912. In 1935 she married Frank Swain of Morris. Jean passed away in 1936 leaving an infant daughter, Ina. She was buried in Morris Cemetery.

Margaret was born in 1917. She was in domestic service until she joined the St. John's Ambulance Nursing Sisters 1942-45. She married Alex Middleton at Red Lake, Ontario May 24, 1953. They have two daughters and one son.

Robert was born at Beulah in 1919. He assisted on the home farm and then in 1941-42 worked on experimental plots at the University of Manitoba. In 1942 he joined the services, 4th Armoured Division, and went overseas that year. In 1944 he came home on compassionate leave due to the death of his father. He attended university for two years, rented farms at Morris and Rapid City. In 1960 he bought a farm from Tully McKenzie. In 1951 Bob married Mabel Patterson of Newdale and they have one son, Lyle, born, May 6, 1954.

Mary was born in 1921. She lived and worked in Rapid City and Winnipeg. In 1949 she married John Prost of Winnipeg. They have two boys and one girl.

John was born in 1923. Since leaving home in 1946 he has been employed in farming at Dunrea and Minto.

John Angus and Alberta MacDonald by Flora (MacDonald) Mason

The Angus MacDonald family moved from the Hodgeville area to a farm about four miles from Isabella, Manitoba, in 1917. The five oldest of our family received part of our education at the Rothesay school. The school was three miles or more from our home. I would be in Grade VIII when the school was moved to a spot two miles from our farm home.

I remember our mother exhibiting butter at the fair which was held in Isabella. Her great thrill was to receive the top prize three consecutive years and to be presented with a certificate. I am now in possession of this certificate.

Farming became a losing proposition in the Isabella area so in the fall of 1929 we moved to Morse, Saskatchewan. Ethel and George, the two oldest members of the family, were on their own, and Anne, Margaret, Grace and myself attended school in Morse. Dad worked for the C.P.R. until his health failed and after a long illness he died in January, 1935. He was buried in the Morse cemetery. We continued to live in Morse where Mother maintained her continued interest in the Women's Missionary Society and in Sunday School work. I have her Robert Raikes Diploma for her seven years perfect attendance at Sunday School. Mother was also interested in Red Cross work and while the family was growing up she was always ready to help in the same way her mother before her had done. Mother died in November 1960 and was laid to rest beside Dad in the Morse cemetery.

Ethel, the oldest of the family married Hilton Dyson of Paddockwood, Saskatchewan. They have both passed away, Ethel in 1968 and Hilton in 1960. They had two children, Anne and Bill. Anne is



Back Row: Ethel, Flora, George, Margaret. Front Row: Bertie, Ann, Grace, and Angus MacDonald, late 1920s.

married to Doug McNab and now lives in Windsor, Ontario. They have two girls and two boys. William Angus married Marian McLean. They have a boy and a girl. The family live in Port Hardy, B.C.

George, the only boy in the MacDonald family, married Dorothy Bowlsby. They have one daughter, Faye, who married Lorne McLeod. Faye and Lorne have two girls and the family now live in Vancouver, B.C.

Flora, the third oldest of the MacDonald family, married William (Bill) Mason. They have a son, Barry, and a daughter, Maxine. Barry married Diane Lindberg of Choiceland. They have two children and now live in Wetaskiwin, Alberta. Maxine married Clem Kazakoff of Kamsack, Sask. They have one daughter. They now live in Saskatoon.

Margaret married Peter Martin. They have a son, Tom, who married Tena Buaas. Both Tom and his parents live in Langley, B.C.

Anne married George Jarvos. They have three children, two girls and a boy. Pat, the oldest is married to Albert Sensoli. They have two children, a girl and a boy. They live in Detroit, Michigan. Don married Diane Magson. They have a boy and a girl. Beverley married Steve Tocheniuk. They have three sons who live in B.C.

Grace, the youngest of the MacDonald family, married Alfred Tomlinson. They live in Edmonton, Alberta. They have three children, a girl and two boys. Donna married John Mazonak and they have two boys. They live at Williams Lake, B.C. Stuart married Sharon Josepheson. They have two children, a boy and a girl. Stuart and family live at Lloydminster, Sask. Bill married Donna Stevenson. They have one son, and now live in Grand Centre, Alta.

This year, 1981, seems to be a good year to add to the MacDonald history. Two of the granddaughters, Annie Dyson McNab and Pat Jarvos Sensoli, have organized a John Angus MacDonald reunion.

This reunion took place in Burnaby, B.C. in August, 1981. A book was written dating back to Stornaway, Scotland, where Great Grandfather MacDonald lived. It will serve family members as a souvenir of a very happy time together.

Mr. and Mrs. John Maguire

John Maguire came as agent to the C.N.R. station at Isabella, June 10, 1919. He was accompanied by his wife and daughter, Doris.

The family quickly became absorbed into the community and took part in all its activities. Mrs. Maguire was a charter member of the W.I. and was a willing helper in all work connected with the church. Doris attended school, was a member of the Sunday school choir and of the C.G.I.T.

John was interested in sport. He coached the first boys school hockey team following the opening of the rink. He was also a member of the first curling club.

August 31, 1924, they left Isabella and moved to Carberry where Mr. Maguire was in charge of the C.N.R. station. They remained there until Mr. Maguire retired. They are now residing near San Francisco, California. Their daughter is married and also makes her home in California.

Mrs. Jean MacPherson by Mr. and Mrs. J. Chapman

Donald MacPherson passed away at Arthur, Ontario, in 1897. The family, consisting of the mother and four small children, came to Manitoba the next year. The nearest train was to Elkhorn. Mother's sister, Mrs. Donald McDonald, and her son, Angus, met us there with a farm wagon and team of heavy horses. It took hours for the trip. Each person carried a little green branch to wave to help to keep the swarms of mosquitoes away. Uncle and auntie had a small log house and eight children, but they made us welcome. Mother thought it was a great country when the boys went out and got prairie chickens to cook.

The McDonalds had come to the farm at the same time as the Paynters at Beulah and Rowans at Miniota, in 1879. McDonalds lived in a sod shanty the first two years. The oldest daughter, Belle, was to be married to John Powell. Mother had been a dress-maker, and she made all the wedding clothes for the bride, her mother, and two small sisters. For a short time, we attended the old Miniota school about four miles from what was later Miniota village. Then we moved to Old Beulah for a year. The first doctor in the country started to practise there at that time. His name was Dr. Chalmers. He boarded with us and also for the three years we lived at Miniota. The C.P.R. railway got to Miniota early in 1900. Soon it was a busy place. The station, round house for the engine, the water tank, an elevator, houses and other buildings were constructed. Early in 1903, mother got a homestead north and east of Isabella. Peter became a farmer. Margaret went to live with her dad's mother in Ontario. She stayed and went to school for six years. Nan and Belle went to Gnaton school for a year. There was no road at all. The first morning Mother drove them and blazed a trail. She used a hatchet to cut a chip from a tree, when necessary, to mark the way. Soon the wheel marks showed enough in the grass to follow. When Rothesay school opened it was nearer and they attended there until Isabella school was built. They were among the first pupils.

One day a prairie fire almost burned them out. It was stopped in the short grass near the buildings. Bob Squibb, a neighbor, helped to fight it. When Nan was twelve she wrote the following:—

The fire came sweeping o'er the plain,
Our cheeks were blanched with fear,
For what could save our prairie home,
The home we held so dear?
The menfolk all had gone to town
Full twenty miles away,
Leaving Mother, little Belle, and I
To guard the house and hay.
And here the fire came roaring on,
Oh dear! What could we do?
Only one side of us was safe,
It was guarded by a slough.
But presently there came a man
Who lives not far away,
Who plowed a furrow round the house,
The stable, and the hay.
He started in to plow again,
When his wife came running down,
Calling, "Come quickly home again
The fire is spreading 'round."
The fire came like a raging beast
With many a rush and roar,
Until it reached the narrow strip
So near our cottage door.
It leaped that barrier many times,
We fought it back with brooms.
We lifted up our hearts to God
To save our place from ruin.
Our neighbor came and plowed some more,
The fire passed us by
Then we all sat down to rest
With such a tired sigh.
Belle said, "Bob must an angel be,
Though it must be unawares,
Because God sent him don't you see,
In answer to our prayers."

In later years Nan Emerson had many poems printed including the book, "Wind, Song and Other Verse". The entire edition has been sold.

Belle MacPherson graduated from Grace Hospital. She married Alfred Goddard. They had two daughters and lived at Winnipeg. Belle passed away at Ottawa at the age of fifty-six.

Nan MacPherson was a nurse at Winnipeg General Hospital. She married Russell Emerson. They have two children and live at Winnipeg.

Peter married Louise Duff and their history is elsewhere in this book.

Margaret married John Chapman of Isabella and their history is elsewhere in this book.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter MacPherson

Peter married Louise Duff at Birtle. They lived on his homestead at Isabella until they moved to Miniota in 1927. Later they moved to Winnipeg, where he died at the age of fifty-eight. Their eldest daughter, Doris, who taught school, married Ken Nordlinger. They have two children and live at Victoria, B.C. Marie, a hairdresser, married Wilfred Barrett who was killed at Hong Kong. Later she married George Massey. They have two children and live in Winnipeg. Evelyn still teaches school and is



Peter and Louisa MacPherson family, 1975. Back Row: Doris, Evelyn, Audrey, Marie, Marjorie, Alex, and Don.

married to William Barrett. They have two children and live at Miniota. Their daughter, Myrna, won the Gold Medal at Brandon General Hospital. She also has her degree in music. Donald was a prisoner at Hong Kong. His wife passed away at Vancouver. They had two children. He married again in 1961 to Pearl Williams, a Winnipeg nurse. Alex is a blueprint specialist. He married a nurse, Judge Sparling's daughter, at Winnipeg, in 1961. Marjorie, who had a Business Course, married Ray Bronson, a Hong Kong prisoner. They have four daughters and live at Killarney. Audrey, who was a secretary with the Army, married George Graham. She has four children and is stationed in Germany.

Update

by Evelyn (MacPherson) Barrett

This is an update of the family of Peter MacPherson, who passed away in 1946 and his wife, Sarah Louisa Duff, who passed away in 1965.

There were nine children in the family of whom seven are now living. Gordon passed away in 1922 and Lorraine died in 1936.

Of the remaining seven, Doris is the eldest and lives in Victoria, B.C. Her husband, Ken Nordlinger,

passed away in 1970. Their daughter, Karen, is a lawyer in Vancouver and son, Peter Lee, is an administrator at the University in Victoria.

Next is Marie who lives in Winnipeg and whose husband, George Massey, died in 1981. Their son, Bob, is with a recording company in Winnipeg and daughter, Susan, lives in Wetaskiwin, Alberta with husband, Fenton Bloxham, an Air Controller.

The third daughter, Evelyn, lives in Miniota with husband Bill Barrett. They have two children, Myrna who is a research analyst and teacher in the University in Lethbridge, Alberta and married to Clark Greene, a professor at the College there and son Rick who lives in Brandon and is an electrician.

Fourth is Don, a Hong Kong Veteran who has just retired as Blender after twenty-one years with the B.C. Liquor Distribution Branch. He and his wife, Pearl, live in Richmond, B.C. with their younger daughter Sandy who has just graduated from High School. Their elder daughter, Heather, lives and works in Port Moody and son John is a chef in Vancouver.

The fifth member of the family is Alex who is a draftsman and is Office Manager in the Dept. of Transport in Winnipeg and lives there with wife Pat, who is a nurse.

Sixth is Marjorie who with husband Ray Bronson, lives part time in their summer home in Killarney, Manitoba and part time in Tempe, Arizona. Their four daughters live in Manitoba. Bonnie is a teacher in Selkirk and married to Peter Gerbrandt, also a teacher. Janis is married to Don Spurrill, an Air Controller. Kim is married to Warren Hall, a farmer in the Killarney district. Youngest daughter Margie and husband, Rick Nichols, also farm in that district. Son Greg is completing his High School in Tempe.

The youngest daughter is Audrey who lives in Anchorage, Alaska and works for the U.S. Government. Her three sons and one daughter are scattered. Mark, the eldest is in Anchorage, Brad is in the U.S. Army stationed in Germany, Duke is in San Diego and youngest, Marla is in Vermont.

Michael and Jan Malanowich **by Jan Malanowich**

I, Jan Marie Finkbeiner the elder daughter of John and Dorothy Finkbeiner was born on April 30, 1947 in Brandon General Hospital. I was raised and educated in Isabella until 1963 at which time the High School closed and I then attended Hamiota Collegiate for two years.

While attending school I was active in the United Church choir, C.G.I.T., Isabella 4-H Sewing and Decker 4-H Calf Club. I was fortunate enough in 1963 to show the Grand Champion Steer in the

Decker 4-H Club. At that time I also received Reserve Grand Champion of the McConnell Fat Stock Show. My sewing experience allowed me to model five years out of six at our division rally and once at the Brandon Summer Fair. I was the Queen of the Rosburn 4-H Rally in July 1962.

I was also very active in sports in Isabella as well as Hamiota. In 1965 I skipped our Hamiota rink to the school division championships. I was head cheerleader and also played volleyball while at Hamiota Collegiate. I played softball with the Isabella team for several years as well.

In September 1965 I left home to attend Success Commercial College in Winnipeg. In September of 1966 I started work as a secretary for \$45.00 per week for Cam Bri Agencies of Winnipeg. In April of 1967 I left Cam Bri and became a secretary for Oxford Leaseholds Co. Ltd.

On August 24, 1968 I married Michael Malanowich of Hyas, Saskatchewan in Isabella United Church. Michael and I resided in a trailer in Birtle where we were both employed as Child Care Workers at the Birtle Indian Residential School.

In August of 1969 we moved to Brandon and we both returned to school at Assiniboine Community College where we enrolled in the Social Welfare Services Course.

Upon successful completion of this course Michael returned to work for Indian Affairs as a child care worker at the Brandon Residential School.



Kent, Michael, Jan, and Keri Malanowich.

On December 10, 1970 our daughter Keri-Lee Marie was born at Brandon General Hospital. After her birth I worked casually for Indian Affairs as a child care worker until February 1972 when I took over as secretary for the Indian Affairs Guidance Office. During that year we had four native boys living with us. Of course our place was always a hive of excitement during that year.

With the Residential School closing its doors in June 1972 Michael received a transfer to Guy Indian Student Residence at The Pas, Manitoba. While living at Guy Hill I also worked as a child care worker and substitute teacher until April 1975.

On September 1, 1973 our son Kent Douglas was born at Hamiota Hospital.

I returned to the full time work force in May 1975 as a Clerk-Teller for the Royal Bank of Canada in The Pas. This employment was of short duration as in September of 1975 I secured employment as an Income Security Counsellor for the Provincial Government. At the present time I am still employed by the province but I have received a promotion to Assistant Director of Income Security in The Pas.

While working for the Provincial government I have become very much involved with our union — the Manitoba Government Employees Association. I am presently Area I Chairperson and Vice president negotiator of the Social Science Component.

In March 1977 Michael ended his thirteen years employment with Indian Affairs and became employed as a Highway Traffic Inspector for the province where he is still employed. Michael is also involved with the M.G.E.A. and is secretary for the Legal Component as well as a Steward.

In October 1975 we purchased our first home at 368 Head Avenue. Keri-Lee no longer had to ride the school bus to attend Kelsey Elementary School. The following year Keri-Lee transferred to Mary Duncan elementary while Kent attended Halcrow Lake Day Care Centre until September 1978 when he started Kindergarten at Mary Duncan.

Both children have been very active in Red Cross swimming. Keri-Lee became a 4-H member this year belonging to both the cooking and sewing clubs.

Kent joined Beavers and is very much looking forward to being a cub this year. He will soon be old enough to join cadets and he is really looking forward to becoming a pilot.

I became a 4-H Cooking leader as well as being Executive Secretary of The Pas Beavers.

For family entertainment we all enjoy our camping and fishing weekends when weather permits. We are extremely fortunate to live in such a fantastic resort area.

But, however nice our northland is, Isabella will

always be considered home. The hospitality and friendliness which is shown our family on our visits there I am sure cannot be found anywhere else. Being brought up in a community minded environment has provided me with one of the greatest learning experiences I could ever hope to attain.

Mr. and Mrs. Mandy Marshall

The Mandy Marshalls first lived on the Cuffe farm, now George Wierer's land. There was a large family and they walked over three miles to Gnaton school. The Chapmans drove there in a buckboard, which was like a buggy but longer at the back. When they got as far as Marshall's place, as many as could got a ride. The rest ran along beside the buckboard. When one or two got tired, they got in the buckboard and the others ran along beside.

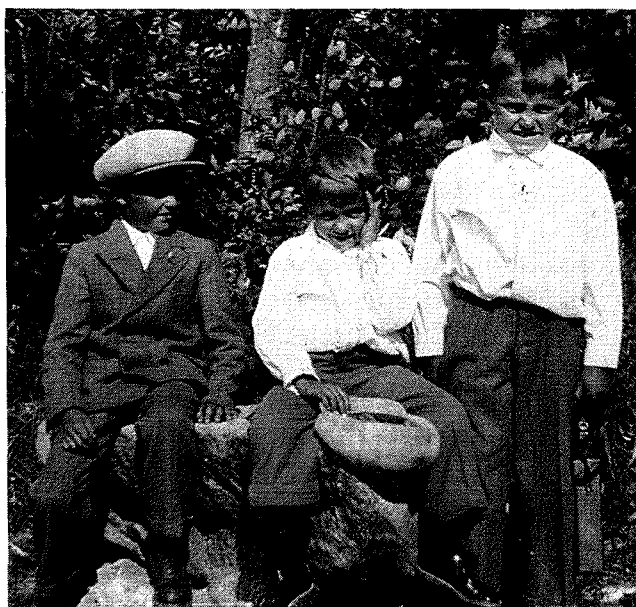
One day there was a cyclone and when they got home, the roof of their house had blown away. In 1889, they moved to the Len. Hall farm and attended Shamrock school with Chapmans and others.

It would be over 68 years since all this happened. Most implements used were one-furrow walking plows and oxen, grain cradles, flails and old fashioned reapers.

Mrs. E. Martin

by Mrs. E. Martin

Mrs. E. Martin and her two sons Donald and Terence farm the three quarters of section 28-15-25 and half of section 33-15-25. The home is situated on the north-east quarter of section 28-15-25. The soil is heavy black loam and the ground is level with still a number of bluffs and sloughs. We have lived on this



Terence, Vincent, and Donald Martin.

farm for 33 years, coming here to work for Walter Ware then the sole owner, in October 1929. We bought the farm, stock, farming implements and equipment on November 17, 1944 from Walter Ware who then retired and went to live in Kelowna, B.C. He died 7 years later at the age of 77. The northeast quarter was purchased in 1900 by Walter Ware from Mr. Carson. Walter Ware's homestead was the northeast quarter of section 34-15-25 (which was later sold to W. Hooper and then to Allen Sutherland). The south half of section 33-15-25 was bought by Walter Ware before 1910 and the southeast quarter of section 28-15-25 he bought shortly after that. The northwest quarter of section 28-15-25 was bought by Walter Ware from Noble Elliot in 1936 and was originally the homestead of Bruce Wallace.

Of the 800 acres 420 are under cultivation and the main water supply is from a drilled well 183 feet deep drilled in 1961, there having been a well drilled before 1918. There is also a dug well in a gravel pit, the water coming from a spring.

The earliest builder was Mr. Carson who had a log cabin north of the present building, built before 1900. Walter Ware built a shack which is standing and also a stable and buildings were built before 1910 and are still standing. The present home was built in 1926 with extra built on in 1929 and again in 1942. The land Walter Ware owned before 1919 was fenced with page wire by Larnia Steel and Fence Company of Ontario, the rest with barbed wire. Most of the lumber for the buildings was hauled by team from Birtle and later from Decker and Isabella. The type of farming was grain, livestock and hay. Walter Ware hauled hay to Birtle to the livery stables and grain to Arrow River. He planted a shelterbelt around the building sometime before 1919.

The home was heated with a cook stove and a heater burning wood, and coal at night and is now heated with coal, wood and oil. At present there are six rooms.

The first power used to farm here as far as I know was horses.

As for memories and information this was the place where quite a large number of men of the district visited on Sundays for a chat with Walter Ware as he was always at home. Some just came for a chat, some for advice and some for financial help which he nearly always gave. He was never active in any organizations but he will be remembered by many for his acts of kindness which were done quietly; he was a man with no enemies. What better memories are there than these?

I came to Canada in June 1919 from Liverpool, England. I have the following children: Donald and Terence work the farm with me and my youngest son

Vincent and his family live at Cadonin, Alberta. The youngest child, a daughter, and her family live at Brandon, Manitoba.

We have recently registered our farm under the name of "Green Acres".

Update

by Mrs. E. Martin

Since the first edition, our home has had some changes. In 1963, a bathroom, a large cement block cistern, a complete water system and an oil furnace have been added. The exterior has been stuccoed.

More land has been cleared.

My eldest son, Terence, died of cancer March 9, 1980.

Donald is with me on the farm.

Vincent died of a heart attack in Vancouver in December 1980.

Audrey, and her husband, Ward Collyer, live in Brandon. They have two children Donald is married and has two sons, Michael and Jeremy. Kenneth is also married. They all reside in Brandon.

I enjoy having my children, grandchildren and great grandchildren living nearby.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Martin

by Mrs. H. Martin

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Martin came originally from the Miami district where they were married in the fall of 1949. Being employed by the C.N. Railway they did a lot of moving around. In 1957 they moved to Beulah, Mr. Martin's second place as permanent foreman. The railway then moved his quarters to Isabella in the fall and here Mrs. Martin acted as caretaker of the station. They remained there for about two and one-half years until they were forced to move again. At the present time they are residing at Wellwood.

They have three sons Robert, Glenn, and Dennis. Robert and Glenn both attended school in Isabella.

1982 no update.

Bob and Sharon McKenzie

by Sharon McKenzie

We were married in Miniota on April 8, 1972. We are in partnership with Erik and Mary Hurlin in the hotel in Miniota. We lived in the hotel suite until October 8, 1978, when we moved to the mobile home behind the motel, where we still reside.

Our first son, Jason Wade, was born September 10, 1975. He is now in Grade I. Our second son, Clayton Cole, was born January 6, 1978 and our third son, Mitchell Cory, was born August 31, 1981.

Our family takes part in all sports such as skating, ball, curling, fishing, and golf. In summer we go camping.

Tully and Ethel McKenzie

by Marge Kalinowsky and Beth Anderson

Ethel Marion, born August 2, 1906, was the eldest of the Melville Bridge family. After taking her teacher's training in Winnipeg, she taught school for five years (1925-1930).

On July 5, 1930 Ethel married John Tully McKenzie of Rapid City. They resided on his grandfather's farm, four miles east of Rapid City for the next thirty years. They were both very active in school, church and agricultural organizations within the Tremaine and Rapid City area. Ethel returned to her teaching career in 1955, at Glanton School for three years and later at Tremaine School from 1958-1961.

In November 1960, Tully and Ethel moved to Brandon, where they resided at 73 Clark Drive. Tully was employed with the Department of Indian Affairs as a land-use officer at the Sioux Valley Reserve, until his retirement in 1971. Ethel taught at the junior high level in Brandon until her retirement in 1971. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Brandon University in 1977.

Ethel and Tully were active in church, Assiniboine Historical Society and Brandon Natural History Society. Together, they wrote, "It's Time to Remember" a history of the Tremaine-Hunterville area from 1874-1974. Tully has been very involved in the formation of the Manitoba Agricultural Hall of Fame. After an active and happy retirement, Ethel died on April 10, 1977. Tully still resides at 73 Clark Drive.

Tully and Ethel McKenzie had a family of four: Lois, Marjorie, Kenneth and Beth. Lois was born on August 4, 1933. She graduated as a registered nurse, and married Jim Harland of Minnedosa. Shortly after their marriage they moved to San Jose, California, where Jim is a senior design engineer with I.B.M. They have three daughters: Valerie (Mrs. David Hernandez), Dawn (Mrs. Michael Alvares), and Lisa (Mrs. Vince Lo Presti), who all reside in the San Jose area. Valerie and Dave have two young daughters, Maya and Denika.

Marjorie was born on April 7, 1939. She took her training as a teacher and married Bill Kalinowsky of Benito. They have recently spent six years living in South and Central America, where Bill worked as an expert in Co-operatives for CIDA. Bill is presently assistant manager of Carpathia Credit Union in Winnipeg, where they reside. They have three children:

Ian, Kathy and Mark. They are attending university and school in Winnipeg.

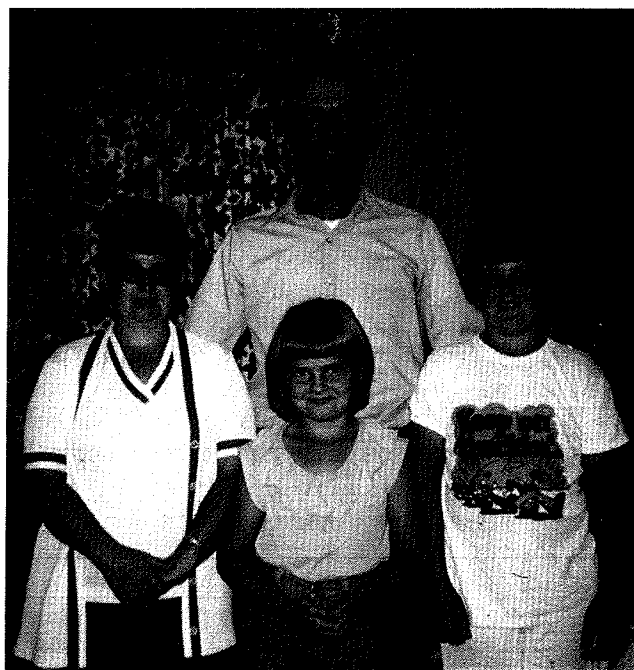
Kenneth was born May 6, 1941. He received his B.S.A. degree from the University of Manitoba and later his Master's in Business Administration from York University. Ken manages his own business, Global Plastics in Winnipeg. He is married to Shirley Bartlett of Winnipeg. Shirley is a primary teacher.

Beth was born on October 23, 1949. She received her degree in Home Economics from the University of Manitoba and worked as a social worker. She married Dave Anderson of Indian Head, Saskatchewan. They reside in Winnipeg, where Dave is employed with Parks Canada as Head Design Engineer. They have one son, Ryan, who is three years old.

Jack and Mary (Rittaler) McKibbon

by Mary McKibbon

My family moved to Isabella in the summer of 1958. My father, Anton Rittaler, was principal of Isabella's three-roomed school. I attended Isabella school along with my younger brothers and sister. I still remember what a nice building our school was and how spotlessly clean it was kept by our janitor, Austin Adams. I took grades nine to eleven in Isabella, and I completed my grade twelve in Miniota. Clark Stewart, Margaret and Roberta Young and myself were the four who registered for grade nine the fall of 1958 and went through high school together. I enjoyed the dances held every other Friday in the hall, our girls' ballteam, and our junior choir. Isabella was a very friendly community and very



Mary, Jack, Sheila, and Patrick McKibbon.

supportive of its young people. I graduated from Brandon Teachers' College in June 1963. My family moved to Napinka in the fall of 1963 with the closing of Isabella's high school room, and I went to Deloraine to teach. I returned to Brandon College to take a year of science, taught at Steinbach a year, and then moved to Cartwright where I taught for six years. While in Cartwright I met and married Jack McKibbon. Jack's family was one of the first to settle in Cartwright, and he has lived and farmed here all his life, except one year he attended university in Winnipeg. We have two children. Patrick, now twelve years, was born February 4, 1969. Sheila, now eight years, was born December 19, 1972.

Roy and Jean McMillan

by Jean McMillan — to continue the story as told in the Tom Stevenson Senior story

Since 1962 the McMillans had another daughter, Shauneen Gay, born on May 23, 1966.

Cheryl received her education in Hamiota school and then went to Brandon University receiving a Bachelor of Education Degree. She graduated in 1977 and was awarded the Silver Medal for General Education. After graduating she taught at Pilot Mound, Manitoba and is at present teaching at David Livingstone School in Brandon. On July 4, 1981, she was married to Howard Coates of Glenboro, Man. They are residing in Brandon, Manitoba.



Sheila, Roy, Jean, and Ken McMillan, Cheryl and Howard Coates, Shauneen McMillan.

After attending Hamiota School Sheila attended Brandon University, receiving a Bachelor of Education Degree. She graduated in 1978 and was awarded the Gold Medal for Bachelor of Teaching and the Silver Medal for General Education. At present she is teaching at the Hamiota Elementary school.

Ken is finishing his schooling at the Hamiota Collegiate and is employed at Caldwell Motors.

Shauneen attends Hamiota Collegiate and is active in sports.

Roy is works supervisor for the Highways Department and Jean is at present working at Sears Office in Hamiota.

Mr. and Mrs. A. G. McMullen

by Mrs. N. Corradetti

Albert George McMullen was born in London, England, on March 17, 1882. He came to Canada at the age of three. In 1912, he married Miss Bertha Murray of Union Corner, Prince Edward Island. She was born on July 8th, 1888. They moved to Isabella right after their marriage where Mr. McMullen became a grain buyer for Western Canada Flour Mills. He had the agency for Imperial Oil, a farm, a garage, and repair shop.

One boy and three girls were born to them at Isabella. Glen A. was born in May, 1913; Zella M. (Mrs. N. Corradetti, Calgary, Alberta); Loretta B. (Mrs. E. Scott, Calgary, Alberta); Inez G. (Mrs. Neilson).

The family moved to Langdon, Alberta, in 1928. While there, the children finished their schooling. The father worked for The Alberta Wheat Pool as grain buyer. He also had a garage and trucking business there.

After completing his schooling, Glen took two years training at Calgary Technical Institute where he trained as an electrician. He drove a truck for his father for two years. In January, 1937 he married Betty Orr, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Orr. They have five children: Bob and Bill who are in the Army, are the two eldest. After serving with the 23rd Battery in the Canadian Army on the Normandy coast and in Germany, Glen returned home after six years on active duty. He lived at Nakusp, B.C., where he did road building for the government for six years. As always, he was interested in sport, especially hockey and baseball, and was active in building the skating rink at Nakusp. He and his family moved to South Burnaby, B.C., in 1955, where he works for a Sheet Metal company. They reside at 7067 Gray Avenue.

Zella attended school in Isabella and later in Langdon, Alberta. While there, she was a member of the C.G.I.T. After moving to Calgary with the rest of

the family, she took a course at a Beauty School there graduating in 1935. For the season of 1936, she worked at Banff Springs Hotel. While there, she met and married Nello Corradetti in September, 1937. They have no children. She is a member of North Hill United Church and is active in the Ladies' auxiliary to the General Hospital, holding the office of secretary-treasurer of the Smoke and Gift Shop.

Loretta was born at Isabella in December, 1916, and attended school at Isabella and Langdon. She was a member of the C.G.I.T. there. She moved with the family to Calgary in 1934 and went to Crescent Heights School. She married Ernest Scott in May, 1936. They have one boy. The family attends North Hill United Church.

Inez was born at Isabella in August, 1921, attending school at Isabella and Langdon, then to Crescent Heights School in Calgary. She worked at The Irish Linen Store and for The T. Eaton Company there. In November, 1952, she married and is now living on the Noble Farms of Nobelford where her husband is manager of the Cattle Department. She has two boys and is a member of North Hill United Church. Mrs. McMullen passed away in May, 1956, at the age of sixty-eight years. She was a member of the North Hill United Church and was an active member of the Women's Institute at Langdon.

After moving to Calgary in 1935, my father hauled gas and its by-products for British American Oil, until his retirement in 1952. He is a member of North Hill United Church. He celebrated his eightieth birthday in March of this year and resides at 105-19th Street, Calgary, Alberta.

Update by the Family

Zella (McMullen) and her husband, Nello Corradetti, lived in Calgary, Alberta, until 1979. They moved to Salmon Arm, where they are enjoying the fishing, golfing, bowling, gardening, and Mobile Home Park living, during their retirement years.

Inez's husband, Ed. Neilson, died in 1963. She and the boys moved to Calgary where she still resides. The eldest boy, Ken, resides in Edmonton. They have one boy, 4 years old, and in Sept., 1980, they had triplet boys. The younger son, Ron, resides in Calgary.

Loretta and her husband, Ernie Scott, moved to Calgary in 1937, and lived there until 1980. They moved to Canoe, B.C. and are at present living in a Mobile Home Park. Their son, Murray, and the two grandchildren are living in Calgary.

Glen returned from overseas and worked for 10 years as a truck driver and shovel operator for the Department of Highways of British Columbia. He

then moved to Burnaby, B.C. where he went into the construction business. He worked at that until his retirement in 1974. He and his wife, Betty, now reside in Burton, B.C.

Bob served in the Armed Forces for 10 years, serving one year on the Gaza Strip and the rest of the time in Canada. He now works for B.C. Telephone as a supervisor. He lives in Burnaby, B.C. He has two daughters.

Bill joined the Armed Forces in 1956 and attained the rank of Major and is a Commanding Officer in Edmonton, Alberta. He served as a helicopter pilot. He served in Germany for six years.

Glenda is happily married to Dr. E. Weibe. They live at Langley, B.C. and have one daughter.

Pat is our third son. He lives in Vancouver, B.C. and works with the Department of Human Resources as a youth guidance counsellor.

Terry is an office manager and salesman for Diplomat Coffee System. He resides at New Westminster, B.C.

Glen pays this tribute to his father:

"All in all, I think my dad was a kind of Mr. Big in that town". (Isabella). He farmed two different farms, bought grain, owned a garage, had the Imperial Oil Agency, sold flour and feed, and had two farm machinery agencies, he cut hair, and fixed harness. He walked from his farm (where Cyril and Doreen Norrie live), after doing his morning farm chores, to work in the elevator which he kept open six days a week. When I was eleven years old, my Dad suffered a severe ulcer attack. I wrote to his brother Will, in Calgary, who came and took him to Winnipeg for medical treatment. That operation saved his life. As you can see my dad was very precious to me and not enough can be said about him. I would like to think that our children would think half as much of me, as I do of my Dad.

Mr. A. G. McMullen died in 1969.

Ian and Cheryl (Miller) McPhaden by Cheryl McPhaden

I was born April 21, 1957 in Hamiota Hospital.

I received my education at Isabella, Crandall and Hamiota.

I moved to Hamiota in October 1971 with my parents.

I married Ian McPhaden in August 1974. We have two children, Chris seven years and Erin three years. We farm east of Hamiota.

S. Middleton

Mr. Middleton homesteaded the southwest quarter of 22-15-25. He did not prove-up and he returned

to England. Mr. W. Palmer bought the quarter section.

Barrie and Linda Miller

by Linda Miller

Barrie Russell Miller, the only son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Earle Miller, was born October 30, 1939. He attended school at Blaris and Isabella. Barrie played his minor hockey at Isabella, Birtle and Hamiota and then intermediate hockey at Decker, Elphinstone, Cardale and Strathclair.

On October 14, 1961 he married Linda Morton of Hamiota.

In 1963, they purchased three quarters of land from Mrs. Mary Sutherland of Arrow River.

Their family consists of two daughters, Heather Dawn, born February 13, 1968 and Rhonda Joy, born August 1, 1971. A son was still born in 1967. Heather and Rhonda attend school in Hamiota. They belong to the First Hamiota Girl Guides, Rhonda as a guide and Heather as a pathfinder.

In 1973 they had the cement block house replaced with a new home. In 1976 they purchased the home farm from Barrie's parents.



Barrie, Linda, Heather, and Rhonda Miller.

Bernard and Betty Miller

I, Betty Velma Emerson, after completing a year of teachers' training in Winnipeg taught school at Blaris during the 1943-4 term. I boarded at the E. Sunley home.

I then moved to Decker, and taught there until

1949 when I left to marry Bernard Miller of Rossburn.

We farmed three miles south of Hamiota for twenty-five years. We had a family of six girls.

We now reside at Minnedosa where we are caretakers at the collegiate.

Mr. and Mrs. Earle Miller

by Mrs. E. Miller

Russell Earle Miller was the third son of Wm. and Rachel Miller. Rachel was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ingram Chapman of Harding, Manitoba. Earle was born August, 1911, his parents were living on S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of 17-14-25. When he was six months of age, the family moved to the S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ 30-14-25 which was the permanent Miller home. He attended school at Blaris, Omar and Isabella. He went to Blaris church which is situated on the corner of their farm. Owing to the ill health of his father, Earle helped on the home farm for a time.

On March 15th, 1937, Earle purchased the S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 28 and the N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 21 which is in township 14 range 25. He purchased it from John Harrison of Dunnville, Ontario. Later on he acquired S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of 30-14-25 and now farms three quarters of a section. This land is of a rolling nature, consisting of black loam, sand and gravel. He had a well drilled in 1961 which has an abundance of water. There is also a shallow well of good drinking water. Evergreens were planted for shelter.

Earle was married in the fall of 1937 to Marjorie Henderson, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Henderson of Crandall, Manitoba.



Earle and Marjorie Miller.

Earle does his own carpentry work, building granaries, workshop and remodelling the barn. All the gravel used in the building was taken from the home quarter. The cement blocks for the house that was on the farm when he purchased it, were made on the farm, too.

Earle served as a trustee of the Miniota Municipal School Board for a period of ten years, and he served as a director of Isabella Pool Elevator Association for a time.

Earle and I have one son, Barrie. He attended school at Blaris and Isabella. He also attended Blaris Church. Barrie chose farming as his career and has gone into partnership with his father. He helps with the carpentry work as well. Following in his grandfather's footsteps, Barrie is very fond of gardening.

In 1961 Earle and Barrie built a two bedroom house close by the old home where Earl and I now reside. There is a shallow well in the basement giving an ample supply of water for the new home.

In the fall of 1961, Barrie married Linda Morton, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Morton of Hamiota. Linda was a telephone operator at Hamiota before her marriage.

Both Barrie and Linda are very fond of sports. Barrie has played hockey since he was quite young, first with Isabella, then Birtle, Hamiota and now Decker. He plays both hard and fast ball with Isabella. Linda played fastball with Hamiota and now plays with the Isabella girls.

Earle and Barrie have a mixed farm, with a commercial herd of Hereford cattle, also pigs and hens.

With the coming of the hydro, the work has been made easier with electrical tools and welding equipment.

Update

by Marjorie Miller

On October 13, 1962, Earle and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary in our new home on the farm. At this time Earle and Barrie were in partnership, working the farm. In 1976 Earle retired and Barrie and Linda bought the farm. We celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary in 1977 at Barrie and Linda's home. Earle still enjoys hockey games and is fond of fishing, both summer and winter. I am fond of working in the garden in the summer. We enjoy being near our two grandchildren, Heather and Rhonda. The only sad part is that they grow up too fast.

We are still living in our home on the farm, and Earle enjoys helping Barrie as much as he can with the farm work.

Edna Kelly Miller

by Edna Miller

I was honored to be asked to represent the Dun-

can Kelly family at the unveiling of the cairn at the 75th Anniversary, July 5, 1980. Our family had six children attend Isabella School.

I was born on the farm, one mile south and three quarters of a mile west of Isabella on W½ 8-15-25 on April 28, 1910. I was a nineteenth anniversary present for Mother and Dad. My childhood was made more pleasant by my four sisters and one brother: Margretta (Retta), Marion (Mae), Edith, Mabel and Cecil.

In Memory of My Loved Ones

May the winds of love blow gently
On a quiet, peaceful spot,
Where the ones I love are sleeping
And will never be forgot.
As the time unfolds, year after year
Treasured memories keep them near
No length of time can take away
My thoughts of them from day to day.
Thanks for these memories:

— Rides on a hand sleigh drawn by a harnessed Collie dog, driven or lead by Cecil. We often went up to Warren's this way.

— Happy times spent with friends in a playhouse, very primitive by today's standards.

— Entering a calf in the Boys' and Girls' Club Fair. Mrs. Heise was the school teacher.

— Enjoying Christmas dinner as our family invited bachelors from the district to join us.

— The large threshing gangs that Mother fed.

— Attending Sunday school in the church basement, classes were separated by curtains, which were not sound proof.

— Attending church service after Sunday school. Many of us sang in the choir at an early age. I remember one service, when the choir presented a special programme with Mr. Cawley conducting.

— Young Peoples groups guided by the ministers.

— Several ladies who were CGIT leaders.

— Walking down the railway tracks.

— Being taken to school in horse drawn school vans.

— Eating our school lunch from very shiny five pound lard pails on the shady north side of the school.

— Playing: hop scotch, pump, pump, pull away, and hoist the sails, at recess. We later played softball and basketball.

— Programmes held around the flag on May 24. It was called Empire Day.

— Christmas concerts, practised in school, but presented in the church. Remember the drills?

— The many teachers who by their guidance and

patience, taught us more than the prescribed subjects.

- Anniversary service with special music.
- The Fowl Suppers. What tempting odors and appetizing foods were in that basement.
- The successful Agricultural Fairs.
- The great Hallowe'en socials held at the Ed. Heise home, as well as the box socials in private homes.
- The skating parties held on the slough at home. Later the carnivals and moccasin dances in the rink.

How lucky to grow up in a community that was able to provide us with so many memories. I treasure the friendships which have continued all these years. Friendship is a golden gift that cannot be bought or sold But its value is much greater than a mountain made of gold.

After completing grade XII, I attended Brandon Normal School. In August, 1930, I began a teaching career that lasted thirty-four years. Schools I taught at were Steele Bridge, near Gladstone; Lima, nine miles north of Angusville, where I had an enrolment of fifty-two pupils; Miniota; Shoal Lake; Crandall; and Killarney. At Crandall it was my privilege to teach with Mr. Dibblee, who had been my teacher. On March 1, 1945, I married James Herbert Miller of Killarney. We lived on a farm just out of town SW 1-3-17, until 1960, when due to Herb's illness, we moved into Killarney. On August 15, 1947 twins were born; Elizabeth (Betty) Lynne survived, but her brother only lived a short time. Betty Lynne was educated at Killarney. She enjoyed sports and was active in the Komet Teen Club. She was killed in a car accident August 9, 1964, six days before her seventeenth birthday. Herb predeceased her on March 30, 1961.

When I reached my three score years and ten in 1980, my niece, Edith Edmundson, and family of Shoal Lake, surprised me with a birthday party. Some fifty friends attended.

Then July 27, fifty-eight nieces and nephews gathered at the Well's home at Wellwood to honor me. They came from Yellowknife, N.W.T.; Edmonton, Fort McMurray, Alberta; Colbourne, Hamilton, Manotick and Stouffville in Ontario; Boggy Creek, Binscarth, Beulah, Isabella, Shoal Lake, Brandon and Winnipeg in Manitoba. This was a memorable occasion for me.

The thoughtfulness and love shown to me, by these nieces and nephews has been a great joy to me, through the years.

Gordon and Diana Miller

by Gordon and Diana Miller

Gordon Ian Miller was born July 28, 1951 in the Hamiota Hospital, third son of Kenneth Lorne and Elizabeth Lorraine (Howard) Miller.

His growing up years were spent on their home farm just north of the old Blaris Church.

Gordon attended Isabella School for Grade I-VIII, and then to Miniota for Grade IX. Many hours were spent on the "big yellow school bus" when the following year saw yet another change of schools, this time Hamiota High School.

During his boyhood, Gordon was active working with his two brothers, Ken and Wayne, on the farm, but always finding time to hunt, swim, and explore in the ravine, or bike to Miniota, Arrow River, or Crandall. The boys collected magpies and their eggs for the bounty, as well as digging out fox dens. This gave them a nice little bit of pocket money in those days.

Gord also took part in Boy Scouts at Isabella. During high school in Hamiota he played on the Senior Soccer Team which won the Manitoba Provincials.

In 1963, a hailstorm struck the farm leaving a big impression on a small boy's mind as well as a lot of destruction. The evergreens were stripped of a lot of needles. The hail stones were the size of hardballs and covered the ground up to the rims on his dad's car.

In 1971 Gordon made his first move into the working world being employed by a hog farmer at Selkirk, Manitoba. In 1972 he moved to Brandon working for Scaletta Marble and Tile. Later that spring he moved back to Winnipeg to take up the trade of floor covering installation.

September 9, 1972 Gordon married Diana Elaine Lawrence, elder daughter of Ivan and Lena Lawrence of Crandall.

We settled in Brandon. We have two children, Sean Murray born July 25, 1974 and Tania Elaine born October 4, 1976.

We lived at 1040-10th street for almost six years, both being quite active with our community Centre. Gordon played soccer again for two years. We both enjoyed bowling and then in 1978 gave that up for the recreational sport of inter-community broomball.

December 28, 1980 saw our family move to Coaldale, Alberta. Gordon is still working in the floor covering trade and travels many miles around South Western Alberta, working.

Sean is looking forward to Grade 2 in the fall and Tania will start Kindergarten.

We spend a lot of leisure time camping and exploring in Southern Alberta. We are beginning to

enjoy our new home but are still "Manitobans" at heart.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Miller

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Miller farmed in the Coulter district on his father's farm prior to moving to the Pollock farm east of Melita. They were close neighbors of the John Coxworths while at Melita. They lived on this farm for three years then moved and bought a farm at Broomhill, Man.

In 1935 they moved from the drought area to the north half 5-16-25 five miles north of Isabella.

They had three daughters: Roberta, Audrey and Thelma. Roberta attended school in Isabella.

Five years later they moved to a farm at Solsgirth. From there they moved to Vancouver where they still reside. Mr. Miller is now retired. He worked for a lumber company after moving to Vancouver. Roberta and Audrey are married and live at Portland U.S.A. Thelma is married and lives in Vancouver.

1982 no update

Levi and Yvonne Miller

by Yvonne Miller

Levi Mills Miller, youngest son of William and Rachel (Chapman) Miller, was born June 26, 1920 at the farm home, SW 30-14-25, Blaris. He attended school at Blaris and was a member of the Blaris United Church.

He remained at home helping with farm work until 1943 when he enlisted into the army — attached to the Royal Canadian Artillery. Following his discharge, he married Yvonne Cochrane, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wes Cochrane of Lavinia. We moved to Leetch Gold Mines, Beardmore, Ontario. With the closure of the mine he once again moved to Isabella for a short time. We finally made our home in Alberni, B.C. There, Levi was employed at Alberni Alply Division, where he remained until his death Sept. 7, 1970.

Levi was an ardent gardener with his vegetables taking many prizes at the local fair. Evangelical Free Church Mission also received much of his assistance while their building programs were in progress. Levi's greatest enjoyment was his family, helping where possible in their many activities — Scouting, Guides, 4H, and Sunday School.

Isabella and Blaris were always referred to as "home". Cards and letters from relatives and friends, a real source of encouragement during his lengthy illness, — reminded us of the thoughtfulness of the Prairie People, something lost in a confused, congested city.

Following his death I moved our family to White

Rock. I became part of the nursing staff at the Peace Arch District Hospital.

We had four children: Wilmar, Yvonne, Clayton and Delbert.

Wilmar (born in Beardmore, Ontario) learned to skate at Isabella where he still remembers being terribly upset at the age of four because no one would give him the puck at his first hockey game. He has since moved on to playing soccer, and league lacrosse. He is now married to Carol Rowlinson and has two children, Alston and Theresa. Wilmar is employed by McMillan Bloedel Logging Company in Port Alberni.

Yvonne was born in Hamiota Hospital and graduated from Briercrest Bible Institute. She married Jack Brown, a Sound Engineer. She is presently employed at St. Mary's Hospital, New Westminster.

Clayton is a welder in the Vancouver area.

Delbert is assistant manager of a store.

The children remember Uncle Earle and the farm at Isabella as a fantastic vacation spot, with Aunt Marjorie's gourmet cooking equal to that of the famous Bayshore Inn, Vancouver.

Lorne and Lorraine Miller

by Lorne and Lorraine Miller

Lorne was born at the home farm, 17-14-25, on November 24, 1909, second oldest son of the late William and Rachael Miller.

In 1912 he moved to the Henry Wilson farm with his parents.

He took his schooling at Blaris. He worked on his father's farm. He enjoyed singing in the church choir, taking part in young people's activities, participating in the plays which were very much enjoyed by the surrounding district, and taking part in the bonspiels in winter.

Lorne joined the Armed Forces in October 1939 with the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry.

After he was discharged he worked at Prince Rupert in the shipyards for a time.

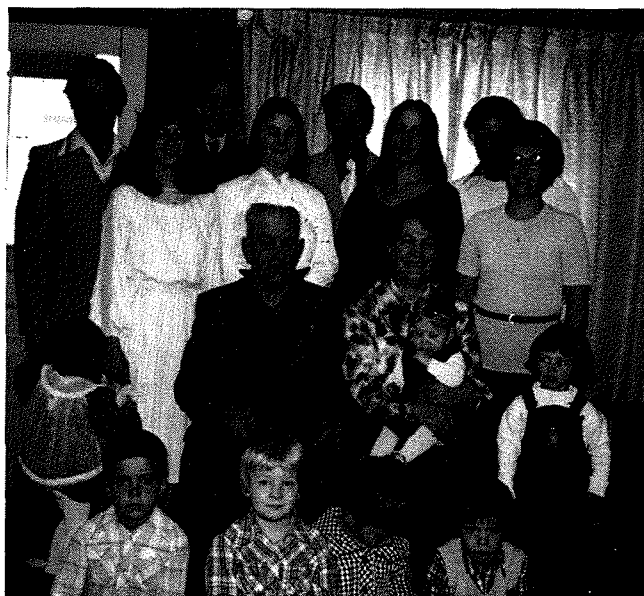
In 1947, Lorne married Lorraine Howard of Minnietota. We lived on the Don Sutherland farm for 8 months then we moved to his dad's farm.

We have four children.

Ken married Janet Rosmussen of Morden. They have three boys, Daryll, Brian and Lorne. They live in Winnipeg.

Wayne married Diann Partridge of Hamiota. They have two girls, Stacey and Kimberly. They live in Stonewall.

Gordon married Diana Lawrence of Crandall. They live in Coaldale, Alberta. They have two children, Sean and Tania.



Back two Rows: Gordon and Diana Miller, Ian and Cheryl McPhaden, Ken and Janet, Wayne and Diann. Second Row: Tania, Lorne, Lorraine, Erin, and Stacey. Front Row: Daryll, Chris, Brian, and Sean, 1979.

Cheryl married Ian McPhaden of Hamiota. They have two children, Chris and Erin. They live east of Hamiota.

Lorne and I moved to Hamiota in October 1971 where we now reside.

Mr. and Mrs. William Miller by Mrs. W. Grey

William Miller was born on October 23, 1879, at Smith Creek, Michigan. In 1897, he came to the Bradwardine district, where he worked for different farmers.

In 1899, he married Rachel Chapman, daughter of Ingram and Jane Chapman of Harding. They worked for a Mr. Chadburn in the Kenton district for a time and during that time they had two daughters: Laura, Mrs. William Grey, of Hamiota, and Allie, Mrs. Ernest Sunley, now living on the former John Sunley farm in the Blaris district.

In 1902, Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Kelly, neighbors of the Ingram Chapman family at Harding, decided to start farming, near Isabella. During that summer, they worked the land, and were busy building a house and stable for the stock, with the Millers helping any spare time they had.

On November 26, 1903, the Kellys moved their stock and household goods to this farm, where William Gilchrist now lives SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 8-15-25. Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Miller with their two daughters came from Kenton, staying at the Kelly home for that winter.

The following spring, they moved to the Frank Percy farm, N.E. 17-14-25, in the Blaris district.

Later, Mr. Lawrence Hunkin bought this farm, which is now owned by his son Larry Hunkin.

About this time John Miller, a brother of William Miller, had come to the West. He stayed at the Kellys, to help with the building.

In 1904, William Miller purchased the southwest quarter of 17-14-25, which was all prairie land. His brother, John, helped to do some breaking and also helped to erect a shanty type frame house, with a kitchen-living room combined, and a bedroom on either end. They also built a stable for the team of horses, a cow and a few chickens. This stable was later replaced with a small barn. John Miller then went to Rosetown, Saskatchewan, where he took up farming.

The Millers lived on this farm until the spring of 1912, when the land, which is good black loam, was practically all under cultivation. There was a good dug well, quite close to the house.

Six of the family were born on this farm. Clayton lives at Kenora, Ontario. May (Mrs. Peter Stewart) passed away July 10, 1942. Lorne, lives on the home farm. Earle lives on the former William Rowles farm in the Blaris district. Two babies died in infancy.

In 1912, this farm was sold to Mr. George Torrance. The Miller family purchased the Henry Wilson farm, the west half of 30-14-25, so the family would be near the school and Blaris Church, which was on the southwest corner of the farm. Later the southeast quarter of this section was also bought. While on this farm, two sons were born, Edmund and Levi. They are now living at Alberni, B.C.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller lived on this farm until they passed away in 1946, Mr. Miller on February 23, and Mrs. Miller on June 23.

Mr. Miller was always keenly interested in the school, being a trustee of Blaris School for sixteen years. A couple of years after the Miniota Municipal School was inaugurated, he was again a trustee, until he retired on account of failing health.

He was also an avid baseball fan, playing on the team, and later was manager of the Blaris Ball Club.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Miller

William Edmund Miller was born and raised on his father's farm at Blaris. His parents were William and Rachel Miller. He had four brothers and three sisters.

He joined the Army and served overseas in World War II. There he met and married Joan Lincoln of Sussex, England, who was a volunteer nurse in a children's hospital during the war.

They returned to Canada in 1946 and bought the south half of Sec. 9-15-25. There they lived until

1956, when they had a sale, and moved to Alberni, B.C., where they still reside.

While living here they made many improvements on the farm by building a barn, a large granary, and other outbuildings. A deep well was drilled in the yard, probably the first successful attempt at a water supply on this farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller were interested in all community activities. Ted was a member of the Miniota Branch of the Canadian Legion.

They had two chosen children: Tommy, born February 14, 1948; and Jill, born May 10th, 1952. Tommy started school in Isabella and was in Grade three when they left this district.

1982 no update.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Miller by Mrs. W. MacGregor

W. H. Miller, better known throughout the Isabella community as "Bill" was born in Grand Valley, Ontario, on Dec. 28, 1870. He lived there until he came west on a harvest excursion in 1899 and decided to stay.

He worked for William Wallace for a time, and later, purchased what was to be his home farm, the east half of Sec-4-15-25, and later added to this holding by buying the northeast quarter of 32-14-25. He also owned the Taylor farm, which is now owned by Murray Bell, and another half-section five miles north of Isabella.

In 1904, he married Harriet Ann Bedford of Arrowton. She was born at Alexander, Manitoba, on June 6, 1885, eldest daughter of Susan and Joseph Bedford.

The Bedford family moved to a farm in the Arrowton district when she was in her teens.

Three children were born to the Millers. William Henry, "Harry", the only son, born in November 1905. Florence Ida was born in January 1907, and another daughter, Eva Beatrice, born in July, 1908, died in infancy.

Harry was married to Doreen B. LeBlanc in 1946. They have one daughter, Dale. Harry is presently employed at Camp Shilo with the Civil Service Ordinance Department. They make their home in Brandon, where Dale attends Brandon Collegiate.

Florence received her education at Isabella school, attended Normal School in Winnipeg, and taught for a number of years. She was married in 1931, to Wilfred McGregor of Gladstone. They still reside there. They have two daughters. Shirley is married, and with her husband and children reside in Winnipeg. The younger daughter, Marie, is attending United College in Winnipeg.

Ann and Bill Miller resided on the farm until 1921 when they retired and moved into Isabella, having bought the Bob Scott residence. They rented the home farm, and the other land they had acquired in the meantime.

The Miller town home was "open house" to young and old alike, and many will recall the pleasant evenings spent therein. They were both keenly interested and active in all worthwhile activities in the community.

They were ardent curlers. For a number of years they and the Jack Finkbeiners curled together, and were nicknamed, "The Big Four". Bill had his own particular brand of curling. When given a shot by his skip, he would take a look at the broom, and after that would concentrate on his rock which usually did what it was supposed to do. Curling was never quite the same for those who knew him best, when he was no longer able to carry on with the "Roarin' Game".

He served on the Board of Trustees of Miniota Municipal School Board for a number of years, was a faithful church attendant, and was ever ready to help anyone in trouble. He was highly regarded, and his sudden passing from a heart attack on August 30, 1943, was a distinct loss to the whole community.

Mrs. Miller was an active member of the Women's Institute, and acted as librarian for many years. She was a member of the W.M.S., was a faithful church worker and always willing to do her share in everything for the good of the community. Following the return of her son, Harry and his wife, from the forces, Mrs. Miller divided her time with them at the family home at Isabella, and with her daughter Florence at Gladstone.

In failing health for some years, she died on October 5, 1953, a victim of Cancer. Her memory will ever be cherished by those many friends who knew and loved her.

1982 Harry Miller died July 17, 1964 and his wife D. B. Miller on May 28, 1977.

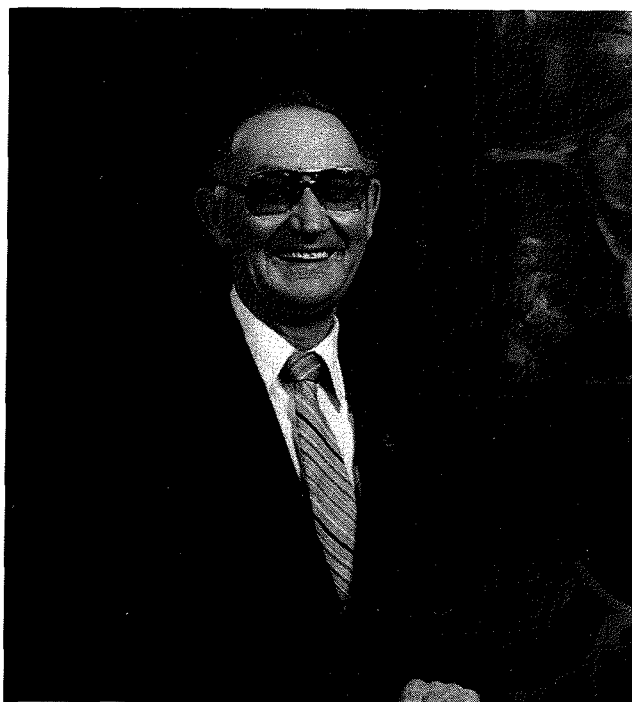
Dale is married and lives in Calgary.

Charles Mitchell

Mr. Mitchell lived on the N.W.¼ 33-15-25. He worked on the road.

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Moir by Mrs. R. Still

Sarah Hickman came to Canada in April, 1913. She arrived in Isabella on a very slow train. It took all day to get from Winnipeg to Isabella. She worked for Mrs. W. H. Miller and Mrs. Jack Finkbeiner in 1914. In 1915 she married Dave Moir of the Rothesay district. They farmed there until 1961, seeing the



Leonard Moir.

changes of times, from snow and mud-blocked roads to roads open for use all year round, from horse pulled implements to tractors and combines. They always heated their house with wood and coal. They got the Hydro in 1952.

Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Moir, both in Mrs. Don Iverach's private nursing home in Isabella. Iola was born in 1918. She received her schooling in Rothesay and Isabella. She married Glen Doran in 1939 and they farmed in the Isabella District. They had three children: David who is at the west coast with his aunt; Donna and Dorothy (twins) who are training to be practical nurses; Iola died a week after the twins were born in 1943.

Leonard was born in 1922 and lives with his parents in Birtle where they retired after selling the farm in 1961. Mr. Moir was always known to everyone for his accordion playing at the dances in the Rothesay, Shamrock and Isabella communities. Mrs. Moir was an active Women's Institute member in the Rothesay district. They were both active in community work and attended Isabella United Church.

Update

by Leonard Moir

Since 1962 a few things have happened in our family. Mother and Dad celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in 1965. Dad passed away in May, 1968. Mother visited her home in England in 1975 just after her 80th birthday.

Iola and Glen's children — David married Marlene Davidson of Birtle in 1968, they have three

daughters, Lisa and Andrea (twins) and Diana. They live in Gibsons, B.C. where David works in the Paper Mill. Dorothy married Wayne Brown of Reeder and they farm in that area. They have four children, Wendy, Darlene, Darrell, and Erin. Donna married Emile Gobeil and they run an Auto Body Shop and Garage at St. Rose. They have two chosen children, Todd and Sherri.

I was in the Air Force during the war and have had health problems since. I am at home looking after Mother and I caretake the United Church in Birtle.

Larry and Patricia Moldowan

by Larry Moldowan

Larry Moldowan was born in Winnipeg General Hospital, Winnipeg on December 28, 1940. He was too late for Christmas and too early for New Year's but lays claim to spoiling both.

Larry grew up on a farm west of Chatfield and, as there was no school in the area, he took ten years of correspondence. He attended Grade XI and XII in Teulon and then went into the working field. He was employed by Brooks Equipment and Pepsi Cola. In the fall of 1962 his cousin pointed out an ad in the paper for teaching Grade V to VIII and high school French at Isabella. A bottle of rye was the bet that Larry couldn't get the job. After proper inquiries a permit was received and the contract signed. He taught from January to June in Isabella and decided that teaching was not so bad after all. The following year, he and Stuart Johnson attended Teacher's College in Brandon.

On May 16, 1964 he married Patricia Attwood, third daughter of Reg and Mildred Attwood. In the fall of 1964 they moved to Tilston, Manitoba where Larry was hired because he was 6'4". They lived there for two years, then moved to Miniota where Larry was principal for the high school. At this point, Pat went back to teaching, driving to Manson to teach Grades I-IV.

During 1968-69, with Miniota Collegiate closing, both Larry and Pat went to Brandon University, Larry to receive his Bachelor of Science Degree and Pat, her teacher's training. The following year was spent at Elphinstone and then they moved to Stonewall, where they still reside.

Larry decided in 1975 to try a new occupation and has been driving bus for Greyhound since that time. Presently, he is looking into the field of politics for the next provincial election.

Larry and Pat have two children, Tammy attending Grade XII and Vaughn in Grade XI. Tammy has a strong interest in music and 4-H. Vaughn is a judo enthusiast.

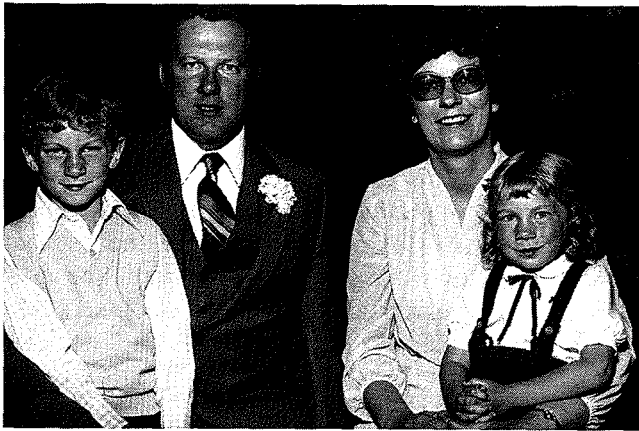
Ross and Kathy Morton

by Linda Clark

Katherine Ann was born at Hamiota on November 9, 1947 the fourth child of Elmer and Evelyn Clark. She received her schooling at Isabella and Miniota. Kathy was a member of the Decker Calf Club, the Isabella C.G.I.T. and 4H Sewing Club. Following grade twelve graduation, she secured a position in the Royal Bank at Hamiota.

On January 18, 1969 Kathy married Ross Morton of Hamiota. That same year Ross and Kathy moved to Thompson where Ross worked in the mine and Kathy continued her banking career with the Bank of Montreal. After a short time in the mines, Ross began working for CIL Explosives. In 1977 Ross was transferred to Ignace, Ontario, and then to Red Lake in 1978 where he is manager of CIL Explosives.

They have two children. Robert Michael was



Michael, Ross, Kathy and Christine Morton.

born on September 20, 1973 and Christine Marie on March 3, 1976.

Ross and Kathy and their children enjoy fishing, camping, and sports.

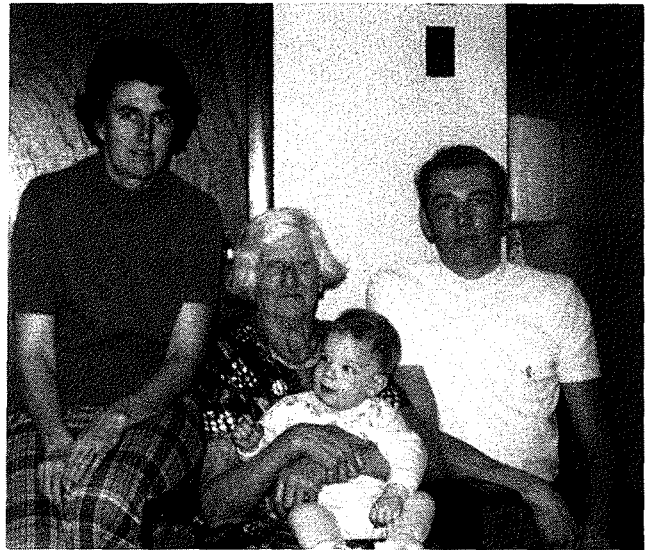
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Morrow and Family

by Mae Watters

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Morrow and Jack came to Canada from Ireland on the seventeenth of March 1928. They came to the Jim Morton farm at Miniota. Mae was born in 1929.

In the spring of 1934, we moved to the Blaris district and rented the John Armstrong farm, S ½-23-14-26. We attended Blaris Church, and Jack and Mae attended Blaris School until 1941. Our fond memories are the Christmas concerts held in the Church, and the school pinics, especially the home-made ice cream, and the lemonade made from real lemons.

Dad passed away in 1940 and the spring of 1941,



Morrows — four generations: Mae Watters, Mrs. Morrow and great grandson Pat Watters, Bob Watters, 1973.

we had a sale. Jack went to work for Bill Attwood, and Mother and I went to work for Steve Bell.

In 1943, Jack joined the Armed Forces. During his war years overseas he was wounded twice. After his discharge, in 1945, he worked for Les Shoemaker, Charles Dawley and Nels Lockhart. In 1952 he started on the road patrol for the Rural Municipality of Miniota, where he still works. He lives in Arrow River in a mobile home with Mother. He received a gold watch, in 1977, from the municipality, for twenty-five years of service.

After several moves, Mother settled in Arrow River. She was caretaker of Arrow River School for eleven years. Having had one of the first T.V.'s, and being a big friend of the school children, every Friday night her home was usually filled with children watching wrestling. Mother is still quite active and likes her garden.

W. Muldoon

Mr. and Mrs. Frances Muldoon moved from Plevna, Ontario, to the Deloraine district where their two daughters Edna and Christina (Mrs. J. Coxworth) and two sons, William and Joseph, were born.

In 1918, they moved to the Dand district, where Mr. Muldoon and his two sons, Bill and Joe, carried on mixed farming.

In 1934, Bill moved to Isabella to what was the Herb Shurvell farm, the east half of 14-15-26.

He lived with Mr. and Mrs. J. Coxworth for a year. By that time he had his buildings moved from the north to the south end of the farm.

About five years later his house burned down. He built again on the same site with the help of the neighbors.

His brother, Joe, came to live with him a few years later, and they continue to farm there at the present time.

Update 1962-1977

In 1969 he sold the farm to Ray and Glen Still and moved to Birtle. He died there in 1977. He was buried in the Birtle cemetery.

Arnold and Betty Murray

by Betty Murray

I, Betty May Lawn, was born August 10, 1926, at Isabella, Manitoba. I was the younger daughter of Ernest and Beatrice Lawn. I attended Isabella School for Grades I to XI and took my Grade XII at Miniota. I then took a short summer school course and taught school on permit at Blaris for one year (1944-1945). I went to Normal School 1945-1946 and then taught at Blaris for two more years. Our class had an enjoyable 35th Normal School Reunion in Brandon, May 30, 1981.

On October 30, 1948, I married Arnold Murray, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Murray of Hamiota. We have farmed 7 miles north-west of Hamiota for the past 33 years where Arnold has lived all his life. We have two daughters. Heather Joyce was born September 3, 1949, and Sharon Joan was born May 14, 1951. They both attended Hamiota School.

Heather attended the University of Manitoba for four years and graduated as a pharmacist in 1971. After working a few weeks in the Hamiota Drug Store, she became manager. She married Ralph Orville Sheane of Reeder, June 3, 1972, and continued to manage the drug store until their daughter, Heather Michelle, was born, August 28, 1974. They also have a son, Murray Trevor, born September 18, 1976. They continue to live in Hamiota and she still works part time. Ralph is a signal foreman with the C.N.R. and farms on the week-ends.

Sharon took nurses' training at the Winnipeg General Hospital and graduated as an R.N. in February, 1972. She continued working in the Winnipeg General Hospital until she married Allan Keith Preston of Hamiota on August 18, 1973. They spent a year in Saskatoon where Allan was completing his last year at University of Veterinary Medicine. Sharon worked at University Hospital, Saskatoon. They spent the next year in Winnipeg; Allan working at a Veterinary clinic and Sharon at Victoria Hospital. They returned to Hamiota in 1975 where Allan works in partnership at the Hamiota Veterinary Clinic and also farms. Sharon works part time at the hospital. They have two children, Darcy Scott, who was born February 8, 1976, and Shelley Leanne, born February 24, 1977.

Arnold and I are both active members of the Royal York Chapter #30, O.E.S. Shoal Lake.

Jim and Dave Myles

Jim and Dave Myles were brothers who came from Scotland and for a few years rented the north half of Sec. 6-15-25. Jim moved to Hamiota and ran a draying business for several years and then moved to B.C. Dave returned to Scotland. They both served in World War I. Jim is married and has two children. Dave is married and has three children.

George and Jean Naylor

by Jean Naylor

I, Gladys Eugenie, (Jean) elder daughter of Thomas Edson and Clara Lucinda (Houck) Doran, was born on May 10, 1909 — a birthday present for brother Russell. I grew up and attended school at Isabella, after which I helped out at home.

On January 21, 1931 I married William George Naylor, third son of David Souter and Mary Ellen (Lougheed) Naylor. He had taught school at Rothesay. After our marriage we moved to Saskatoon, where George worked in grain inspection. Our eldest son, Gordon Bruce, was born at Saskatoon on February 29, 1932. Gordon lost his life in Dorothy Lake while trying to rescue a friend in 1954.

In 1932 we moved back to Manitoba to w½ 17-16-25 in the Rothesay district. Here we lost a baby son in 1938 and on June 26, 1939 Claire William was born. We moved to the Sam Larcombe farm 4-17-26 near Birtle in 1942 where we are still living. We built a new house after Claire married Roberta Helen Hudon, daughter of Aime and Martha (Selby) Hudon of McAuley. Claire and Bert were blessed with four sons: Duane Gordon November 26, 1962; David Lorne March 14, 1964; Kent Allan April 11, 1965; and Dale Nelson October 11, 1969. In January 1972 Claire passed away and Bert was remarried to Ed Sangstrom in 1974. They have one son, Randy Keith, born October 22, 1975. All the boys received their education at Birtle. Duane after Grade XII, took a welding course at Assiniboine College in Brandon and is now welding on the seed plant at Harrowby. Lorne is talking Grade XII, Kent Grade XI, Dale VII and Randy Grade I.

We celebrated our fiftieth wedding anniversary in January, 1981. We enjoy living on the farm and visits from our friends, family and grandsons.

Jean passed away Nov. 27, 1981.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Nichol

by C. C. Nichol

Charles C. Nichol was born at Crandall, Man. on

September 2, 1917 and was raised on a farm and educated at McConnell, Manitoba.

He served with the Canadian Army from January of 1940 to October of 1945. After he received his discharge from the army, he worked at Oak River, Man., for Bradley Construction and the Rural Municipality of Blanshard until 1950.

In July 1950, he married June Sorlie of Piney, Manitoba at Brandon and the same year became employed by Manitoba Pool Elevators at Justice, Manitoba. In June 1952, they were moved to Strathclair, Man. and the following year to Isabella as elevator agent.

They have four children: Walter, born in Brandon General Hospital on July 29th, 1951; Timothy, born at Shoal Lake hospital on February 10th, 1953; Arnold and Arlene, born in Hamiota hospital on July 11th, 1956.



Arlene, Walter, Charlie, Tim, June, Arnold and Darrell Nichol.

Charlie has served several terms as a member of the Isabella rink board and is a member and Past President of the Miniota Branch of the Canadian Legion. He manages the Isabella Little Baseball team during the spring months.

Update by C. Nichol

The first event that took place after the 1962 edition of Rural Reflections was a happy one, when a fourth son, Darrell Dean, was born on April 11, 1963.

In 1976, due to the threat of railway abandonment and the possible closing of the Isabella Pool Elevator, they decided to make a move. It was with a great deal of regret that the Nichol family left Isabella after twenty-three very happy years.

However, they were fortunate again when a chance to move to Gladstone, Manitoba to manage the Manitoba Pool Elevator there became available to them. Charlie continued to work until September,

1980, when he decided to take early retirement; bought a house in Gladstone; and decided to continue to live there as it is a very good town with plenty of both health and recreation facilities. It is also close to their family with good roads in most directions.

The following is a brief history of their children.

Walter married Kathleen Smith of Elkhorn in 1973. They live in Brandon where Kathy teaches at Brandon University and Walter is a long distance truck driver.

Timothy married Sylvia Scantlebury of Birtle in 1971. They live in Winnipeg and have two girls: Shannon and Sheri. Sylvia is employed by Monarch Life Assurance, and Tim by Killeen's Auto Glass.

Arnold married Darlene Cameron of Souris in 1979. They have one son, Darrin. Darlene is nursing in Brandon and Arnold works for Manitoba Pool Elevators in the construction dept. They live in Brandon.

Arlene and Steve Derlago of Beulah were married in 1978 and they also have one son, Jeffrey. Steve is employed by Westman Cable T.V. and Arlene is nursing at Central Park Lodge in Brandon. They live in Brandon.

Darrell is presently employed by Manitoba Pool Elevators as a manager's assistant. He lives in Carberry but is home most weekends.

Archie and Jean Norrie

by Jean Norrie

Archie, son of John and Helen Norrie was born October 30, 1927. He was born at home where his mother was attended by Mrs. Vere Little. He grew up on the farm W $\frac{1}{2}$ 34-14-25, four and one half miles southwest of Decker. Raising a large family on a farm in the thirties was not easy for his parents. Everyone had to help at an early age. Archie herded cattle on the road-allowance for Mag Little for 10 cents a day. When he was ten years old he drove four horses on the cultivator. He earned two dollars a day when he was twelve, driving four horses on the binder for Jim Ross. That fall he drove a stook team with the Little's threshing outfit. Archie remembers how proud he was when four of his brothers joined the army during World War II.

Archie moved with his family to the farm, 4-15-25, two and one half miles from Isabella in 1942. Because his father was not well, he quit school to farm. In 1945, he rented the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 17-15-25 from Jack Robertson, for three years. He went to work on a farm near Calgary, Alberta in 1947. He returned to Manitoba three years later and worked for Hugh Alexander of Decker for one summer. Then he worked on the J. T. Finkbeiner farm at Isabella for

two and a half years. He bought his first two cows from them, the start of his Shorthorn herd.

In the spring of 1953, Archie rented the W½ 32-14-25. On November 14, 1953, he married Emily Jean, daughter of Harry and Mary Harrison.

I, Jean was born August 22, 1931, in my grandparents' home NE¼ 1-14-26, one and one half miles north of Arrow River. I received my education at Isabella School. I taught for one year at River Valley School east of Virden.

We have three daughters: Joanne, Janice and Denise. They were the fifth generation to live in the seven bedroom house built by Great-Grandfather Craig in 1907.

We purchased the west ½ 13-15-26, two and a half miles west of Isabella, from Joe Johnston in 1957.

In 1964 we bought the quarter section SW 32-14-25 from my brother Charlie and also the quarter NW 32-14-25 from my Aunt Agnes Thompson.

In 1967 we had our sixty year old house sided and resingled. Our herd of Shorthorn cattle had outgrown the barn so in 1972 we had Bob Young and sons build a loose housing shed. As 1973 was our last summer to have all our girls at home, we made use of cheap labor and painted the barn, granaries and shed.

We had a steel shed put up in 1976. This was also the year that Archie became allergic to grain dust, cattle, dairy products, etc. We had to gradually go out of cattle. This has been hard for Archie as raising cattle was the most interesting part of farming for him.

The busiest and most unforgettable year for us was 1978. We moved my mother into a nursing home in January. In February we took a three week trip in which we visited with twenty-two families between home and Seattle, Washington. Our biggest surprise of the year was in March when our twin grandsons were born. We had a wedding to prepare for in June when our youngest and last daughter flew from the nest. In August we helped Joanne and Ron and family move from Brandon to the farm. Then to top the year off we celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary in November.

This year, 1981, was a good year for crops and gardens. Our fruit trees: plums, cherries, apples and crabapples had an abundance of fruit. The saskatoons were the best I can remember in my half century of living here.

For pleasure Archie likes to curl and watch all sports. My hobby is collecting and reading old books and compiling the family tree. We both like spoiling and loving our grandchildren. After having "just girls" in our family it has been a big adjustment getting used to the addition of eight new males in just seven years: three sons-in-law and five grandsons.

We enjoy visiting our three girls and their families and we know we are fortunate to have them all living within an hour's drive from us.

Cyril and Doreen Norrie

by Cyril Norrie

I, Cyril Norrie, was born April 19, 1930, many years ago. My dad and mother both came from Scotland. My mother's name was Helen Robb and my father was called John. They had ten of a family: Eleanor, Bill, George, Cora, Charlie, Frank, Thelma, Archie, Cyril, Gordon. The oldest in the family, who is Eleanor, is seventy-one and the youngest one who is Gordon is forty nine. My brother George died of wounds in the second war. He was 29. My sister, Thelma died when she was 42 from a stroke. My mother died from a stroke when she was



Angus, Doreen, Cyril, Chris, Ryan, and Neil Norrie.

66 years old. My mother was a very quiet person, and never had anything bad to say about anyone. The war years were hard on my mum having four sons in the Army. My dad was in the first world war, and I can remember someone asking him how high he got as a soldier, and his reply was that he got as high as a private could go. Dad died at the age of seventy-four from a heart attack. I started school at Decker. I can remember the first day of school. Mrs. Sid Hanna was driving the van with a Model T car, when she hit a big bump on a grade, and upset us into a slough. When I was in grade seven we moved to Isabella, and I continued to about grade ten. Since then I have worked as a farmer. In 1952 I married Doreen Angus from Hamiota. We have four sons. Angus our oldest son farms on his grandparents' farm at Hamiota. In

1977 he married Pat Hawkins of Hamiota. They have 2 children, Michelle and Brett. Chris our second boy owns two grain trucks, and custom hauls grain. He also had a septic tank cleaning service, which he recently sold. Neil our third boy, works with Chris hauling grain, and helps on the farm in his spare time. Ryan the youngest boy in the family, will be going to school for a few more years. He also helps on the farm. We farm six quarters of land, and have twenty five cows and their calves. Doreen still keeps a few chickens and some turkeys around for our winter meat. She also puts in a big garden every year, and has raspberries and strawberries and a couple of good apple trees. Doreen and I belong to the Hamiota Square Dance Club. We dance once a week through the winter months. We also go up to Solsgirth once a week to round dance. Through my life there have been a lot of changes in our community.

Frank and Ruth Norrie

by Ruth Norrie

Frances James was born in Crandall January 15, 1923, the fourth son of John and Helen Norrie. He grew up on a farm in the Decker district and attended school there.

Frank left home in 1942 to join the Lake Superior Regiment of the Army. He went overseas the same year.

After being discharged in 1946, he returned to join the family at Isabella, and remained home that summer. Between 1946 and 1949, he worked for Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting in Flin Flon, at the Alexander farm at Decker, and for Canada Packers in Winnipeg. In the spring of 1949, brother Charlie telephoned, telling him there was a vacancy at Western Steel, and would he consider going to Vancouver, and taking the job. He did, and 33 years later he is still there.

Frank married Ruth Jacobson of Rimby, Alberta, in Vancouver in August, 1955. They have three children: Don, born August 15, 1956; Barbara, born June 11, 1959, and Dale born June 28, 1960. Don married Kelly Will of Vancouver on September 17, 1976, and they are living in Edmonton. Barbara and Dale are single and reside at home, in Delta. At the time of writing, Dale is on a nine month holiday, touring Australia and New Zealand.

On March 21, 1978, Frank suffered from extensive third degree burns to both legs and thighs; he spent three and one half months in isolation in the Burn Unit in Vancouver General Hospital, having skin removed from his chest and stomach and grafted onto his legs every seven days. He was very healthy and emotionally strong so progressed favorably. After two years of therapy, he went back to work part

time. His recovery was slow but sure and now he is working full time.

Frank and Ruth have taken their winter vacations in warmer climates: Hawaii, Cuba, Mexico, California, and Arizona. They both enjoy curling and camping.

Gordon and Gloria Norrie

by Gordon and Gloria Norrie

I was born in Decker, Manitoba, March 30, 1932, to John and Helen Norrie. I was the youngest of ten children and went to school in Decker and Isabella. One spring day in 1940 I had a bad appendix attack and we couldn't get out by car so we had to go by team and wagon to meet Vere Little who then took me by car to Hamiota Hospital. I spent the next three weeks there and had my eighth birthday in the hospital.

I moved to Alberta in 1953 where I worked for my brother Bill for nineteen years trucking.

I married Gloria Kemle on November 17, 1956, and we have three children, Cyril born May 2, 1958, Glenn, March 10, 1960, and Brenda, March 2, 1966.

In 1972 I moved to High River, Alta. where I started my own trucking business which I am still doing. My son, Glenn, has his own truck and is working with me.

Cyril married Beverly Nelson from High River June 30, 1979. They bought a house in Cayley which is about eight miles south of High River, and they both work in High River. Cyril works for the town and Bev works for Fish & Wildlife. Brenda is in grade ten in Senator Riley High School in High River.

John and Helen Norrie

by Cora Shier

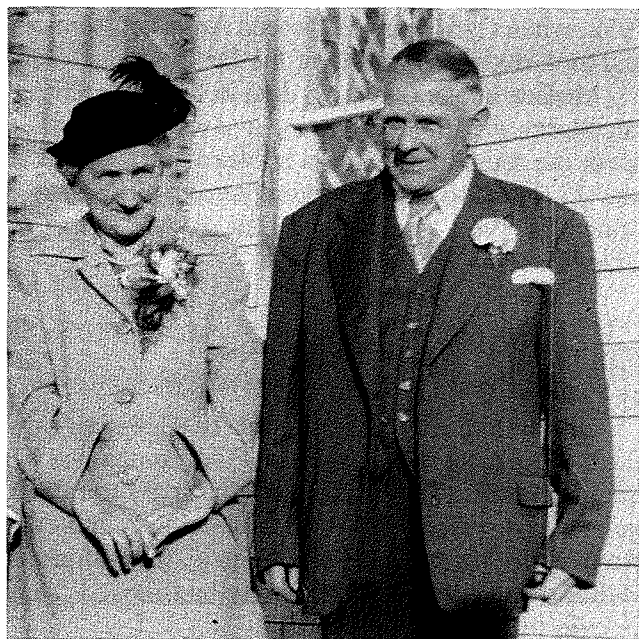
John Norrie and his wife, Helen Robb, were natives of New Pitsligo, and Ellon, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, born 1888 and 1891 respectively. They were married on January 16, 1909 and came to Canada in March, 1912, bringing with them their first born daughter, Eleanor, then one year old. They made their first home on the John Fleming farm at Arrow River.

On December 15, 1913 Bill, their first son, was born.

In 1915 they moved to Crandall where they built their own house, which was purchased some years later by Murray Partridge, and moved to the Hamiota district.

Dad worked as a farm hand for Anthony Rudd and Pat Morrison.

A second son, George, was born November 8, 1915.



Mr. and Mrs. John Norrie, 1953.

In 1916 Dad enlisted with the 200th Battalion and went overseas, spending time in Belgium and France. During Dad's absence, Mom helped Mrs. James Noble, in the 'Boarding House', preparing meals for boarders, as well as taking hot soup to the school children in the winter months. Eleanor was in school. Bill and George were still babies and Mom took them along with her. She always said they were both shy and preferred to sit under a table out of the way of everyone.

When the war was over, Dad returned home, and worked on the C.P.R. as a sectionman.

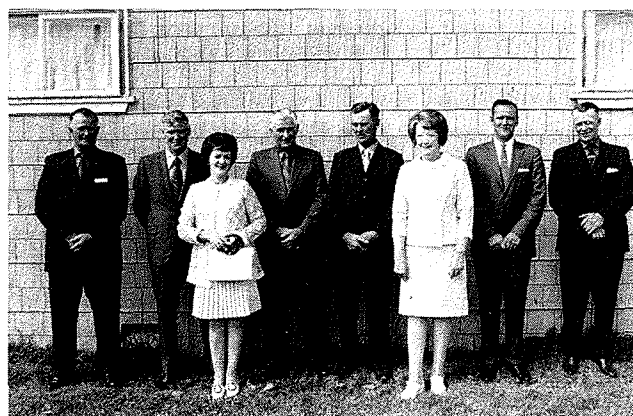
Cora, was born October 21, 1919, and two more sons, Charles, March 10, 1921 and Frank, January 15, 1923 were born to the family.

In the spring of 1922 they moved from Crandall to the George Padfield farm in the Rothesay district.

In the spring of 1923 we moved from there to a farm, in the Decker district, owned by Herbert Little. We remained on that farm for nineteen years. Seven sons and three daughters were raised on that farm. Thelma, Archie, Cyril and Gordon were born there. Their histories are written under a separate heading.

In the fall of 1942 the family moved to the William Miller farm, only two miles away, but in the Isabella district. Mr. and Mrs. George Scorgie and family had resided there until Mr. Scorgie's death a short time before.

All but Cora had learned to ride and drive horses, as well as milk cows at an early age. They were a big help to Dad in the fields, stooking, forking hay and driving stook teams in harvest time. In 1925, Bill, then not quite twelve, and George, not ten years old,



Norrie family, 1970. Bill, Charlie, Cora, Frank, Archie, Eleanor, Gordon, and Cyril.

drove a stook team on Wes Runchey's and Sid Hanna's steam threshing outfit.

During the second world war, four sons: Bill, George, Charlie and Frank, saw active service overseas. Bill and George, who were both working in the Calgary district, joined the Calgary Highlanders in 1940 and went overseas the same year. George was with the Field Ambulance Corps in Italy when he was wounded September 23 and died September 24, 1944.

Bill returned to Midnapore, Alberta after the war, bought a truck and went into the general trucking business until 1970 when heart surgery forced him to take a less active part in the business. His two sons, George and Jim, took over his trucking business in 1979. Bill married Lois Morgan of Midnapore on October 28, 1949. Lois was working in a small grocery store, a few steps off the highway, so Bill took a wife and bought the store at the same time. They still have the business. They have three sons: John, George and Jim, and a daughter, Marilyn.

John, a former school teacher, now sales manager for New West Housing Development, married Debra Haight of Calgary on May 24, 1975. They have a son, Jason, and a daughter, Jessica. They live in Calgary. George married Karen Brown of Calgary, August 28, 1976. They have a son, Kyle, and a daughter, Becky. Jim married Penny Prior of Calgary, February 4, 1978. They have a daughter, Jennifer. Marilyn married Brent Brown of Calgary, August 30, 1980. Brent is a licensed plumber. They live in Calgary.

During the second World War, Charlie served with the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders until he was taken prisoner at Dieppe and spent two years and nine months in a prisoner-of-war camp in Germany. After he was liberated and returned to Canada he spent a short time at home. He then went to Vancouver in 1946 where he obtained employment at the Roller Mills. On October 15, 1946, he married Phyl-

lis Sutherland of Vancouver. They have three sons: Gordon, Ronald, and Robbie, and two daughters, Lindsay and Lauren.

Gordon married Ruth Draper of Haney April 5, 1969. They have a son, Charles, and a daughter, Christina. They live in Whonnock, B.C. Gordon is a Ford salesman in Haney. Ronald married Jean Killips of Haney, March 28, 1970. They have two sons, Ronald and Jamie. Ron is maintenance and production manager for a Shake Factory and also owns his own business installing shake roofs. They live in Haney. Lindsay married Doug Nieson of Haney May 19, 1973. They have a daughter, Roslynd. Lauren works in the catering business and lives in Haney. Robbie is a plumber and also lives in Haney.

Charlie worked at the Roller Mills for twenty years. He served as president of the local union for several years, and, when he resigned, he was presented with a chest of silverware, and an all-expense paid trip to New York. He then went to the Correctional Institute at Haney, as a Correctional officer. As he had a lot of free time on his hands, he began working with a plumber and acquired his apprenticeship. He became a licensed plumber. In 1979 he and his wife sold out at Haney, moved to Half Moon Bay, B.C., and built a new house. This is to be their retirement home.

Eleanor, the eldest of the family, went to work in Winnipeg at the age of seventeen. She was married to Melvin Begg of Winnipeg, November 17, 1935. Melvin was an employee for the C.P.R. and became a locomotive engineer. He took early retirement in 1975 due to Eleanor's poor health.

Cora, married Edward (Ted) Shier of Crandall, January 16, 1942. Ted was a grain farmer. He retired in 1963 and they are remaining in Crandall.

Their centennial project in 1970 was a re-union of the family. This took place in Isabella hall, July 25. All eight remaining members and their families attended. Fifty-one sat down to a turkey banquet catered to by the Isabella U.C.W. It was the first time the family had been together on such a happy occasion. The many friends who attended the open dance following the supper made it a memorable event not to be forgotten.

This year, 1981, they travelled to Alberta, to celebrate the second re-union, from Friday, July 31 to Monday, August 3. Sixty-six family members congregated at a park at Denton. This included the one and only living aunt, Aunt Mary Norrie, her son, Jim, and his wife, Ruth, and her daughter, Isabelle Palmer, from Hamilton, Ontario. The next family re-union is planned for 1986, in B.C.

Dad and Mother retired to Crandall, October,

1952, when Cyril married Doreen Angus of Hamiota and took over the running of the farm.

Mother, at age 66 years, died in Hamiota Hospital, March 17, 1958, following a severe stroke. Dad spent the remaining winters in Vancouver, where at age 75 years, he died suddenly from a coronary, March 21, 1964. Mother and Dad are laid to rest in Crandall cemetery.

The O'Callaghan Family by Eleanor O'Callaghan

Jeremiah O'Callaghan came to Canada from County Cork, Ireland, in the 1880's, accompanied by Dennis Watters. They arrived in Virden by train and walked to Arrow River, where Jeremiah found employment with his future father-in-law, Donald McKenzie. The McKenzie family had moved from Ontario to Arrow River in 1882.

Jeremiah took up a homestead at the Big Slough, north west of Arrow River, on the west half of 22-14-26, and later also the north east quarter of 15-14-26. He married Rhoda McKenzie, eldest daughter of Donald and Catherine McKenzie. They had a family of nine boys and five girls, John, Nora, Kate (Mrs. Richie Lelond), Ellen (Mrs. Kendall Martin), Donald, Timothy, Alex, Margaret, William, Stewart, Allan, Wallace, Mabel (Mrs. Bill Carnegie), and Harvey.

The five elder members of the family attended school at Omar, which was located on the north west corner of N.W. 22-14-26. The name Omar was taken from the first initials of four of the families in the district, O'Callaghan, McKee, Armstrong and Ringland. The rest of the family went to school at Arrow River, after the family moved there in 1913, to live on the farm vacated by Donald McKenzie, when he retired to live in Rapid City.

John left home in 1917 and worked in Alberta until he returned to farm on the home place in 1928. Upon his retirement in 1973, he moved to Hamiota, where he resided until his death. Nora worked in Saskatchewan for many years, later moving to Calgary, and then she came home to stay with her mother. Nora died in March, 1972. Kate married Richie Lelond and had two sons, Francis and Raymond. She is living in Calgary. Ellen married Kendall Martin and had a family of four: George, David, Rhoda and Ivan. Donald lives at Dawson Creek, B.C. Tim farmed in the Elnora, Alberta, area, and died in August, 1971. Alex farmed, also in the Elnora area. He married Dorothy Wiseman and they had three of a family: Donald, Evelyn and Brian. Alex died in 1951. Margaret worked in Toronto during W.W.II, then she was employed by Dr. Bigelow of Brandon

for many years. William married Eleanor Irwin of Isabella, Manitoba, and they have a family of two, Edward and Leah. William farmed in the Blaris district for many years, operating the west half and the north east quarter of 22-14-26, the north east quarter of 15-14-26 and then the north east quarter of 36-13-26. After several years of poor health, William died December 10, 1981. At that time the family had been living on the south east quarter of 36-13-26 since 1973. Stewart was in the interior of B.C. for many years, employed on a cattle ranch, and often goes in search of gold. Allan married Mary and they live in Atikokan, Ontario, where Allan worked many years in the mine. Wallace married Dorothy O'Callaghan, and has twins, Danny and Diane. They live in Brandon and also have living with them their grandson, Collin, who is Brian O'Callaghan's son. Mabel married William Carnegie, formerly of Beulah. They had three of a family: Glenda, and twin sons, Allan and Kenneth. William Carnegie died as the result of an accident and Mabel is living in Brandon. Harvey and his wife, Margaret, lived in Edmonton.

At the present time, the O'Callaghan farm at Arrow River has been occupied by one family and its descendents for 100 years consecutively and we have applied for the Century Farm Award.

Albert and Hannah Orpin by Olive Newton

Albert and his brother John were born in Maidstone, Kent, England. They came to Canada at an early age — eight and ten years. They were looked after in the Barnardo Home in Toronto. Later, they came to Manitoba and Albert worked for the Liefs at Lavinia. John worked for different farmers. Albert married Hannah Hutson of Renfrew, Ontario. Hannah had come to the Decker district and was employed there. They were married in 1917. They farmed north east of Decker. Ray Lints now owns this farm. They had seven children — Hazel, Mae, Olive, Ernest and Kenneth, and two sons who died in infancy. They lived in this district until 1934, when they moved to Isabella. They rented the farm, north-east of Isabella, now owned by George Lawn. They farmed there until 1937. They then moved to Strathclair.

Dad was a very active church worker and a Sunday School superintendent for many years. He loved sports and at Isabella he formed a ball team and many a ball game and practice was held in their yard. A lot of wonderful memories are still recalled when we, his children, meet the Sutherlands, Reids, Lawns, Irvines, Clarks, Martins, Butlers, Lints, Cooks, Arisses and Fawns.

At Strathclair, Dad worked at different jobs and always seemed such a healthy man. When on December 1, 1940 he suddenly died, he left a big vacant spot in the lives of his wife and family. Mother carried on and worked hard to bring up her family alone. Ernie and Kenn were still in school so the three girls all got jobs to help out.

Mother was a faithful church worker, a member of the church, the United Church women, and Women's Institute. She was always willing to help others and mostly her family. She is at present living in Morley House in Shoal Lake. She had her ninetyeth birthday in February, 1981. She had enjoyed good health up until three years ago. Mother has twenty-six grandchildren and thirty great-grandchildren. She has indeed had a good and full life of which, we, her family are proud.

Hazel the eldest, born in 1918 took all her schooling in Decker. She married Frank Jameison of Hamiota in 1943. They have lived in different places in Manitoba but most of their life has been spent in Winnipeg. At present they are in Squamish, B.C. They have twelve children, all living in Canada. They have fifteen grandchildren.

Mary Ellen (Mae) was born in 1920 and took her schooling in Decker and one year in Isabella. In 1941 she married Len Hetherington of Strathclair and they have one daughter Sandrae married to Peter Wietman. They have a son Garnet and a daughter Heather. They live in Strathclair. Mae and Len live in Shoal Lake.

Olive was born in 1922 and took her schooling in Decker, Isabella and Strathclair. She married Earl Newton of McConnell in 1943. Their eight children are as follows: Bert of Chauvin, Alberta has five children and one grandchild; Marion, married Vic Porteous of Winnipeg and they have Glenn, Nicki deceased in 1970, Blair, Kerry, and Darcy; Larry in Francio, Saskatchewan, married Lorraine Dorcas of Estevan and their three girls are: Kimberly, Kandice, and Kyla; Dale farms in the Hamiota district and is not married; Dianne married Leigh Cochrane of Lavinia where they farm and they have two girls Erin and Kelly; Murray is married to Karen Shaw of Cardale and they live in Chauvin, Alberta; Eunice lives in Brandon and is married to Brad Bartel and they have one daughter Cyndie; Linda, our youngest, lives in Brandon and has a daughter Katrina Dee. Earl and Olive live on the farm south and east of McConnell. They are active in community affairs.

Ernie, the eldest son, was born in 1924, and took his schooling in Decker, Isabella, and Strathclair. He joined the Air Force in 1943 and served in Canada. He married Mae Tremblay of Shoal Lake and they

had two daughters, Carol and Sharon. In 1959 Mae died suddenly. In 1961, Ernie married Helen Crawford of Winnipeg and they live in Fort Garry. He is a chartered accountant and is very active in church work.

Kenn, the youngest son, was born in 1926. He took his schooling in Decker, Isabella and Strathclair. He married Inga Anderson of Kandahar, Saskatchewan. They have three sons: Wayne, Tom and Bruce. Since Kenn's divorce, he has married Irene from Winnipeg and they are now living in Winnipeg. Kenn works for Air Canada. He joined the Army in 1944 and after the war he joined the Air Force and has been stationed in Germany and Whitehorse and other bases in Canada.

This ends our family history. I know that we all have fond memories of our short stay at Isabella, and we all enjoy coming back to renew old friendships.

Mr. Padfield

Mr. Padfield rented the E½ 27-15-25.

Frank Palmer

Mr. Frank Palmer, the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Palmer, was born in the Blaris district in 1887. He attended school and church at Blaris.

His marriage to Miss Jessie Woodman took place on April 17, 1919, at Portage la Prairie. She had previously taught in Blaris school from 1912-1917.

They farmed on section 19-14-25 until 1960, when they retired to Hamiota. They have a daughter, Doris, who resides with them in Hamiota.

Mr. and Mrs. Palmer are both deceased.

Mr. William Palmer written by W. Palmer

In the year 1882 our family moved from Pickering village, Ontario, where I was born, to the district now known as Blaris, Manitoba. The family group, included my mother, sister and self, two uncles and two aunts.

Father and Grandfather had come out in 1880 and had erected a house — the same is now occupied by Steve Bell. Will and Frank Bell would not come west, but went to the U.S.A., and died there some years ago.

I was five years old when we left Ontario and have very little recollection of anything of note previous to that time. I do recollect one aunt, Mrs. Thomas Grey, who would not come west, as her husband did not like the idea of going so far from relatives and friends. My mother also, did not like the idea of leaving Ontario. But "Go West" was the

slogan of that time and quite a number of people migrated to the west.

At that time the railway came through the U.S.A. and I can recall my sister and I crying when a colored porter came and picked up some of our luggage in the Minneapolis station. We had never seen a colored man before and were afraid of him.

From Minneapolis we came by Soo Line to Winnipeg and Brandon. We were met by Father and Grandfather and taken to a farm eight miles north of Brandon, to a Mr. John Crockart (uncle of Charlie Crockart now deceased). Imagine eight of our group and three of the Crockarts living in a log house 16' by 20'. We stayed there from May until the middle of June. Then we followed the long trek to the homestead, seventy miles away. There we found the frame house which was to be our home for two years — until Father built our own house.

At that time very few farmers had horses — nearly every farmer started out with oxen. Father and Grandfather had what was called a yoke of oxen each. I might also say, we had two cows which were included in the car-load of "Farmer's Effects" or "Settler's Effects" brought from Ontario.

It also happened, that one of those who came to the locality at the time Father did, had a team of mules and a wagon. This was the means of transportation we had as we began the long trek from Mr. Crockart's place to the homestead.

It must be noted that at that time there were no roads, or bridges over rivers such as the Little Saskatchewan, Oak River or Arrow River. At that time of year these were not mere creeks but full-fledged rivers. These we had to ford with unusual caution. In some cases people lost their lives.

At the end of the first day we stopped for the night at a point just west of Rapid City, at the home of a farmer by the name of Shanks. They lived in what was called a "dugout". We went down four or five steps into a basement. The peaked roof and walls were sod. The inside of the ceiling was covered with cotton, to keep dust and dirt off the bed and table, etc. I can recall my mother crying in bed that night, saying, "To think we have come to this".

The second day we stopped with a farmer by the name of Claridge. They gave us a very hearty welcome. Especially did they dote on my sister, who was only three years old at the time. The next day, we arrived at what was to be our home for many years. We lived for three years in the house where Steve Bell lives; until Father built our own house. This was demolished after Ernie Sunley purchased the farm.

In 1885 the people of the community had the Blaris School built. This was the first school I attended. There were only about 12 pupils. They were

from the Armstrong, Hill, Pocket and Palmer families.

Our first teacher was Mr. Lye, who was putting himself through for a doctor. The school trustees were: Wm. Bell, my Grandfather, Wm. Simpson and David Hill. Our first school terms were only six months, however, later the terms went the full ten months. During my school days we had Mr. Thos. Stevenson, Lawrence's father, as a teacher for two years, then followed Miss Hayward, Miss Lynch, Miss McLeod, Miss Bliss, Mr. Robinson, and Miss Davidson. Miss Davidson was the last teacher to whom I went and from whom I wrote my mid-summer teacher's exam.

After the school was erected, we applied for a minister. At that time you had no choice, you were lucky to get any preacher, regardless of what religious belief. It so happened, there was a retired Methodist minister by the name of Mr. Rawson, who had just moved into the district, south of where Beulah now stands. He was one of those strict old Methodists who did not believe in dancing, cards of any kind, or secret societies like the Masons or Oddfellows. His services lasted from an hour and one half, to two hours. While the older people welcomed him, we younger people did not like church. People came many miles to attend Blaris church and we young people in many instances, had to sit on the platform.

The country, by this time, was gradually filling up with new settlers, most of whom were bachelors. Mother used to bake for quite a few of them. Included in the number who used to get their bread from Mother were Jas. Speers, Henry Wilson, John Clark and Mr. Stevenson. Sunday was the day most of them picked up their bread. That was after Grandfather died in 1886. He was a very strict old Presbyterian. He considered Sunday a day of entire rest, even to the extent of having your shoes cleaned on Saturday, and the wood-box filled Saturday night. Might mention here that Father was the local barber. Women at that time did not have their hair bobbed or have expensive permanents. My grandfather would not allow hair cutting on the Sabbath.

Church service was carried on in Blaris school for years. During that time we had the following ministers — Mr. Littehailes, Mr. McArthur, Mr. McHarry, Mr. McMillan, Mr. Stewart and Mr. Beynon. That was prior to church union. While both ministers looked after alternate services in the school, everyone went, regardless of who the preacher was. Then in 1904 (?), the people of Blaris built the brick church, which now stands at the corner opposite the old school house.

Going back to 1885, that was the year of the

North West Rebellion. The Indians were led by a half-breed by the name of Louis Riel, who was later hanged in Regina as a traitor. The old Sioux Trail ran diagonally across our homestead, and in the ravine just west of our house, was a shallow spring of good clear water. This was a regular camping ground for the Indians who used to trek from east to west. They went as far south and east as North Dakota and west as far as Fort Pitt and Fort Ellice.

You can imagine our fright, when these Indians camped at our doorstep. While they never gave us any trouble, our young people stayed very close to the house. Even Mother was afraid, which added to our fear.

As previously stated, we were transported from north of Brandon to Blaris in a wagon drawn by a team of mules, owned by Mr. Donald McKenzie, who lived at Arrow River. Practically all the newcomers had oxen. With these they did all the farm work, and when the day's work was done, the oxen were turned loose to graze. Then the smudge was lit, to keep the mosquitoes away.

I can recall Father going to what was called the "Big Bend" with wheat to be gristed at a stone mill. It took two days to go and two days to return, a distance of sixty miles. The Big Bend was near where Elphinstone is now situated and it got its name from a bend in the Little Saskatchewan River.

Small towns started to spring up, since the C.P.R. had extended its line. Virden and Elkhorn were then small towns. Beulah, a rural town, came into being, consisting of a store owned by a Mr. Rosewell. Later owners were: Mr. G. Marsh, Mr. Breen, Mr. Taylor, Mr. C. Clifton, Mr. Wm. Shepherd, the Forrester Brothers, and then Joe Maduke.

We used to get the mail from Beulah, which arrived there by stage from Elkhorn. Prior to that, we used to get it from Wm. Elliot (father of Jim Elliot) who used to run the Post Office at what is now Arrow River. Mail came by stage from Brandon to the Elliot Post Office, once every two weeks. This was prior to 1895 or 1896.

After 1885 many farmers came in from Ontario, U.S.A., and the old countries, and the country gradually filled up. The early ones took homesteads and pre-emptions which gave them a farm of 320 acres.

Gradually the oxen gave way to horses, and we were able to go places, which were formerly denied us on account of the slowness of the oxen.

From 1885 until 1895 I attended the Blaris school. In the midsummer I got my Teacher's certificate, having attended the Normal School in Brandon in February and March. April 1, I accepted a school north of Carberry. During the summer, I played football with Carberry, who won the championship for

Manitoba. That September the Manitoba Government sent the team east, and they took every game except one. I was unable to go with the team because of my position in the school.

In 1896, I accepted a school southeast of Birtle. I taught two years. During the summer of 1897, I spent eight weeks in bed due to an attack of appendicitis. Dr. Wheeler advised me to get out of the school teaching profession, as I had to have an operation for my trouble. He said my future health would improve if I was in the open air. I was the third person in Winnipeg to be operated on for appendicitis.

At Birtle I met the one who later became Mrs. W. S. Palmer, (Alice Preston). As advised by the doctor, I took up farming. Mr. William Iverach advised me of a quarter section of land that could be had, by cancellation. I lost no time in my application, and became the owner of S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of 22-15-26.

Now, I was in possession of one hundred and sixty acres of Manitoba land, two bare hands, and a big doctor bill owing to Dr. Todd of Winnipeg. I might mention here that teacher's salaries ranged about thirty-seven dollars to forty-five dollars per month. After board and lodging were paid, your balance at the end of the year was not sufficient to enable you to bank very much.

My uncle, Bob Bell, got a few farmers together, and they broke seventeen acres of the virgin soil in one day. That was my initial crop for the year 1898, one hundred sixty bushels of wheat. That year the crops were poor, on account of no rain in June. From 1898 I farmed, living in a shanty, doing my own cooking, until 1903 when I got married.

In 1900 I bought the N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of the section and in 1901, the S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of the same section, making a farm of four-hundred eighty acres. By this time I had bought the full farm equipment and six horses. I broke up and put into cultivation, over three hundred acres of the virgin soil. In 1902 an epidemic of swamp fever struck the district and I lost four horses in a period of three weeks. My closest neighbor, Mr. Wm. Iverach lost five thorough-bred horses. This caused considerable hardship, as a team of horses cost anywhere from \$400.00 to \$500.00. I was left with only two horses, one a year-old, colt. I managed to stack and thresh, with the help of a sixteen year old Bernardo boy, twenty five hundred bushels of wheat and eighteen hundred bushels of oats. These details give you some idea of the difficulties faced and overcome by some of the pioneers.

In 1902, I erected a house using the original shanty as a kitchen. In 1903 we were married.

By this time I had quite a large acreage under cultivation. The going wage at that time ranged from twenty-five dollars a month, depending upon the

length of engagement. Men could be hired by the year for twenty dollars per month. In 1905 I hired a man who stayed with me for five years at \$200.00 for the year.

Farmers in the district realized great difficulties in getting water. For three years I hauled all the water used by the stock and for domestic use from a very shallow well on Mr. Donald Iverach's farm. Then I had a well bored, by two young men, Billy Sawyer and Bert Cole. They drilled a twenty four inch hole down ninety six feet. Then they encountered a layer of small rocks and could not bore any farther. Billy Sawyer went down the hole and with a two inch auger bored down another five feet when water and air came gushing up into the well. The water did not rise but air continued to cause bubbling in the bottom of the well. I advised them not to go down as the air might be poisonous. However, Billy Sawyer waited until I had gone to work and endeavored to go down the well to find out why the water was not rising. He was taken out later, having succumbed to gas fumes. I filled the hole in and had a well drilled along side of it and steel cased, the same as it is today.

Between the years 1903 and 1911 we had one boy, Keith, and a girl, Annabel. During that time I was quite prosperous. We had some good crops, but we also had early frosts which reduced the grades on our wheat. I can recall selling wheat for eighteen cents a bushel, and oats for six cents a bushel. I hauled it ten miles to Arrow River with horses, or to Birtle, or Hamiota, or Miniota, distances of eighteen miles.

For two years, 1906-1908, I worked, not only my own farm, but a half section belonging to M. B. Jackson of Hamiota, a lawyer. The first year I had seventy-five hundred bushels of wheat, three thousand bushels of oats, and eighteen hundred bushels of barley and sixty bushels of speltz, which was the largest individual crop threshed by Mr. Crockart. This crop cleared the debt off all the land I had purchased.

When I took the homestead, I was fully convinced in my own mind that I was not to remain a farmer very long. I had not failed as a farmer, but I had an urge to go places and do something different. As previously stated, we had to haul our grain anywhere from twelve to twenty miles to market until the year 1909, when the C.N.R. extended the line from Hallboro to Beulah. At that time, the road was the Canadian Northern, owned and operated by McKenzie-Man. The railroad was under construction management for one year after it was built.

Now that we had a railroad, the long hauling of our grain would be reduced considerably, as we now had the prospect of a marketing point.

We will have to turn back the pages of time. It was

about the year 1901 or 1902 when we got our Rural Post Office. Up till then my parents got their mail at Lucas. The Post Office was run by Mr. F. Campbell (Reg. Campbell's father). The mail was delivered by mail carrier from Hamiota, which was the end of the line. Later when the C.P.R. extended the line to Miniota, our mail was delivered from Arrow River.

By constant pounding at the Government, we, by Mr. Wm. Iverach's efforts, enjoyed a Post Office right in our own district. Mr. Wm. Iverach was the Post-master and our mail came from Arrow River by mail carrier. Mr. William Tennant Sr. was mail man for years, calling at Lucas, Isabella and Orrwold. We got our mail once a week. At that time horses were the means of transportation. I might say here that when we got the Post-Office, it was named after Mrs. Taylor, whose first name was Isabella. When the railroad came, we already had the Isabella Post Office and school. Naturally, the town should be called Isabella also.

We now had the railroad and the start of a town, but no facilities for handling grain, not even a loading platform. It so happened that J. L. Thompson, a farmer west of town, had an elevating grain loader, run by horse power. I borrowed this elevator and loaded two cars of wheat of my own, and three other cars for neighbors, one for Jas. Smith and two for J. L. Thompson. I consigned the carlots to the Western Canada Flour Mills Co., Winnipeg. At that time the railroad provided cars that carried a maximum of eleven hundred bushels. There were a few other farmers who loaded their grain direct from wagon into the car. This was not an easy job. The next year the Western Canada Flour Mills built an elevator and I was put in charge of it as agent. I was green and inexperienced; I had a good many headaches. I certainly acted "the old man and his ass" trying to please everybody — the farmer, and the company that paid me sixty dollars a month.

I was living on the farm. The following year I came into town, built a house and stayed working in the elevator. I could not agree to do things the Company expected and in March I resigned. I went into the implement business and erected a large implement shed. For six years I handled John Deere Plow Co. goods, I.H.C. and Case machinery. In May 1918 I quit the implement business.

When I left the farm, I left horses and machinery on the farm. Mr. Graham Purdy rented the farm for a period of three years, but the second year he was there the house burned down. As I would not rebuild at that time, Mr. Purdy left and rented Mr. Iverach's farm. Then I rented my farm to Mr. John Irvine and the farm remained in the Irvine family for over fifteen years, except for three years when Jimmie Col-

lingwood had it. By now, I was well established in Isabella town. Our town, though not very large, was attracting Commercial Travellers, and in order to accommodate the travelling public, we opened our house as a Boarding house, to give meals and lodging. We had the Banker and his staff, the station agent, and the store keeper, Mr. Scott. The town boasted a store, a blacksmith shop, lumber yard, hardware store, a school and two implement dealers.

Up to the time the railroad came in, we held church in the school house. Mr. McMillan was our first preacher. Then came Mr. Murdoch. Then the congregation grew too large to be accommodated in the school, so a church and manse were built. This was prior to church union. Mr. Wm. Iverach, Mr. Jas. Iverach and I were the first elders. Mr. Wm. Iverach was our Sunday school superintendent and I was Bible Class teacher for two years. Though we had both Presbyterian and Methodists in our congregation, both attended all services regardless of who the minister might be. This condition apparently made it easy when church union was consummated in 1925.

After severing my connection with the Western Canada Flour Mills, I was approached by Mr. Ted. Little, a big farmer, to purchase a grain loader and solicit business for the Grain Growers Grain Co. This was a farmer owned and controlled grain company. Having been given a guarantee of sixty cars, I purchased a grain elevating loader. Suffice it to say, I exceeded the sixty cars, in fact seventy-six cars were loaded and consigned to the G.G.G. Company in Winnipeg. It was a laborious job, but I received one cent per bushel from the company. While I did not make a fortune, I laid the foundation for another elevator which came the next summer, built by the Grain Growers Grain Co. This was the Number Two elevator which the company built, Lavinia being the first one. The Company had taken over a considerable number of elevators the Provincial Government had purchased. These elevators the Co. leased, but in 1913 the Company purchased all elevators previously owned by the Government. It was then that the Company went into the elevator business. Previous to that they handled only car-lot platform shipments on a straight commission basis.

When the Number Two elevator was built, I was hired as agent, and continued in that capacity until 1918 when I was promoted as the travelling superintendent and moved to Wilkie, Sask., one hundred miles west of Saskatoon.

During the time and two years previous to going into the elevator, I carried on the implement business, also had two school van routes, as our school was now a consolidated school. To carry on this work, I

had to engage two men who took charge of the school van work, also a rural mail route which I carried on in conjunction with other activities.

In 1912 I purchased a Model T Ford car. There were not many cars in the district at that time. The cost was \$950.00. Also that year our youngest girl, Ethel, was born. Then, the first World War was begun in 1914 and the implement business slowed down considerably but the price of all grains went up. I can recall paying Mr. Will Taylor \$3.65 a bushel for a car-load of No. 1 wheat. Later the Government took charge and set a price at \$2.21 a bushel, in store at Port Arthur or Fort William.

While the prices of grain were good, many farmers increased their land holdings, instead of paying their debts, and I felt this quite keenly in my business. My business had grown considerably. Also we could not accommodate all the people who used our place as a boarding place, so I erected an addition to the house in 1915.

In March 1917 the Grain Growers Grain Co., allied itself to the Alberta Farmers Elevator, under the name of the United Grain Growers Ltd. This became one company in September 1917, and at amalgamation was comprised of five hundred forty elevators.

In March 1918, the Company called me into Winnipeg. Mrs. Palmer went with me. Somehow the word got back to Isabella before we did, that I was leaving the elevator and was being sent out west, in charge of elevators. The company wanted to know if I would accept a road job. Imagine my position. I could not give them an answer right off, with all my business connections I had to do some thinking. However, I made up my mind to go west, so had to make another trip into Winnipeg in June to make arrangements with both implement companies. Mrs. Palmer went with me again. By this time, everybody in the district knew I was leaving Isabella. The house would be closed up against the travelling public and the implement shed closed. I made the necessary deal with the implement companies and we came back to Isabella.

About nine o'clock in the evening we got home. Several of our neighbors came in and by ten o'clock there were some sixty people present in our house. They made a presentation of a gold neck piece to Mrs. Palmer and a travelling bag to me. This assemblage and presents were a great surprise to Mrs. Palmer and me, I could not find words adequate for such an occasion. We had no idea we had so many friends who regretted our going, and who wished us success in our future endeavors.

It took me from June until July to wind up all my business in Isabella. Then July 15 I went into Winnipeg and July 18, in company with Mr. Bremer, the

superintendent, I took the train to Saskatoon. There we picked up a Ford run-about car and drove west to Wilkie. Mrs. Palmer remained in Isabella until October, when she came west, after having seen to all the packing and loading of our household effects into a car.

Taking on a new job so far from headquarters was no easy job. I had been in charge of one elevator at Isabella — now there were twenty two elevators under my charge. With a new job — new country and new men to handle, I had many headaches. In 1918 and 1919 the crops were poor in Saskatchewan which did not help much. At that time I had sixteen elevators tributary to Wilkie and six near Saskatoon, over one hundred miles apart. I had two cars belonging to the company. One I left in Saskatoon and one in Wilkie. I went by train between the two points. In 1923 we moved to Saskatoon. Keith, my son, had gone as far as he could in his studies at Wilkie. I asked the Company to move me to Saskatoon to enable Keith to complete his studies at the University in Saskatoon. This meant new territory for me.

The Company had erected quite a few elevators, which made Saskatoon a central point, but I was burdened by a greater number of elevators and greater distances to travel. I had elevators from Regina in the south to near Prince Albert in the north and at one time for three months, I had sixty two elevators to look after.

After Keith had completed his studies at the University and obtained his B.A. and B.Sc., the Company gave me a move to Winnipeg. That was in 1927. I was given the territory of Dauphin, and after two years on the road, I was taken into the office, as division superintendent. I did not like the indoor office work. I had the supervision of one hundred six elevators, and while I realized no difficulty with the work, I did not like the indoors. When the company closed its Export office in New York, it left two men in the office without a job. I offered my job to one of them. The manager wanted to know what I was going to do. I requested my old job as traveller. After much hesitation and argument, I was again on the road, to stay until I resigned in March 1951.

Mrs. Palmer and I stayed around Winnipeg and our home at Isabella until July. Then we motored to Calgary via Saskatoon, Moosejaw and Swift Current visiting relatives of Mrs. Palmer's on the way. We arrived in Calgary, July 15 to reside with our daughter Annabel.

We took a suite in the large house my son-in-law had. It was a four room suite and very comfortable in every way. However, we were not destined to enjoy our pleasant living quarters very long together. Mrs.

Palmer suddenly died March 29, 1952 and was buried in Calgary.

Now that Mrs. Palmer was gone I did not want to remain in the large suite, so my son-in-law sold the big house and we are now located in a new part of the city and I have my own room, which is quite nice and adequate.

It is my opinion that no man should be a road traveller. I spent thirty three years, less six months on the road. Of that time, I suppose I was away from home and loved ones about twenty-five years. It is not fair to yourself or your family.

I have now reached the three score years and ten and some more. In looking back and remembering, I have to admit I have had a pretty full life. Its varied experiences leave me very little to ask for. This makes me grateful to those who pioneered this country, whose labor brought it to the envious position it holds in the world to-day. Suffice it to say, we have the most wonderful country in the world and it should be an inspiration to the present generation to carry forward the banner which was blazoned by our fathers and grandfathers of the last century.

Mr. and Mrs. George Peacock

Mr. and Mrs. George Peacock came to Isabella in 1941. They resided on the Allen Sutherland farm north of Isabella. They had three daughters. One attended Isabella school for a short time. They left the district in 1943 and now reside on a farm north of Hamiota.

Theresa Anne married George Kennell and they have two children and live in Kenton. Joan married Ken. Strachan. They have two children and live in Decker. Gloria married Billy Bell of Isabella. They have three children, two boys and one girl, and live on the same farm as her parents. Billy works the land in the Blaris district.

1982 no update.

Charlie and Frances Peel

by C. Peel

I was born June 8, 1913 at Miniota in the house now occupied by my nephew, Murray. I was the youngest child of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Peel.

My whole education was acquired in Miniota. When I completed High School, I worked for my father until April, 1940 when I moved to my Uncle Archie Kerr's, working in partnership with him.

On October 19, 1940, I married Frances Berwick, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Berwick of Miniota.

Frances was born in Miniota on April 30, 1914 in the former Yarwood house. She started school at Rothesay (north of Isabella) and completed Grades V

to XI at Miniota. In June 1930, she received the Governor General's Medal for General Proficiency. Frances took Grade XII in Virden and became a teacher. Her first school was at Edgehill, near Shoal Lake. The salary was \$400 a year. She taught four years at Edgehill and three years at Rothesay.

After our marriage, we lived with Archie Kerr until the fall of 1942, moving to the farm of Lew Berwick, north of Beulah.

In the fall of 1943, we rented the Drummond farm east of Isabella.

In the fall of 1944, we bought the Russell Warren farm one mile west of Isabella.

On the first of June, 1958, we purchased the Co-op store in Foxwarren.

We lived in Foxwarren until the spring of 1966 when we purchased a section of land on the east edge of Riding Mountain National Park, 22 miles north of Neepawa. We lived in the town of Riding Mountain for eighteen months and bought a quarter section with a house on it near Kelwood. We sold the Riding Mountain farm in 1973 and are still living on the farm near Kelwood.

We have two children. Marjorie was born September 10, 1941 in Miniota in the house now occupied by Bill Barrett. Marjorie attended school in Isabella. While at school, she took part in 4H work. After completing Grade XI, she took two years at Brandon College and three years at the U. of M., graduating in 1962 with a B.Sc. Honors degree. She was employed by Great West Life in Winnipeg as an Electronics Analyst. She was married to Jerrold Bone, (a teacher in Winnipeg), in September, 1963. In 1967 they moved to California where Jerry obtained his Master degree in Art and Marj worked as a



Jerry and Marjorie Bone, Charlie and Frances Peel, Wally, Quinlan, and Vivian Peel. Melanie and Christine Bone, and Cordell Peel, 1980.

Programmer/Analyst for IBM. They returned to Manitoba in 1969 and Jerry taught in Shilo until December, 1973. Then Marj, Jerry and their daughters, Christine and Melanie, moved to their present home in Winnipeg. Marj returned to Great West Life as a Computer Systems Analyst. She is presently a Senior Systems Supervisor. Jerry is an accomplished artist and the girls are attending the French Immersion Program at River Heights Junior High.

Our son Wallace (Wally) was born in Miniota, in Dr. Chalmers' home, November 27, 1947. He was educated in Isabella, Foxwarren, and Birtle. Wally spent four years in the Russell Air Cadets receiving a Flying Scholarship in the summer of 1965. He won the Tudhope Trophy as the top junior pilot in Canada for that year. He attended Brandon College and Brandon University from 1965-68 under the Royal Canadian Air Force Regular Officer Training Plan. Wally then began Air Force pilot training at Borden, Ontario and Gimli, Manitoba, graduating at the top of his class in June, 1969. He then flew the CF5 Freedom Fighter on 434 Squadron at Cold Lake, Alberta until July, 1973 when he was posted to Phoenix, Arizona for three years. He then spent three years in National Defense Headquarters in Ottawa. In 1979 Wally attended the United States Air Force Staff College in Montgomery, Alabama, completing his Masters degree in Business Administration from Auburn University at the same time. Major Peel is now beginning a tour in Germany flying the CF104 Starfighter. He is married to Vivian Jansen of Watson, Saskatchewan. They have two boys, Cordell Heath, born March 21, 1976 and Quinlan Lee, born January 16, 1980.

Frances returned to teaching in 1954, spending four years at Decker, five years at Foxwarren, three years at Rothesay and retired after teaching eight years at Kelwood.

Our family has always been interested in sports. I started playing hardball with the Miniota Cubs when I was 10. I have been playing manager of the Miniota, Isabella and Foxwarren teams, playing ball until I was 53. In hockey, I played goalie for the Miniota High School and Senior teams. Both Frances and I played tennis and curl. Marjorie learned to curl at the age of 11 at Isabella and has been an avid curler ever since. Wally took part in track events, curling, hockey and baseball. He skipped the rink that won the Division Curling trophy the last two years he was at Birtle High School. He was with the Provincial Juvenile Baseball champions in 1964. At Brandon University, he played hockey and was Captain of the team in his final year. Frances and I travelled to Brandon for almost every game! He won the Jim Casey Memorial Trophy in his final year at Brandon

as the best all-round sportsman. While at Cold Lake, he was a member of the Canadian Armed Forces championship hockey team and played second on a rink that won their way to the Northern Alberta semi-finals.

Editor's Note: Charlie passed away July 5, 1981.

Mr. and Mrs. George Phillips **written by Mrs. Geo. Flynn**

George Theron Phillips, and his wife Emma Isabel Norton, came of United Empire Loyalist stock. They were born and raised south of Ottawa in the Ottawa valley. Following their marriage, they came to Brandon, where Mr. Phillips carried on his trade as tinsmith. Wanting to farm, he moved to Alexander about 1893, where he farmed until 1899, when he moved to the Arrowton district, which later became part of the Decker district. The farm was the north half of Sec. 2-15-25. The present house was built in 1914. This farm is now owned by Mrs. R. J. Adams.

Mr. Phillips was fond of sport, and was catcher for the Arrowton ball team, which was quite famous in its day. He was also councillor for Ward I in Miniota Municipality for nine years.

They had six children. The youngest son, Edward, died in infancy. The other five, received most of their education at Arrowton school, which was situated just across the road from the old Runchey farm, now owned by Mr. H. Hunter.

The eldest son, Theron, was killed in the advance on Amiens in 1918 during World War I. Ralph served with the 8th Canadian Battalion, and Percy died on Vimy Ridge in 1917.

Elsie, the elder daughter, was married to Ira Kirk of Crandall in November, 1915. She still resides on the farm at Crandall where she went as a bride. Her children are: Ivan, married, and living in Saskatoon, Evelyn (Mrs. John Milne) residing in St. James, Man., Marjorie (Mrs. Jack McFerrin) Winnipeg and Keith who resides with his mother and works the home farm Sec. 7-14-24.

Gretta, the younger daughter, was married to Arthur Doupe of Crandall. Some years after his death, she married John Hyndman of Crandall. She passed away in 1944. George Phillips died on March 11, 1915, and his wife (Emma Norton) passed away on January 7, 1942.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Arnold Phillips **by R. A. Phillips**

I, Ralph Phillips was born in Brandon, Man., on Feb. 3, 1892, second son of George Phillips and Emma Norton Phillips.

I received part of my education at the Arrowton

school and attended Brandon College for a time. I served with the 8th Canadian Battalion in World War I. In 1919, on returning from overseas, I married Hazel Reid, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. Reid of Hamiota.

We moved to the home farm, where we lived until 1938. We had seven children; George of Birtle, Hilton, married, and living at McDonald, Thelma and Verna, Winnipeg. Merle, (Mrs. G. Flynn) Birtle. Elsie (Mrs. H. Still) Elliott Lake, Ont., Ted, married, and living at Dawson Creek, B.C.

They all attended Isabella school. George, Hilton and Thelma, served with the forces in World War II, George with the R.C.A.F. overseas, Hilton with the Army Artillery, and Thelma served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force.

In 1938, the family moved to Foxwarren. They returned to the Isabella district in 1942, to the Doran farm. In 1944, they moved to the school caretaker's house in Isabella. In 1953, they moved to Birtle where they still reside.

Thinking back through the years, I remember the prairie fires in the early 1900's fought with barrels of water drawn by horses. Water had to be kept constantly in feed yards, in case of fire. The farmers cut and burned the scrub, then broke the land with walking plows drawn by two horses.

For entertainment, they had dancing parties in the homes. Skating parties were held on the sloughs, when poles were frozen into the ice to hold lanterns for light. Fires were built on the ice to provide heat. As my brothers and I grew older, we used to drive the nine miles to Crandall on Saturday nights to skate in the rink. We had a smart team of drivers, and an open cutter, and were not too long on the road.



George, Hilton, Ted, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Phillips, Thelma, Verna, Merle, and Elsie, 1960.

I remember the telephone lines coming to Isabella in 1908. Some of the crew were: Wallace Berwick, Jake Shettler, Lou Berwick and myself. We had rough times, but a lot of fun. We had some wonderful meals at the George Armstrong farm at Beulah.

Update by Merle Flynn

Mr. Ralph Phillips died in Deer Lodge Hospital, Winnipeg, in December 1963. Mrs. Hazel Phillips died in Assiniboine Hospital, Brandon in February, 1969. Their eldest son, George, died in Brandon General Hospital in May 1969. They are all buried in the family plot in Isabella cemetery.

Thelma lives in Russell and is a medical records librarian at Russell District Hospital.

Hilton married Jean Bocks in 1951. They have three children: Donna, Wendy and Gordon. Donna married Les Trathen of Calgary, they have a 6 year old daughter, Susan. They reside in Calgary. Wendy married David Shultz and they live in Montreal. Gordon lives in Vancouver. Hilton has lived at Fruitvale, B.C. for many years.

Verna lives in Winnipeg, and due to ill health, she is a part-time worker as a medical records librarian at hospitals there.

Merle — see George and Merle Flynn history.

Elsie — see Harvey and Elsie Still history.

Ted married Shirlee Richardson and they had two children, Valerie and Ross. Valerie works in a bank and Ross Arnold (R.A.) is completing his Grade XII. Ted and his children live in Edmonton.

Mr. and Mrs. William Pittendreigh written by Mrs. Pittendreigh

William Pittendreigh and Helen A. Mackie, were married in Banffshire, Scotland, and came to Canada in 1910, bringing their first child, Ella, aged 1½ years, and now Mrs. Ken Crew of Birtle. Why did we come to Canada? We had not decided just what we were going to do or where we were going to settle down. We heard that Mrs. Mair, wife of Mr. Alfred Mair, who had gone out to Canada and started a bakeshop in Crandall, was going out, with her four children, her sister Miss Peggy Stephens, and a brother-in-law of her husband's, James Noble. So William, and a pal named John Abernethy, decided to go, leaving his wife with her parents. They sailed from Glasgow on the ship "Pretoria" on the 9th of April, 1910. They had a rather rough trip and before they got to Winnipeg, one little girl died on the train. So little Janet Mair never saw her father. When they got to Crandall, a job was waiting for William Pittendreigh on the farm of Herb. Johnston north of Crandall. His pal went on west to try his luck. On August, 16th, of the same year Mrs. Pittendreigh and their young daughter arrived in Crandall. They sailed

on the "Hesperian", both of these ships were sunk during the First World War. Willie worked at several jobs for awhile and then Charles Gray moved in to Crandall from the farm and took over the livery barn. He went to work for him, driving travellers all over the country-side, also Dr. Fraser. He hauled lumber up to "The Narrows" at Shoal Lake to build a cottage for Tom Hamilton. By this time we had another baby girl named Jessie, now Mrs. Milton Curll of Brandon. Time passed, Mr. Gray wanted a couple to go on the farm. So we moved out there. We stayed there until he sold out and our first boy, George, was born there. We moved back to Crandall again. Then his brother, John Pittendreigh, was wounded in the war and was discharged and he came to Canada also. Together they rented a farm five miles north of Isabella owned by Andrew Doig, and went into farming.

By this time George had a little brother named William John. Together they have the Bakeshop in Hamiota.

The lease being finished on that farm, they rented another one, owned by Mr. Heise, two miles west of Isabella. We lived there when the road went through, and their camp was not far from the house.

There we had a little girl, named Hazel. We sold out and moved to Miniota where Mr. Pittendreigh was Weed Inspector for awhile. Then we went back to Isabella to the farm of Wallace Berwick. We stayed here until he decided to sell out. During all this moving around we got to know a large number of people, and made a lot of friends. Then we made our final move to Birtle where we lived through the depression years, and there our sixth child was born, a girl named Gladys Irene, now Mrs. Dixon Lawrence. Many people will see him on the grader, working for the "Good Roads", making the roads better (or worse).

It is thirty years since we came to Birtle. Bill (as he is best known) worked for five years for the Co-op, but after an accident to his arm he left that job. No doubt some will have seen him running a Diesel tractor and packer trying to smooth out the rough places for the motorists. After awhile he had to give up this work, and he retired.

We have taken two trips to the coast which we have enjoyed very much. Now he can be seen putting around the garden, mowing somebody's lawn, or just taking it easy. We have seen many changes in all the years that have passed.

We both belong to the Caledonian Society. I was treasurer for twelve years, I also belong to the Women's Missionary Society and now to the United Church Women. I also am a member of the Ladies

Auxiliary of the Legion, and acted as Warden for a number of years.

We have had a happy life with ups and downs, but never sorry that we came to Canada.

Update 1982

Mr. Pittendreigh died May 30, 1966. Mrs. Pittendreigh died July 8, 1968.

Pocket

The Pockets lived on the farm now owned by George Lawn (34-15-25).

John Pollock

John Pollock, a bachelor, moved to the N.W.¼ 27-15-25 in 1919 from farther north. He was a carpenter, and built a house on this quarter. He started to buy the S¼ but lost it all in 1929. He died on April 18, 1930.

Wayne and Susan Poppel

by Susan Finkbeiner Poppel

I, Susan Elizabeth was the younger daughter of John and Dorothy Finkbeiner, and was born in Hamiota Hospital on July 10th, 1956.

I attended Isabella School for Grades I-VI. In 1968, when the larger school areas were formed, I went to Birtle School, graduating in June 1974.

In July I went to the main branch of the Royal Bank of Canada, and started my career with "the



Wayne and Susan Poppel, 1981.

Royal". My first job was counting and sorting money in "The Cage". The Cage is the distribution centre from which all money is sent to rural branches. In April 1975, I transferred to the Virden branch, which was newly opened with five staff members. I drove from Isabella to Virden each day until December 1978, when I transferred to the Miniota branch, where I am presently employed.

On August 2nd, 1980, I married Wayne Joseph Poppel of Miniota. Wayne was born July 21, 1954.

Wayne attended school in Miniota and Birtle. He took his training as a carpenter at Red River Community College, Winnipeg, graduating in 1979.

We live in Glenlochar District, where we have a 20-acre holding. We also own a quarter section of land S.E. 10-15-25 and rent two other quarters of the Finkbeiner farm at Isabella. With the help of my parents, who still live on the farm, Wayne and I continue our two careers, and share an interest in two communities — Isabella and Miniota.

Kenneth and Audrey Pruden by Audrey Pruden

My mother, Edna May Clark, was born in 1907, daughter of Katherine and Samuel Clark. In 1929 she married Peter L. Ellis. I, Audrey Joyce, their only child was born in 1931. I was raised in Winnipeg but attended school for part of one year at Isabella. I have vivid memories of Isabella boys and their snakes.

My mother passed away when I was ten years old.

I married Kenneth R. Pruden in 1949. We have two children. Peter Craig was born in 1949 and Cathy Lyn in 1953.

Craig married Nita Knowles. They have four children. Marla Lorraine was born in 1969, Shane Kenneth in 1971, Ryan Paul in 1977 and Amanda Michelle in 1980.

Cathy married Barry Campbell. They have two children. Christie Jennifer was born in 1972 and Barry Kenneth in 1981.

Our family resides in Winnipeg. Ken, Craig and Cathy are all hairdressers. At present, Ken and Craig have three beauty shops.

We remember our summer visits to the farm when our children were young. Ken is an avid hunter and each year travels to Isabella for deer hunting season.

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Quinton by J. D. Quinton

I was born on April 19th, 1886, in the village of Lindsay, Suffolk, England. I had four brothers and two sisters, two brothers are still living in England. I attended school in Lindsay, Standards One to Three

then went to Monks Ely elementary school from Standards Four to Six. At the age of 12 years, I left school and went to work on a farm herding sheep at the large sum of a penny a day. I helped to do chores in the winter for one year. At 13 years of age I worked in a garden at the Village Squire at Bilderstone for one year. At 14 years I went to London as indoor servant for a Sir Sidney Goldman for one and one half years as hall boy. I worked for one year as footman, then another place for two years as second footman and first footman to a Sir James Russell on Wimpole Street in London, and at the country Estate in Halstead, near Seven Oaks in Kent. I stayed home for four months and worked for my father in the Blacksmith shop, at a place called Finborough. My father was a Blacksmith, wagon-maker, carpenter, painter, undertaker, and mechanic. He also had what we call a "green thumb" for flowers and garden.

After a good deal of thought, I made up my mind to come to Canada, in November of 1905 at the age of nineteen years. I set sail from Liverpool on a C.P.R. ship named Lake Champlain. After 13 days on the water, we landed at Halifax. I then took a train to Toronto and got a job on a farm at \$10.00 a month and board for thirteen months. I then worked at different jobs till March, 1907. I came west with Mr. Edgar E. Lints. We reached Crandall on March 20, 1907 on the C.P.R. On March 22, which was a Monday, I hired with Mr. Ed. Vance for the summer for \$30.00 per month till threshing was done. I then threshed in the Decker district with Greeves and Beamish of Shoal Lake till December 24 (Xmas eve) on the farm that Mr. Rudy Duetsch now owns. I worked for Mr. Edgar Lints and Mr. William Lief till April, 1910, when I bought the South half of 14-15-25 (now owned by Mr. O. D. Johnstone) I bached for four years. Then in 1914, on January 7, I married Martha Jane Lints. We had one daughter, Helen Marie, born on December 29, 1915, who is married to Mr. Herald Hall. They have two boys, Ronald and Malcolm, and live in Crandall and farm the land I worked on in 1907 (then owned by Mr. Ed. Vance). In 1919, I bought the south half of 13-15-25. I then bought the school in Decker which was built in 1913 and moved it onto the farm 13-15-25 and remodeled it into the house (which is still there.) I built the barn in 1929 and other buildings later. I farmed the section until 1947. Owing to ill health at that time, I sold the south half of 14-15-25 to Herald Hall and the south half 13-15-25 to Mr. Gordon Higgins.

On April 23, 1947, I had my sale. I bought a lot in Decker from Mr. Reg. Decker and built our house and moved into it in December the same year and am still here 1962.

In 1949, on April 12, I went to work for Mr.

William F. Hall as bookkeeper for three months, then I went outside to set up combines and other machinery for five years. I went back into the office and kept books for eight years till Mr. Hall sold out December 1st, 1961.

In 1935, I entered my farm in the Home Grounds Competition and received the diploma for the best home grounds in the district which I prize to this day.

I came to Canada, from England, as an immigrant with ten pounds of borrowed money equal at that time to \$50.00, at the age of nineteen years. So by hard work and determination and the help of a good wife, as partner, we are now happily retired.

As to offices held, in 1919, I was elected to be superintendent of the Decker Sunday School. This office I held for thirty years or more. I was on the Decker School Board for twenty five years and I have been Secretary Treasurer of Decker Church for over forty years. I was with Mr. Henry Lints as leader of the Decker-Isabella Swine Club and also I was leader of the same calf club while it lasted. Mr. Gordon Muirhead was our Agricultural Representative at that time.

In my estimation this district is one of the best farming areas in Manitoba.

1982 no update.

Clarence and Lucille Reid by Gerry Walker

My father, Clarence Everett Reid was born November 16, 1904, in Elgin, Manitoba. In 1906 the family moved to Roland, Manitoba where my Grandfather Fred Reid had bought a livery business. Dad received his education in Roland. He left home at an early age, working in different parts of Canada, and the United States. Dad was working on iron construction when he met and married Lucille Rhodes. They have two daughters: Geraldine Evelyn, born December 14, 1930 in Cleveland, Ohio, and Clara Bernice, born May 24, 1933 in Miniota, Man.

In July of 1932, we moved to Isabella to farm with my grandfather. He had been farming there since 1928 on Mrs. J. D. Harrison's place. We lived in what was known as the Bank (it had been a bank building), and, later, with my grandparents on the farm. Besides farming Dad worked at the curling rink, and the Power Commission.

We belonged to the United Church, and I attended Sunday School which was held in the Manse at Isabella.

I attended Isabella School for my first year. Molly Stalker was the teacher at that time.

In the fall of 1939 we moved to Roland where Dad



Jim and Gerry Walker, Clarence and Lucille Reid, Clara and Stuart Browning, 1980.

farmed the Johnston place. I attended Pomeroy School for two years.

In the spring of 1941 we moved to Winnipeg. I received the rest of my education there.

In November 1969, Dad retired from the C.N.R. electrical shops. Mom and Dad celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary May 23, 1980. Many relatives and friends attended.

On June 17th, 1950, I married Jim Walker of Winnipeg. Jim is a carpenter, and now works for the St. James School Division. I have been working full time for the past 14 years for the T. Eaton Co. At the present time, I'm working in the cash office of the Polo Park Store. We have two children. Our son, William James, was born March 11, 1952. Our daughter, Sandra Lyne, was born June 11, 1955. They both received their education in Winnipeg.

Bill married Gail Alana Webb on November 16, 1974. They have a son, Jeffrey William, born Dec. 20, 1975. They were transferred to Dryden, Ontario where Bill managed the warehouse for Emco Plumbing and Heating. They returned to Winnipeg in 1978 where Bill now works as a salesman for the same company.

On June 21, 1975, Sandra married Douglas Melville Fogg. They have a daughter, Lisa Darlene, born April 26, 1980. Doug received his degree in Commerce from the University of Manitoba in 1976. They moved to Calgary, Alberta, where Doug worked for Gulf Oil. Sandra worked for Royal Insurance in Calgary and then, on a part time basis, in Edmonton after Lisa was born. They moved to Edmonton in 1979 where Doug now works for World Land, purchasing commercial land, and leasing for shopping centres.

Claude and Georgina Reid by Claude Reid

Since my mother, Mrs. Harry Reid, submitted the original material for "Rural Reflections" some

changes have taken place. Mother passed away in the spring of 1972 in her 90th year.

My wife (nee Georgina Riches) and I still reside at the same address in Winnipeg and I expect we will remain here as long as we are able to take care of our home. Our son, Dale, married Sandra Rawn of Winnipeg in 1968. They have one son, Roger, and reside only one block away from us. Dale and Sandra operate their own business and are doing very well.

For a number of years between 1956 and 1968 Dale and I managed and coached a little league baseball team together, winning the City Championship one year but always having a reasonably good team each year. We played a lot of tournament ball in city and country after the league was finished. We gave up baseball when we both became too involved with our jobs.

I continued with the CNR in a management capacity on different assignments until I retired in August 1975.

Even though we are retired we keep exceptionally busy. I curl a heavy schedule all winter and golf steadily all summer which I enjoy very much. In our spare time we look after our home and yard. I have been and still am involved with various curling ex-

ecutive positions. I am a past president of the Fort Rouge Curling Club 1972/73, president of The Fort Rouge "65" Club 1981/82, first vice-president of The Past Presidents Association of Manitoba Curling Clubs 1981/82. For the past three years I have been chairman and secretary-treasurer of The Winnipeg Retardant Curling League and am in this position for this year as well.

Frank and Hannah Reid **by Frank Reid**

To continue our family history as begun under Robert and Frank Reid and not to miss any chapters is a real task as my memory often draws a blank. There have been many changes in our lives — in fact I think we have gone a full circle — back to the two of us. Our family has grown up, married and moved into their own homes. We have known happy and sad times, good health and sickness, but have much to be thankful for and count our blessings.

Marilynn completed her high school at Birtle and received her Bachelor of Arts degree and certificate in Education at the University of Manitoba. She is now Mrs. Herb Bernard of Edmonton.

Linda completed her schooling at Birtle and re-



Beginning with Back Row: (John and Frank Reid families), 1980. Jack, Art, Bob, Bill, Don, Scott, Margaret, Emilie, Lisa, Lisa, Kathy, Carolee, Margaret, Harold, Michael, Donna, Marilyn, Hannah, Frank, Cherilynn, Linda, Trevor, May, Christopher, Rachied, Julie, Daryl, Sean, Michael, Ryan, Donovan. The gold headed cane held by Frank Reid was given to his grandfather Francis Reid on his Golden Wedding Day in 1911.

ceived her certificate in Education from Brandon University. She is now Mrs. Bill Clark and they farm at Isabella.

Harold attended school in Isabella and Birtle and the University of Manitoba. He is a chartered accountant with his own business in Birtle.

Donna took her schooling at Isabella and Birtle. She is now Mrs. Scott Gammack and they make their home in Winnipeg.

Our four children took part in all community events, — they enjoyed skating and curling, sang in the choir and festivals, attended church and Sunday school, belonged to the 4H sewing club, Explorers, C.G.I.T., Cubs and Sigma C. We encouraged them to take advantage of all educational facilities available, including the University Book Club. When all was quiet in our house, you knew that noses were buried in books. Television was enjoyed when we bought our first set in 1959. Some of the favorite programs were: "My Three Sons", "Father Knows Best", "Lassie Come Home", the Shirley Temple movies on Saturday afternoon, and Paw and Maw Kettle movies. Perhaps some of the shows were not too educational, but they were not filled with all the crime and violence that seems so prevalent in all the pictures nowadays.

In 1955 I bought a caterpillar tractor and breaking disc to clear our land, and I also did custom work for neighbors. I had a shop with electric and acetylene welders and a forge and did repair work for anyone who needed it.

We sold our herd of cattle in 1965 and continued to grain farm.

I was councillor for ward I of the R.M. of Miniota



1974. Frank and Hannah Reid Farm.

from 1954 to 1967. I served ten years on the governing board at Hamiota Hospital. I received a ten year pin for my services. I was an elder of the Isabella church from 1961 to 1974 and although we no longer reside in the district we still retain our church membership at Isabella.

In February, 1966 my mother, Magdalene Astle, passed away following a brief illness. She had resided in a nursing home in Brandon since June 1960.

The Canadian Centennial in 1967 was enjoyed by all the family as they participated in all the events and parades in nearby towns. Harold sometimes marched with the Hamiota Band, and at other times rode his horse, Cimarron. Donna decorated her bicycle and had her little dog, Lucky, riding in the carrier. We saw the new Canadian flag unfurled on February 15, 1967 and believed that Canada was growing up at last. In 1970 the children participated in the parades and festivities of the Manitoba Centennial. That year, we too celebrated — our 25th wedding anniversary and our family, friends and community made it a memorable occasion for us.

Hannah has served as lay delegate from Birtle — Miniota Wider Parish and attended church conferences at Thunder Bay, Winnipeg, and Brandon. She was supply secretary of Birtle Presbyterial for four years and then served as president for two years. She resigned this office in May 1973 when she applied for and was accepted as secretary for Drs. M. and M. M. M. Tack in Birtle. Working in the Medical Clinic has been a satisfying experience.

In 1974 we sold our farm to Harold and Melva Doran and we moved into Birtle. I keep busy with the garden, yard, working at Gulf and driving the ambulance. Hannah continues to work in the Medical Clinic. She belongs to the Hospital Auxiliary — having served as president for two years. In her leisure time she enjoys knitting and crocheting. Six lively grandchildren help keep us busy, young and alert.

In October, 1980 our family held an early 35th wedding anniversary celebration for us. We were really pleased to have all the members of the late John and Evelyn Reid family come from Alberta to celebrate with us — the first time the two families had ever been together.

Our interest in farming remains with us in our retirement, but we note the vast changes in less than ten years. The price of cattle has gone from 28¢ a pound to 85¢ a pound, flax from \$2.00 to \$9.00 a bushel, wheat from \$2.49 to \$5.00 a bushel. In fact, wheat is no longer sold by the bushel, but by the tonne. But it's not all gold when you consider the price of machinery, sprays, fertilizer, repairs and taxes. Tractors that cost \$15,000 in 1970 now are in a price range of \$50,000, combines from \$18,000 to \$65,000. Land prices have tripled. Fertilizers and sprays have more than doubled in price. Gasoline is no longer sold by the gallon, but by the litre. Distances are no longer measured in miles, we now speak of kilometres. Railways have been abandoned

and elevators closed. A 10¢ chocolate bar now costs 40¢. But with all the changes, two things remain — Isabella community and John's store. That reminds me of another story about our years at Isabella. We generally did our banking at Birtle and Miniota, but sometimes when we had a break in our machinery and needed cash in a hurry for repairs, we'd stop at John's store and ask if he could spare us \$30 or \$50, or whatever we thought we needed at the moment. We got the needed cash and John made up a store bill that read "Lettuce — \$30 (or \$50)" and we were on our way to Brandon. John Coxworth was indeed our friend, storekeeper and sometimes banker.

As I look back over my three score and ten years, I wonder at the progress in the world. Man has walked on the moon; but has not been able to find a cure for cancer. People have more leisure time than ever before, but are not any more satisfied with their lives. Television has brought the world to our living-room but has it not been the teacher of more crime and violence?

I think we have been privileged to live in a small community where a friendly hand was always outstretched in time of need or sorrow. Although we moved only a short distance from Isabella, strong ties take us back "Home" on many occasions every year.

Harold and May Reid

by Harold Reid

I, Harold Edward Reid, born September 6, 1954, am the third child, and only son, of Frank and Hannah Reid. I took Grades I-VII at Isabella and then went to Birtle School for five years. I attended church and Sunday school at Isabella and belonged to Cubs and Sigma C. I sang in the choir, played hockey, and curled on Saturday afternoons with all the teenagers. Reading is still my favorite pastime.

I joined the Solsgirth Light Horse and Pony Club



Harold, May, Christopher, and Michael Reid.

in 1967 and with my Palomino horse, Cimarron, I enjoyed the trail rides, the parades, and the participation in the gymkhanas at the local fairs. Our musical ride at Brandon Fair in 1969 won first prize and was given high praise by the judges.

I played trumpet in the Hamiota band and sometimes marched in parades at the local fairs and centennial celebrations in 1967 and 1970. In 1971 I attended Older Boys' Parliament in Winnipeg.

After completion of Grade XII at Birtle Collegiate, I entered the University of Manitoba taking Administrative Studies, and graduated in 1976 with a Bachelor of Commerce (Honors) degree. That summer I began articling with Price Waterhouse in Edmonton and received my Chartered Accountant degree in January, 1979. I worked for Widdifield and Bush at Bonnyville, Alberta, before moving back to Birtle in November, 1979 to open up my own practice and to farm with my father-in-law.

On May 8, 1976 I exchanged marriage vows with Kathryn May Wady, only daughter of Tom and Phyllis Wady of Birtle. May has her Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Manitoba. She taught at Tofield, Alberta. Two sons make our home a busy, lively place. Christopher Donald was born June 7, 1978, and Michael Robert was born July 23, 1980.

In 1981, my firm and the firm of Buck, Campbell, Bardsley joined together to form a new firm of Buck, Bardsley, Reid, Chartered Accountants with offices in Brandon, Birtle, Minnedosa and Shoal Lake.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Reid

written by Mrs. H. Reid

Harry Reid was born in Orillia, Ontario. His parents were Irish. There were five in the family and they were members of the Anglican Church. Harry came to Manitoba in 1900 and took up land on Sec. 20-15-25. There was no railroad and there was no name for the place. He got his mail at Beulah. His buildings were just a shanty and stables for his horses. He broke the land with horses. When he was able to sell some grain he drew it to Arrow River where he bought his groceries which consisted principally of bread, soda biscuits, corn syrup and prunes. He got his eggs from a neighbor, grew a few potatoes and had salted pork. He bached for twelve years, during which time the railroad came in.

I (Mrs. Reid) Tilda Stewart was born in Uxbridge, Ontario. I lived on the farm most of the time with my parents who were Scotch and Irish. There were nine in the family and we were Baptists. I came to Manitoba in 1910 to keep house for my brother Wes who was going to build a house. As I baked bread Wes told me to bake bread for Harry to save him driving to Arrow River, which I did. In the fall I



Mr. and Mrs. Harry Reid.

went to Hamiota and took up dressmaking, then to Brandon and to Calgary. Harry and I corresponded throughout this time so finally on September 27th, 1912 we got married. Harry meantime had built a barn and a seven room house. We farmed together through some hardships all through the depression years but we never thought that we were badly done by because everybody was the same. We had two sons Claude and Rae who were both educated at Isabella. They were very fond of hockey and baseball and when they get together with old pals they love to talk of old times. We took part in all activities of the community. We attended the United Church, where I had two classes of boys with twelve in the class or sometimes more. I taught for 12 years and had the Trail Rangers Group which we all enjoyed so much. Claude became an Operator on the Canadian National Railway and is still with it. He married a neighbor's daughter, Georgina Riches. They live in Winnipeg and have one son, Dale, who has graduated from Grade XII. Both he and Dale coach baseball teams in the Little League. Dale plays hockey also. The family attends Rosedale United Church.

Rae stayed at home. Crops were poor so he thought he would venture out. He went to Toronto and worked with John Inglis Company. He later joined the R.C.A.F. as an Air Gunner and achieved the rank of Sergeant. He was posted to Patricia Bay, B.C., where his wife, Anne, joined him with his two girls. They had two boys and three girls. Tragedy struck when fire destroyed his home losing his wife and three youngest children. Harry, Claude, and I flew out and I stayed for two months and then brought the two girls, Marlene and Janice, back with me. I cared for the girls for nine years, till Rae

remarried a teacher, Jean MacArthur of Portage. Jean teaches in the Brandon College and Rae is a graduate nurse at the Brandon Mental Health Centre. He received the Gold Medal there. Marlene graduated as a nurse in May, 1962, and Janice took a course in hairdressing and is working in Brandon. Janice was married on June 23rd, 1962.

Harry and I were married forty eight years. We had our dull times and our happy times. He passed on to the Great Beyond on April 23rd, 1961, and I reside in Brandon at 512, 12th Street.

Update

by Rae and Jean Reid

Janice married Jack Jones of Brandon in 1962. They have one daughter, Debbie, who has just completed a legal secretarial course at Hertzing School in Winnipeg and is now employed at Meighen, Haddad and Co. in Brandon. Jack is a car salesman at Binkley Motors in Brandon and Janice is employed at the lab in Brandon General Hospital. They live on Percy Street. Marlene married Tom Carson of Rosburn in 1965. Marlene graduated from Misericordia Hospital in 1962. They have three children, all still at home. Tom is manager of Coop Lumber in Leduc, Alberta. Marlene took on the head nurse job at a new Lutheran Nursing Home in Leduc and seems to be enjoying that role. Melanie Rose is 14 years old, Paula Jean is 11 and David Thomas is 7. They are all active youngsters and into the many activities in Leduc.

Mother, Tilda, died in April, 1973. She gave up her suite in the big house when we sold it in 1970. She lived with us for a few months and then moved into Fairview where she adjusted well and seemed to enjoy the activities and people there. She was alert almost to the end and enjoyed her contacts with relatives and friends and kept in contact with both.



Tom and Marlene Carson, Jack and Janice Jones, Jean and Rae Reid, 1978.

Jean retired from her 6 years in the education department of Brandon College in 1965. Rae retired from his nursing career at Brandon Mental Health Centre in 1977 and finds he has no time to go back to work since. His suggestion — anyone who thinks he should continue working past 65 must have at least one screw loose in his belfry!

We sold our house on Second Street in 1978 and moved into an apartment. We enjoy apartment living and with our cottage at Sandy Lake we think we have the best of both worlds. We can have a bit of garden there, mow as much grass as we want to, fuss with trees etc. and only shovel snow if we want to. We have access to a golf course there, just up a very steep hill from our back door and the hill gets steeper each year. But we try to keep in shape by doing a lot of walking both winter and summer. Rae enjoys skating and a bit of curling. Jean does a bit of curling and very little skating, but does put them on if the session is not going to be too strenuous. Rae enjoys taking the young girls for a skate — he is a very strong skater, and much to his granddaughter's horror would rather skate with them than with Grandma!

We enjoy doing some travelling and try to get at least one trip in a year even if it is only up to Alberta. We enjoy having friends in for cards. We belong to a weekly mixed bowling league. We try out various golf courses with friends and relatives and find that golfing does not necessarily improve with age nor with practice.

We enjoy our contacts with Isabella friends. Jean is amazed at the community spirit that abounds there and the way they rally around their many projects. After their 75th last year, she decided she could never live in Isabella — could never stand that pace and the huge food spreads they put on. But keep it up, Isabella. It is a wonderful district to "come home to."

John and Evelyn Reid

by Margaret Tew

John Guthrie Reid was born May 3, 1913 in Elbow, Saskatchewan, and he died March 25, 1979 in Edmonton, Alberta. He was the second son of Robert Henry Reid and his wife, Magdalene Thompson Sutherland. In 1933 John and his mother and brother Frank moved to Isabella to farm N ½ 29-15-25. He bought a truck and started to do custom hauling. He was interested in sport and many times took the Isabella hockey team to games away from home.

John married Evelyn Gertrude Hanlin December 21, 1940 at her parents' home in Miniota. Evelyn was born July 14, 1921 and died July 31, 1970 in Edmonton.

John and Evelyn moved from Isabella in 1943 to



Back Row: Jack and Bob, Arthur, John Reid, Margaret Tew and Donovan Reid.

Dawson Creek where they operated their own construction company and worked in the construction of the Alaska Highway. In 1945 they moved to Edmonton where they continued in the construction industry. Shortly after his wife's death, John became involved in the real estate business. In the fall of 1978, he bought a little farm a short distance out of Edmonton where he died the following spring. He left four sons and one daughter all of whom reside in the Edmonton area.

John Guthrie junior, born in October 1941, married Margaret Belle Smith September 1, 1962. They have two daughters, Sherry Lynn age nineteen years, and Shannon Lee age eighteen years.

Robert Harvey, born February 1944 married Kathleen Virginia Smith July 16, 1974. They have one daughter, Lisa Jane age fifteen years, and one son, Sean Robert age five years.

Arthur Murray Alexander, born March 1946, married Emilie Ann Hamdon February 6, 1967. They have one daughter, Lisa Ann, age fourteen years, and one son, Rachied John Arthur age eleven years.

Margaret Evelyn, born February 1950, married Robert Clifford Tew September 6, 1969. They have two sons, Ryan Christopher, age eight years and Michael James age six years.

Kenneth Donovan, born January 1955, married Carolee Marion Kennedy August 2, 1975. They have one son Kenneth Donovan, age two years.

June (Finkbeiner) Reid and Family

by June Reid

To continue my history which was told in J. T. Finkbeiner story, in 1960, George rented his land and the family moved to Hamiota where they had built a

new home. In that year, June became a member of the Hamiota Elementary teaching staff and George became a bookkeeper at the Hamiota Co-op. George died in 1966 but June remained in Hamiota until 1979.

During her teaching years June trained choirs for the Christmas concerts and for the yearly music festival. She was a member of the Hamiota United Church choir and during her last seven years at Hamiota played the church organ.

In 1969 June began working toward a Bachelor of Education degree. She took a university course each winter and attended Summer School for seven years. In 1979 she attained her goal.

There are three children in the Reid family. David taught school in Manitoba for six years. He then attended Mount Royal College in Calgary where he studied broadcasting. He is presently the music director of radio station CHQR in Calgary.

Patricia trained as a psychiatric nurse at Brandon Mental Health Hospital where she nursed for some years. In 1972 she married Ben Van Haute from Stony Mountain. The couple moved to Winnipeg where Patricia nursed and Ben completed his Bachelor of Social Work. A baby girl, Stephanie Kyle, was born to them on May 6, 1981.

Margaret took a secretarial course at Red River College. She worked as a legal secretary in Winnipeg before leaving for B.C. in 1975. She is presently working as a secretary to a criminal lawyer in Calgary.

June sold her home and left Hamiota in 1979. She is presently residing in Brandon.

Robert and Frank Reid **written by Mr. Frank Reid**

My great grandfather, William Reid and his wife, Jane Raffter came from Queen's County, Ireland in 1830 and settled in Ontario.

My grandfather, Francis Reid was born in Ontario in 1832. His wife, Margaret Cannon was born in 1837. They were married May 27, 1857, and had a family of six sons and two daughters. My father, Robert Henry Reid was the eldest — born in 1862, at Milton, Halton County, Township of Trafalgar in Ontario.

The family moved to Manitoba in 1879, homesteading at Totonka, near the present town of Cardale. My father who was only 17 at the time, came with the car load of stock and machinery. The rest of the family came in the passenger train. They knew the number of the box car, and when the train stopped at St. Paul, Minnesota, they looked up my dad to see that he was making out alright.

My dad and uncle, Fred Reid homesteaded some

30 miles south of Brandon — near the present town of Elgin.

Then Uncle Frank Reid, bought the N.W.¼-4-15-25 (the Russel Heise farm) in 1901, from a Mr. Thomas White. My dad planted the spruce trees on that farm in 1902. Mr. T. E. Doran tells me that my dad owned a stationary steam engine and he threshed with him that year, custom threshing at Shoal Lake. It was Mr. Doran's first experience at threshing. He hauled the outfit from Hamiota to Shoal Lake with horses, arriving there around midnight. He said the landlady gave them pickled beans and bread and butter for supper and he thought to himself "If this is threshing I don't know if I'm going to like it or not."

My father went to Saskatchewan in 1905 and secured a homestead near Elbow. His land was the south half of section 22-25-4 west of the third meridian. He also had the John Deere agency for a couple of years, and this was then taken over by my uncles — Donald and George Sutherland.

My mother, Magdalene Thompson Sutherland, was born August 28, 1878, at 34 Prince Regent Street, Leith, Scotland, the third child in a family of eight. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. John Guthrie Sutherland. Mother came to Canada with her parents in 1887 and settled at Grand Valley, near Toronto. Two years later, in 1889, they came west by train and landed in Birtle on March 21. They unloaded their belongings and started out for their farm with the team and wagon. They stayed the first night at Dave Hill's. Mr. and Mrs. Hill were away. Grandpa said they wouldn't put them out if they were already in bed, so they laid their blankets on the floor and slept. The next morning they set out again for their new home which was located on section 18-14-25.

My mother received her education at Blaris school and took her teacher's training in Winnipeg. She taught at Burnbank School near Elkhorn, at Gnaton School near Birtle, at Blaris and Palmerston. She often told us that our present Reeve — Mr. Harvey Hyndman was just a beginner when she taught at Palmerston and that he used to fill his pockets with frogs at recess and then let them go when he came into school.

Mother loved all sports and belonged to the Arrow River Girls' Soft Ball team.

My father and mother were married at my Grandpa Sutherland's home (situated on N.W.¼ 18-14-25) on December 8, 1909. They went to live on the farm at Elbow, Sask. Dad was the proud owner of four prize horses that he showed at all the local fairs. He raised many pigs, too.

I arrived in the world on April 26, 1911, at my Grandpa Sutherland's home and was named Francis

after my paternal grandfather. Mom said she wanted me registered Francis Edward, but my grandpa, being a stern old Scotchman, said "Ah! what do you want that for?" and he registered me just plain Francis. However, I get "Frank" all the time and have since had "Edward" inserted in my name.

My only brother was born on May 3, 1913, on the farm at Elbow, Sask. and was christened John Guthrie Reid after his maternal grandfather.

My father's health began to fail shortly after I was born and he had to give up farming. We moved into Elbow in 1916. My mother then went back to school teaching in order to support us. Dad passed away on May 3, 1918 and was laid to rest in Brandon Cemetery. Mother taught at Fenelon and Morning Star Schools near Elbow. Then she decided it would be better if she left the teaching profession and just worked a few days a week for people and in that way she could be nearer to John and me during our growing years. She was called home several times to care for Grandma Sutherland who had suffered several strokes. Of course John and I always went with her and this resulted in our attending Blaris and Isabella Schools at different times. I remember my Mother telling us that when Grandma passed away, she and uncle Donald Sutherland came to a place somewhere near Lenore and they had to cross the Assiniboine River in a boat as it was in a terrible flood at that time. (Grandma passed away May 30, 1922)

When we lived in Elbow, Mother was a member of the United Church choir. She was very active in the Women's Auxiliary and all church work. She was president of the Women's Missionary Society for a number of years and received a Life Membership shortly before we left Elbow, in 1933. She also taught the Bible class for several years.

My Mother and Joseph Astle were married in Regina on August 6, 1925. Joe was a barber by trade, and had a shop and poolroom at Neidpath, Sask.

After I quit school, I worked out for four years, and then started to farm on my own in 1930. As power machinery was getting to be "the thing" for farming I purchased a John Deere "D" tractor and other machinery, including a John Deere combine that was pulled by eight horses. But my farming days in Saskatchewan were short lived due to drought and grasshoppers. The drought was the main factor. It is very open country around Elbow and dust blew for days and weeks at a time. My mother always opened the windows and shook the dust out of the bedclothes every evening. She wet rags and laid them on the window sills to try and keep out as much dust as possible. We couldn't grow enough feed to keep our cattle and pigs until they were market weight, let alone have any grain to sell.

When Grandpa Sutherland passed away, my mother was apportioned, through the estate, this half N.-29-15-25 which I now farm. Due to poor crops and low prices we were not able to pay the taxes, so upon coming to Manitoba we had to redeem this land from tax sale.

I came to Manitoba in 1932, and put in some crop in 1933, with the assistance of my uncle, John Sutherland, and his two sons, Allen and George. John and Mom remained in Saskatchewan and John planted the crop there in 1933 but it never grew so they packed all our belongings — furniture, machinery, cattle and horses in a box car and came to Manitoba. We felt that this section of Manitoba offered more security to the farmer. E. Cora Hind in one of her many newspaper articles had written about driving through Hamiota and she talked about green pastures and fat, sleek cattle and called it a "Garden of Eden". We are not very far from Hamiota and we have never known a crop failure.

When we came to this farm, there were no habitable buildings. There was a shack with no windows in it, a shed, that we moved and we built a straw and clay lean-to, to make a stable. We had a good drilled well and lots of water. Uncle John, Allen and George (Geo.) Sutherland were very kind to us and hauled lumber from the bush and helped us to fix up a house before winter set in. Uncle John had bought the windows from the old round house at Miniota for a dollar each and he gave them to us. There were no fences and we had to herd our cattle. We now have barbed wire fences.

Joe Astle had been up in the north country — near Cranberry Portage, prospecting for some time. Mother had spent one summer up there. Joe was the first man to grow potatoes north of the 53 parallel. He also had a barber shop for awhile. However, he gave up his search for gold and came home to live with us in 1935 — the year of the rust.

Manitoba is so different to Saskatchewan. At Elbow there were no trees — only the ones that people planted and they had a hard time to survive. Here, we have all kinds of natural shelter which reminds me that during our first years in Manitoba, Mother found farm life very quiet after living in town, and sometimes felt rather depressed. During one of these times, the late Mr. Robert Clark, who had had to plant his shelter belt drove in with a team and wagon and stopped to chat for a few minutes. He remarked that we had a wonderful natural shelter belt. My Mother replied, "Oh, yes, perfectly natural, a perfect place to commit a perfect crime." However, Mother wasn't one to feel sorry for herself for very long. She enjoyed working in her garden and raising poultry. Joe began to barber in Isabella. He

had his shop in Mr. Brad's store where he barbered on "town nights" which were Monday and Friday. The train arrived on those nights. Things were beginning to look a little brighter about this time. Joe had realized some money from his prospecting and was planning to make a new start for themselves. However, his dreams did not materialize, as he passed away very suddenly on Friday, August 13, 1937, and Mother was left alone again. She, John and I remained together on the farm until John was married. He married Evelyn Gertrude Hanlin of Miniota, on December 21, 1940, and they lived in Isabella where John operated the garage and gravel business.

Mother was interested in all phases of church work. She was President of the W.M.S. for a short time and also taught the Bible Class in Sunday School. She also served on the Board of Stewards. Mother liked to quilt and knit and helped with all types of Red Cross work. She gained a great deal of enjoyment out of knitting for and helping in any way with her grandchildren.

In 1944, I bought the south-west quarter of 28-15-25, after renting it for several years. The late Mr. John Irvine was the first to break and work this land. He was followed by Mr. Baird, Mr. Ivan Sparks, Mr. Baize, and Mr. Robert Scarth who rented it in 1926 and 1927. Mr. John Simms started to buy this farm — N½ 29-15-25, but due to an accident he was forced to give it up. Grandpa Sutherland took it back and Mr. Robert Scarth rented it from 1928 to 1932. I also bought the south-east quarter of 3-16-25 in 1946, from my aunt, Mrs. W. J. Hill. At the present time, I also rent the east half of 4-16-25 and the south west ¼ of 9-16-25. The land which I now own and operate is classed as Newdale clay — black soil on the surface with a clay sub-soil. It is quite suitable for mixed farming. I grow wheat, oats, barley and the last couple of years, I have grown flax, because I could sell it on the open quota. I also raise purebred and grade Herefords and a few pigs. In 1944, I tore down the old stable and built a new barn. The Red Cross held a couple of dances in it and received a good sum of money for their efforts.

On November 14, 1945, Hannah Jane Foxton of Decker became my bride. She was born August 16, 1927, at Shoal Lake — the fifth child in a family of eight — to the late Mr. W. J. Foxton and his wife, Mary Jane MacDonald. She received her education at Lavinia and Decker schools, and taught for one year at Hillsgreen School, near McAuley.

When Hannah and I were married, Mother moved to her own little house in Isabella and lived there until she went to a nursing home in Brandon in 1960.

We have been blessed with four children, Mar-

ilyn Joyce, born December 30, 1947. This year she completed Grade Nine at Isabella High School. Linda Joann, born March 24, 1950, completed Grade Six. Harold Edward, born September 6, 1954, passed into Grade Three and Donna Kathleen was born October 15, 1959.

We are members of the Isabella United Church. I have served on the Board of Stewards and was elected as an Elder in 1961. I have been councillor for Ward 1 in the Rural Municipality of Miniota since 1954 and am municipal representative to the Hamiota Hospital Board No. 7A.

We built our new home in 1951, and enjoy the many modern conveniences that are now available.

1981 update under Frank and Hanna Reid.

Mr. and Mrs. T. F. Reid **written by Clarence Reid**

Mr. T. F. Reid and family rented the S. ½ of sec. 9-15-25 from his sister, Mrs. J. D. Harrison. Fred Reid was born four miles from Milton, Ont. in the county of Halton, Township of Trafalgar. Mary Byrne Williamson his wife was born at Lakelet, Ontario, a few miles from Seaforth. Fred Reid came to Manitoba with his father in 1879 and homesteaded four miles west of Moline. The railway ended at Winnipeg at that time. The cattle were driven and the household effects hauled by oxen to Moline. After proving up on the homestead there, the family moved to a farm one mile west of Brandon.

In the second Riel Rebellion in 1885, Fred Reid hauled supplies from Brandon for the army. Later he farmed at Elgin, Man. for a few years and then moved to Roland, Man. and bought a livery business. In 1928 the family moved to Isabella to Mrs. J. D. Harrison's farm, actively working it until 1939.

There were three children in this family: John Russell, who lived in Winnipeg until his death on January 1st, 1962. Margaret, Mrs. Joe Johnston, who with her husband owned the Warren farm at Isabella and who now resides at Victoria, B.C. Clarence Reid and wife, Lucille, who farmed with his father at Isabella now reside in Winnipeg, at present working for C.N.R. electrical department.

1982 Update

Fred died at the age of 82 in 1946.

Mary died at the age of 70 in 1942.

J. A. Renny

In 1889, Mr. Renny homesteaded the S.W. ¼ of 18-15-25. His mother came out from the Old Country to keep house for him. When she became ill, Miss Christina Taylor cared for her until her death.

Mrs. Renny gave Miss Taylor a cup and saucer

which had been in the family for one hundred years as a token of appreciation.

Miss Taylor later became Mrs. Robert Calder. Mr. Calder still has this cup and saucer among his prized possessions.

James A. Renny returned to England.

Billy Richardson

Mr. Richardson, a bachelor, lived on the N.W. 1/4 32-15-25. No more information is available.

Mr. and Mrs. Sid Riches

written by Mrs. S. Riches

Mrs. Riches was born in Bl. Festiniog and moved to Bettws-y-Coed, North Wales and Mr. Riches was born in Norfolk, England. We emigrated to Canada in March 1920 to reside with Mr. Riches' cousin, Sid Lawn of Crandall, where we stayed for five years.

We moved to Isabella to work for Mr. Cliff Drummond, in March, 1925.

Our two children, Sidney and Georgina, attended School and Church in Isabella. Sid served in the Royal Canadian Airforce and while in the Service married Isobel Reid of the Kelloe District. They now reside in Fort Garry with their four children: Ronald, David, Janet and Darrell.

Our daughter, Georgina, married Claude Reid and they have one son, Dale. They reside in the Fort Rouge district of Winnipeg.

After our children were married, we moved to Carberry in 1943, where we reside at the present time.

Update

by Sidney Riches Jr.

Father and Mother moved from Carberry in 1972 to reside in Winnipeg, in a suite, in St. Vital, and eventually moved into the Fred Tipping Place, where Mother still resides. Father passed away, in 1978. He would have been 91 in March of that year.

After my discharge from the R.C.A.F., I worked for Winnipeg Electric on street cars and buses, furniture delivery for Eatons and at the C.N.R. Stores Department in Transcona. In 1954 I commenced work with the R.M. of Fort Garry in the Tax Department. When amalgamation took place, I was moved to the Tax Office in the City Administration building on Main Street.

I enjoy bowling, curling and fishing and have taken up golfing, which I hope to pursue further on my retirement in 1982. I was secretary for the Fort Garry Chamber of Commerce for 15 years and was active in community affairs.

My wife, Isabel, works for Men's Wear (Grafton Fraser), at Woolco, Grant Park. She taught Sunday

School for a time and was on the home and school executive of Pembina Crest School and is at present a "Block Parent".

We are not doing as much now, preferring to let the younger ones take over. We attend Bethesda Church on Grant Ave.

Our eldest son, Ron, was born at North Sydney, Cape Breton Island. He attended school in Fort Garry and University of Manitoba where he took Physical Education. He is employed by the city of Winnipeg, as a swim instructor and life guard at the Pan Am Pool. He has taken a course at Orlando, Florida and Los Angeles, California. He was in the Boy Scouts for some years and was active in various sports — tennis, badminton, hockey, baseball and was playing football with the Fort Garry Lions when they won the Canadian Championship in Vancouver.

After completing Grade XII, David worked for Transair in the accounting department. Then he attended Red River Community College, graduating in Business Administration. He worked in Eaton's Display Advertising, then, with MacDonald Tobacco Co., in Saskatoon. He is presently working for A.M.F. Tuboscope, a Texas based company in the oil industry. He works out of Edmonton and Calgary. He took a company course at Houston, Texas, and Colorado Springs, Colorado. He has one son Jeremy, born Jan. 16, 1978. David was in Cubs and Scouts, played Little League and liked golfing and curling.

After completing Grade XII, our daughter, Janet, went to work in a pharmacy. While at school she was active in track and field, volleyball, field hockey, and skating. She also took Highland dancing lessons and won several medals in competitions. She joined the R.C.A.F. Cadets and it was through this that she met her future husband, Bill Bullen who was Pipe Major of the Cadet Pipe Band. Janet and Bill lived at Island Lake for two years, after their marriage, where Bill was a pilot with St. Andrews Airways. They lived in a log house, and had to go by boat in summer and snowmobile in winter to the main island for groceries, etc. They live in St. James at present. Bill is a pilot with Aero Trades Western and Janet is a dental assistant. They are both members of the 402 Squadron Air Reserve Pipe Band. Bill is a piper with the band and Janet, along with three other girls, are highland dancers with the band. They have entertained at many functions and this year, 1981, have been invited to Montana, U.S.A. and to the Calgary Stampede, in Calgary. Janet also teaches highland dancing.

Darrell, our youngest son, took Junior High in Fort Garry and then attended East Kildonan Regional School, where he took power mechanics along with academic studies. He worked at various part time

jobs, one being with the C.B.C. staging and designing, and now has been on permanent staff at C.B.C. for 1½ years. He played Little League ball and hockey and likes fishing.

I have many fond memories of Isabella and often think of the threshing gangs and the fun we had. I still try to go back for a visit as often as I can and have been at the fowl supper every year for several years now. I am amazed at the accomplishments of the community and the town, their co-operation and energy and ability to get things done. It makes one proud to say "I used to live there".

Mr. and Mrs. Anton Rittaler written by A. Rittaler

I, Anton Rittaler, was born at Melville, Saskatchewan. I attended elementary school at a rural school, and highschool in Melville, Saskatchewan. While attending Teacher's College at Regina, I met Minnie MacLean, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Allan MacLean of Fillmore, Saskatchewan. Minnie received her education at Fillmore.

After a year and one-half of teaching, we were married at Balcarres. Mary, was born at Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan; June at Southey, Saskatchewan and Ronald at Balcarres, Saskatchewan.

We then moved to Bradwardine, Manitoba, and it was while living there that Allan and Barrie were born at Forman's Nursing Home, Rivers, Manitoba.

When contemplating the teaching position available at Isabella, an old carpenter, Mr. Goodeve, who was doing work for me at the time remarked: "If you move to Isabella, you'll be very happy, I know, as I used to live there". How right he was!



Ron, Shirley, June, Mary, Laura, and Allan, Barry, Minnie, and Tony Rittaler.

Update by Tony Rittaler

We moved to Isabella in 1957 and I spent five wonderful years as principal of Isabella school.

We have seven children: Mary, June, Ronald, Allan, Barrie, Laura, and Shirley. Mary married Jack McKibbin, of Cartwright. They farm. Their two children are Patrick and Sheila. June married Dale Still, who farms at Isabella. Their children are Karen, Terry-Lynn, and Lucinda. Ronald, of Estevan, Saskatchewan is a mechanic at Boundary Dam. He is married and has four children: Shelley, Robin, Cara, and Andrea. Allan lives at St. Lazare, and works as a plumber at the Rocanville Potash Mine. He is married and has a daughter, Jamie. Barry lives in Oxbow, and works as a mechanic at Boundary Dam. He was married July 24, 1981. Laura is at home taking Grade XII, and Shirley is taking her Grade X this year.

Minnie still enjoys bingo. I am now retired after thirty-seven years in the teaching service. We live in Glen Ewan, Saskatchewan.

Mr. and Mrs. Barnard Robinson written by Mrs. L. Wright

Barnard Robinson was born in the village of Wootton, Bedfordshire, England, October 13th, 1892, one of a family of five sons and four daughters. His father, Fredrick Robinson, who was an engineer in the local brickyard, died in 1931, at the age of 76 years. His mother Elizabeth (Keep) Robinson, died in 1951, just three months before her hundredth birthday.

Barnard received his education in Wootton and later worked for some years on a large estate owned by Sir Philip Payne. However, the urge to migrate to Canada became stronger and stronger as he watched his friends depart one by one. Finally, a year after his brother left, he sailed on the "Virginian" for Pierson, Manitoba, joining his brother there in April, 1912. He worked as a farm labourer in the Pierson-Lyleton area until early in 1920, when he rented a farm and became established on his own. In April of that year, he married Vera McNish, second daughter of Alex and Minnie McNish, pioneers of that district.

They continued to farm in the North Antler district, just north of Lyleton until 1934 when, after four successive years of drought and grasshoppers, they bought the Kelly farm at Isabella and moved there in November, 1934.

Having no harvest to gather on his own farm, he joined a group of harvest hands who equipped one car with a license and the necessary gas and oil and went north looking for work in the fall of 1933 and 1934. Barney located with Mr. Robert Clark and stayed there for both falls, after which they located

here. The next year, 1935 was a complete failure owing to rust. The following year was lost due to drought, but there were gardens inspite of it all, which was much better than the last years had been. They farmed here until February, 1941, when they sold out and went to Toronto where Barney was employed by the Massey Harris Co. Ltd. for the next twelve years. Owing to ill-health he left their employ and two years later took up employment on the Ashbridge Estate as a gardener, where he still works.

There were four children: Beatrice, who received her education in Lyleton and Isabella, and later married Lorne Wright of Isabella. They reside on the family farm, and have two daughters and one son.

Eric, who received his education at Lyleton and Isabella, later joined the Royal Canadian Airforce, serving in Burma during World War II. He returned in September, 1946, married Mary Warcop of Glace Bay, Nova Scotia. They have two sons and two daughters, all attending Junior High and Elementary grades at Beverley Acres, near Richmond Hill, Ontario.

Muriel, who received her education at Lyleton, Isabella, and Toronto, took a secretarial course at Northern Vocational School in Toronto. She later found suitable employment there. She married Bruce Sommerville in January of 1947. They have a son and daughter attending school, in Willowdale, a suburb of Toronto, where they reside.

Kenneth, who received his education at Isabella and Toronto, became a salesman. He married Marie Carney of Toronto in May, 1954. They reside in East York.

The family were members of the United Church, and always joined in church and community activities. They still carry on these same interests where they now reside. The many friends made in the years spent at Isabella are among the most cherished, and will never be forgotten.

Update by Beatrice Wright

Barnard Robinson passed away January 19th, 1974 in Toronto following an illness of four years duration. Vera Robinson passed away suddenly December 20th, 1977.

Beatrice (see D. L. Wright).

Eric is retired and lives at Balsam Lake near Lindsay, Ontario. He and Mary enjoy their six grandchildren. Their daughter, Linda, attended the University of Toronto and graduated as a physiotherapist. She married Dr. Martin Kucerak. They have one son, Ian Martin. They live in Abbotsford, B.C. Their son, Brian, graduated in engineering from the University of Waterloo. He married Lois Harrison. They have a

son, Brandon Eric, and a daughter, Sabrina Elaine. They live at Lindsay, Ontario. A second son, Blair, followed a career in refrigeration and heating. He married Peggy Dunfield and they have one son, Shawn Tanner. They live in Toronto, Ontario. Another daughter, Brenda, graduated from the University of Toronto as a physiotherapist also. She married David Lipson, a lawyer. They have one daughter, Sara Mary, and one son, Brent Harris Kenneth, and they reside in London, Ontario.

Muriel and Bruce Sommerville live in Toronto but have a retirement home in Norwood, Ontario. Their daughter, Sharon, trained as a hair dresser. She married Gary Saltern and they have one son, Bruce. They reside near Peterborough, Ontario. Their son, Wayne, is a journeyman plumber and is living at Grand Prairie, Alberta.

Ken passed away December 6th, 1980 following a four year battle with cancer. His wife, Marie lives in the Rexdale area of Toronto. Their two children, David and Kim, are still in high school.

F. Robinson

Mr. and Mrs. Robinson rented the Bruce Wallace farm for three years. They had a sale in 1937 and returned to the Old Country.

Garnet and Della Robertson by Garnet Robertson

I, Garnet Robertson, son of Jack and Eva Robertson, have our early history recorded in my parent's story.

We moved to Wawanesa from Brandon in 1960. We stayed there for ten years, so Terry and Harvey could complete their schooling. Terry started work with the CNR as a signal maintainer. He worked at this for two years. He then trained as a power engineer and worked for Dryden Chemicals, of Brandon. He now lives on a small holding north of Shilo, and is a power engineer at Shilo. He also raises bees. He married Alma Murray of Wawanesa, and they have two children: Ryan, six and Rhonda, one.

Harvey trained with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Force, and served at Fort Qu'Appelle, Sask., Langley, B.C. and is now a corporal at Thompson, Manitoba. He married Cheryl Boake of Nesbitt and they have two children: Troy, six and Jarrod, two.

We moved to Carman in 1970, with our daughter, Donna. She completed her schooling there. She then trained as a nurse at Brandon, and still nurses there. She married Edwin Epp, of Carman. They have no children. Ed owns and operates the "Jim Dandy Drive Inn", at Oak Lake.

We moved from Carman to Maryfield, Saskatch-

ewan in 1974. In January, 1981, I took early retirement from the CNR, after having worked for them for thirty-six years. I have now gone into the bee business, and am finding it very enjoyable. Della took over the position of postmistress in November, 1980, after working there, partime, for three years.

Mr. and Mrs. John Alexander Robertson **written by J. A. Robertson**

I was born at Utica, Ontario many years ago and moved to Columbus, Ontario, and later moved to Prince Albert with my parents to farm. I remained there until I started out on my own. I first went to Toronto and got a job in Simpsons big store and here I received the sum of \$3.50 per week. At the end of the week I had 50¢ spending money and, believe me, I sure stepped out at the end of every week. I paid \$3.00 for board and room. Then after getting started, I went to College in Toronto for a year and took up telegraphy. When I was ready for a job on the Railway, I came west. I think that was in 1911. I got a job with the C.N.R. at Somerset as assistant agent. In September of that same year, I got a steady job as station agent and stayed a station agent for forty-two years. The happiest days of my life were spent during the twenty years at Isabella.

I remember in 1910, while waiting to get on the railroad I took a tank job with a threshing gang. The man who I was working for, a Mr. Ouddy, lived at Carberry, so I went out there for about nine or ten days and was then called for the railway. While working on this outfit there was a very nice girl, the daughter of the farmer. She thought I should not sleep in the crummy old caboose, so she took the matter up with her mother to come over to the house to sleep. I went and every morning when I went out to the outfit the gang used to holler, "Here comes Mamma's Boy." I made a big mistake by going to the house to sleep, so when I went to Carberry to live I did my best to try and find where the girl friend lived, but never did. When I went to Isabella I got into the Hackney horses as that was what I always wanted to do and if I say so myself, I think I made a very good job of it. I have not got a single horse now but since I quit showing, I was asked to judge and I still go to four or five fairs every year and enjoy it. I often have to judge some of the horses I sold at different times. I showed in Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, Brandon and many local fairs.

One time the agents had a meeting and after the meeting was over, we started talking about some foolish things that happened when we started on the railroad. One of the funny things I did, was check a pumpkin for a lady when she bought her ticket. She said she had one piece of baggage to check. I got the

check ready, and when I went out to get her baggage, she said it was the pumpkin she wanted checked. It had quite a large stalk on the end, so I put the check on it. Believe me I sure got ribbed about that one.

I married Eva Edith Craik daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Craik of Oakburn, Manitoba. Eva was raised on a farm there. We both sang in the Presbyterian Church choir. After we were married in 1918 in Winnipeg, we lived in Warren, Roseisle, Grosse Isle, Birnie, Sandy Lake, and then Isabella, from 1926-1946. Eva was a member of the United Church, taught Sunday School, and was also in the choir. She belonged to the Women's Auxiliary, Women's Missionary Society and the Women's Institute. We moved to Hartney in 1949, where Eva became a member of Victoria Chapter No. 5 Order of the Eastern Star. We moved to Carberry in 1949. Eva was first Worthy Matron of New Sharon Chapter No. 52, Order of the Eastern Star, later a grand officer of Grand Chapter of Manitoba. She belonged to I.O.D.E., and was president of the W.M.S. for four years and president of the W.A. for two years. She was also secretary of the W.M.S. Presbyterial Supply in Manitoba.

We had two sons: Ross Gordon, born in 1922, at Carman Hospital. We were then at Roseisle. We moved to Isabella in 1926, where Ross took all his schooling except Grade XII, which he took in Minn-ota. Ross went into the ticket office of C.N.R. in Brandon during the war years. He was rejected four times. One time when he was called after he was turned down, he showed his other three rejection slips, and one officer said, "No wonder you were not accepted. I see here where you have a scar six feet below your knee, so you must be a giraffe."

He was a C.N.R. operator and agent after the war in many towns. He then became a Dispatcher in 1953 in Winnipeg, then to The Pas, then Kamloops, B.C., and now in Prince George, B.C.

He is a member of the United Church and Hartney Masonic Lodge No. 52. When he was eleven years old he won ribbons at Festival, and joined in all sports in Field Days. He had ponies and rode and drove many times at Brandon and many other local fairs. Both boys were christened by Rev. H. I. Bowman.

Ross married Yvonne Clarke of Neepawa, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Clarke. They have three children: Heather ten years old, Kathie, four and Gordon, three.

Our son Garnet was born in Grace Hospital, Winnipeg in 1925. We were then at Grosse Isle. He moved to Isabella with his family in 1926 and attended school here. He married the former Della Lints of Decker. He raised chickens and had ponies

which he showed at fairs. At one fair in Hamiota, eighteen miles away, he and Garth Stewart drove a pony in the cart and took two roosters in a box on the cart. They came home with three firsts.

Garnet enjoyed hockey and also owned and showed horses at many fairs. He joined the Royal Canadian Airforce in April, 1943, and at the age of seventeen, went overseas in January, 1944, did a tour of operations and returned home in March, 1945. He worked at Victoria Beach, McCreary, Pine Falls, Carman, Isabella, Decker, Brandon and now is agent in Wawanesa. He loves flowers and a garden and helps in community affairs. They have three children, Terry, fourteen, Harvey, thirteen, and they lost a baby girl who would have been eight now, and Donna, five. Garnet is a member of the Canadian Legion.

During the war years it was the most trying time of my operating career as so many families lost sons overseas from Isabella and Eva and I had to take the sad messages out. I got that I almost hated to hear the wire call me after Garnet was overseas. We were so thankful that he was spared to come home to us safe and sound.

We now live in Brandon at 626-24th Street.

Update by Garnet Robertson

Jack Robertson died in 1969, and Eva Robertson, in 1971.

Ab and Ruth Rockley

by Ab and Ruth Rockley

I, Albert, was born in December, 1906, the third son of William and Eliza Rockley of Decker. I attended Lakeville and Decker schools and then farmed with my brother, Jack, from 1924-1945 on section 23-15-24.

In 1945, I married Ruth Eunice Schweitzer and we farmed 24-15-24 until 1950. We spent the winter in Winnipeg, working for the T. Eaton Co. Ltd. In the spring of 1951, we purchased the store at Lavinia where we were postmasters, and cashed grain cheques for two companies, the United Grain Growers Ltd. and Manitoba Pool Elevators.

We bought the home farm of Mr. J. F. M. Johnston at Isabella in 1958. The farm was a good investment as land went up in price. We planned to make our home in Isabella but my health was not so good, so we sold the farm to Frank and Ellen Rosenberger in 1967.

In the fall of 1967, I, Ruth went back to work as operator for the Manitoba Telephone System. I worked for almost eight years and drove from Decker, to Foxwarren, Minnedosa, and Russell. In 1974 Russell was changed over to the dial system and I decided to resign.

We are members of the Decker United Church. Ruth is a member of the U.C.W., an associate member of the Decker Legion, and has curled in the Decker and Isabella bonspiels for many years.

Mr. and Mrs. James T. Ross

written by J. Ross

In 1910, my father Alexander Ross left Scotland to come to Canada. He worked for Tom Morrison in the Scotia district for a year. In 1911 my mother and the family came out to father, who rented the farm from Tom Morrison at Pope. At that time I was three years of age. In March 1915, my father moved up to the Isabella district renting the N½ of sec. 33-twp. 14-R25 from Mr. Henry Fisk for three years, at the end of which time he bought the half. Mr. Jardine had owned this farm before Mr. Fisk and to the best of my knowledge, he was the first one to break the land. His first buildings were on the N.E.¼, later building on the N.W.¼ where the buildings are still located. The house was built in 1906 and the barn a few years later.

There are two wells on the farm — a dug one, 45 ft. deep, just outside the house and a drilled one 205 ft. deep in the barn.

My father bought the W½ of sec. 3-twp. 15-R25 from Charlie Allen but it was formerly owned by Miller and Phillips. This gave him a section of land. My father was always interested in showing Clydesdale horses and did so, wherever he lived. He was a director of the Isabella Agricultural Society and won many prizes at the fairs they held. My mother had a large flock of hens and I can remember during World War I, she received sixty cents a dozen for eggs. Father farmed actively until his death in 1937. My mother then moved to Decker where she lived until her death in 1955. There were five boys and one girl in the family.

Bill, the eldest, was finished his schooling when we moved to Isabella. He worked in Trail, B.C. for two or three years. After he returned home he worked for Ernie Lawn, then went north to Birch River where he homesteaded and is still living. He is married and has five children.

Sandy, the second son, went to Birch River after he completed his schooling at Isabella where he homesteaded land. He is married and has two children.

Margaret, the fourth child, took her schooling at Isabella and married Alex. Scorgie and they live at Birch River. They have two children.

Arthur, the fifth child, went to the Isabella school. He lived on and farmed the S.W.¼ of sec. 10-twp. 15-R25. He married Mabel Clark. He was killed in October, 1937.

Gordon, the sixth child, received his schooling at

Isabella. He died at the early age of 18 years in 1928.

I started school the fall before we moved to Isabella. I took all the rest of my schooling at Isabella. After finishing school I worked for my father. At the age of 18 years I, too, went to Birch River and homesteaded a quarter section, also bought a quarter. I proved up my homestead also helping my father at Isabella at the same time. I then sold the half section at Birch River to my brother, Sandy. In 1934 I rented the farm from my father and in 1937 I married Margaret Robb of Dropmore. I bought the S.E. quarter of 3.15.25 from Robert Adams in 1948 and the North half of 33.14.25 from my mother in 1952. Then in 1955 I bought the west half of 3.15.25. Now I had a section and a quarter of good land to farm.

We have remodelled the house and made improvements on the out buildings. We also built a large machine shed in the past years.

I was on the first board of the Community Center. My wife has served as secretary and president of the Isabella W.I. and while my son was growing up I managed and coached the Isabella Midget Hockey Team 1954-55. We reached the semi finals in the M.A.H.A. provincial play-offs, playing teams as far north as Swan River and south to the United States border.

Our hobby is showing horses. At the early age of 14 I first started with a team of Clydsdales. I showed heavy horses until 1937. Then after a few years without showing I started showing light horses. We have attended all the local fairs, also the Brandon Winter and Summer fairs. We have one horse raised by Lawrence Stevenson. He is twenty years old and can still take first prize. We have collected many trophies and awards through the years and enjoy the work. My wife, son, and daughter all ride and drive the horses at fairs.

Margaret Elizabeth, our daughter, attended Isabella School, worked in Dr. William's office in Hamiota and the Miniota Creamery. She married Jim Joseph in 1959. They live at Reeder and have two children — Margaret Carol-Ann and Ross James.

Robert Arthur, our son, attended Isabella school and lives at home where he has helped me on the farm. In 1961 he bought the west half and south east quarter of 3.15.25 from me. He has played hockey since his early years, playing with Isabella, Birtle, and Hamiota and is now with Decker Club.

In the forty-seven years that I have lived here, I cannot recall a complete crop failure on this farm.

Update

by Jim and Margaret Ross

There has been a few changes in our family life. Our daughter, Margaret Elizabeth (Betty) has had



Margaret and Jim Ross.



Gordon Joseph, Terry and Carol Thomas, Betty and Sandra and Ross Joseph, 1981.

Two more children, Gordon Garfield, and Sandra Lea Joseph.

In 1970, March 3rd Jim Joseph, Betty's husband, died quite suddenly. They had moved from Reeder and built a new home in Elkhorn. He spent only a short while there before he passed away.

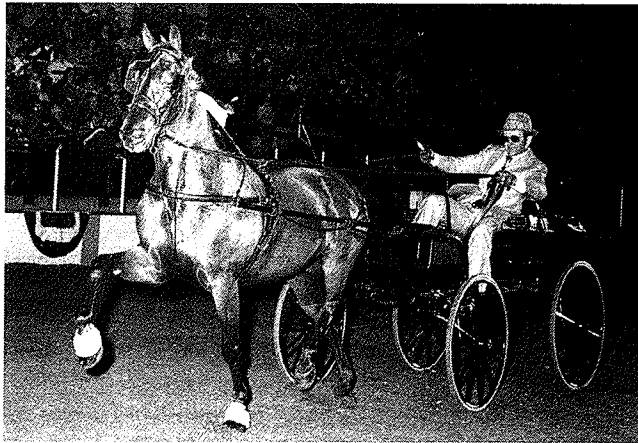
Jim had also bought a farm eight miles north of Elkhorn. Betty and the boys have quite a number of horses and cattle and grow their own hay and grain. Ross with the help of his Mother, and brother Gordon run the ranch. Carol at the present time works at the Elkhorn creamery. Sandra is still attending school.

Our son, Robert Arthur (Bob) was married December 1964 to Arlene Poole of Kemnay, Manitoba. They have one son, Robert Jeffery (Jeff), who was born December 10th, 1965, and is attending Birtle school. Jeff enjoys sports, he plays hockey with Miniota Hockey clubs, and baseball, and fastball with Isabella.

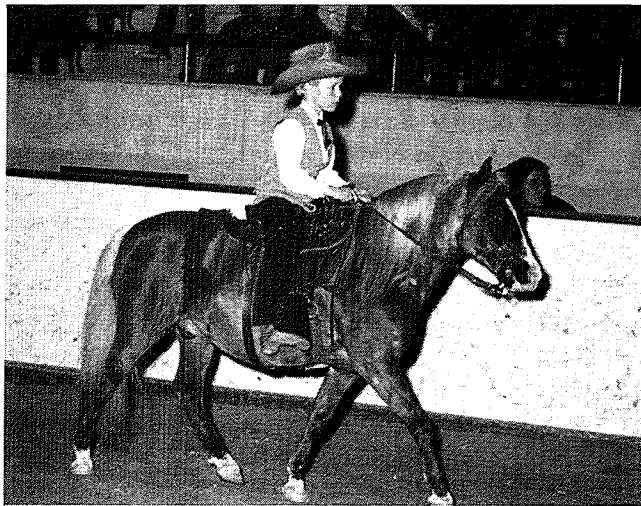
Bob and Arlene and Jeff are still much involved



Arlene Ross driving Holiday's Dasher, 1981.



Bob Ross and Mr. Jet-Away, 1980.



Jeff Ross and his first pony, Royal Manitoba Winter Fair, 1973.

in the showing of their Hackney ponies and roadsters. They have collected many prizes and trophies. They have competed at the Toronto Royal, Brandon, Regina fairs, and the larger local fairs. Their Hackney ponies have been purchased from the States.

In 1964 we built a new home on the farm, and farmed till 1973. We then sold the home farm to Bob, the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of 33-14-25 and we still reside on the farm.

In January 1975, Sandy Ross passed away at Lillooet, B.C. and in August 1980 Bill Ross passed away at Birch River, Manitoba.

Rev. and Mrs. Walter Ross

written by Laura Clark

Rev. Walter Ross and Mrs. Ross served on the Isabella-Orrwold Field during the years of 1914 to 1919. They had come west from Eastern Canada. They are very kindly remembered by the people who were in their congregation at that time. Their daughter, Helen, was born while they were here, the first of the two babies born in the manse. The only other baby born there, was Harold King, son of Rev. W. King and Mrs. King, who followed Mr. Ross on the field.

Mr. Ross was a Presbyterian minister, but continued as minister following the uniting of the Isabella Presbyterian and Methodist congregations in 1917. After leaving the Isabella charge he remained with the continuing Presbyterian Church.

In 1947, Mr. and Mrs. Ross were in Victoria, B.C., serving the congregation of the Pioneer Presbyterian Church of that city, St. Paul's, a little brown church standing on a high out-cropping of rock.

They later served at Salmon Arm, and while in this area, lived for a time in Penticton.

For a number of years now, his work has been in Fort William, Ontario, where a new church was built under his charge. When Mrs. Ross became seriously ill, their daughter Mrs. G. Jewell, came to be with them. Since her mother's death, she and her family have continued to stay and care for Mr. Ross.

Mr. Ross has continued active in his Master's business, with some three hundred people on his visiting list. In the spring of 1961, while on a visiting mission, he fell and broke his hip. After several months in bed, he was able to be up and around, and again take up his work of bringing cheer and help to sick and shut in members of his church. His life has been a wonderful witness for the Master whom he has served so happily and devotedly.

1982 — no update.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Rowles

written by W. Rowles

You write asking me to tell something of the early days of the Isabella and Blaris districts.

I was not one of the earliest to come into that part. Many of the others came in 1882. I arrived in 1888.

On the night of August 6, I came to work for Mr.

Frank Campbell. I left Beulah about ten o'clock at night and rode with my wife, Mrs. Campbell, and three children. And, oh was it cold! I made many cold trips during the next years but remember that as one of the coldest.

The next morning when we got up the ground was all white and the grain all frozen.

Later, I went around threshing. Oats escaped the frost. Farmers traded work. Mr. T. Stevenson was teaching in the Blaris School and I took his place threshing. He paid me with home cured bacon for 7½ cts. a pound.

Later that fall I bought a yoke of oxen, rented an empty house, and set up housekeeping. We had to haul water from Mr. Wm. Hill's farm. On New Years day, 1889, as I was going for water, Eva, my wife, wanted to go along. So off we went, Eva sitting on a box on the stone boat. There was a total eclipse of the sun that day and soon after we started it began to get dark. We did not know anything about it and got a bit nervous. If I remember right, it was cloudy or we would have got wise. Later at the well, the ox started with a jerk and Eva went backwards. Two days afterwards our first baby was born.

Mrs. D. Hill, a neighbor farmer's wife, supervised the event and shortly after, left for home. I was left in charge. The baby cried and cried. I did not know what to do. Finally I broke some bread into a basin and put boiling water on it. After it stood awhile I removed the bread, added sugar to the water, and fed to the baby with a spoon, with the result she went to sleep and slept for hours.

The Blaris School was built in 1885 and from that time on church service was held, with Methodists and Presbyterians alternating.

When we arrived the Methodist minister was a tall man with a long black beard. He was a fair preacher. He left the following year.

The Presbyterian was from the Hebrides Islands, a man named McArthur. His sermons were something to remember. Not what he said, but the weariness of listening, wondering when he was going to quit — and this after an hour or more of Sunday school. I remember Mr. Wm. Iverach reporting a Sunday school convention saying, it had been emphasized that school should not last longer than an hour. He would go further and say church service, likewise. Mr. MacArthur was in the porch and overheard. He said, "I read in the Bible 'Thou shalt worship the Lord Thy God', but I cannot find where it says for only sixty minutes." However, Mr. McArthur left, going to New Zealand and was followed by a Mr. MacMillan who was a very good preacher seldom talking more than twenty minutes.

As to land held by me, I entered for my home-

stead in August, 1888, the S.W. quarter of 28-14-25. It was 1892 before we moved onto it. I drove north about forty miles to a saw mill and got a thousand feet of lumber for \$16.00 and with neighbors help, built a shack and we lived in that about eight years. In 1907, we built a house of eight rooms with concrete blocks. The water supply was not good. The quarter was rolling and only average. In 1900, I bought the N.W. quarter of 21-13-25, south of the homestead. For this I paid \$900.00. It was a fairly good quarter. Later I bought the N.E. quarter of 29-14-25 for \$22.00 an acre. This was a good quarter. Only about three acres of waste land on it. All the land was much alike — medium heavy.

One of the memorable events of those early years was the hailstorm of 1896. We were about in the middle of it and got the full brunt of it. I had forty five acres of wheat and twenty five of oats and it was a beautiful crop. My! I was proud of that crop. About six o'clock on August 2nd, the storm struck and in a few minutes there was nothing. I had oats in the granary from the previous year. The roof blew off and they were soaked. We had a hay flat that had just dried and we planned to cut it on Tuesday. When the storm was over, it was a lake. Why the single board shack did not blow away was strange, but it didn't. The lightning struck the wire fence a few yards away.

In the early days debates were held in the Blaris school, which were mostly very interesting. The subjects were varied. The first one that I took part in was "One could learn more by reading than by observation." I was on the observation side and though I was doing well by saying that Sir Isaac Newton discovered the law of gravity by observing an apple fall from a tree. By a slip of the tongue I said he **invented** the law. I was not allowed to forget that.

In the early nineties, a branch of the Women's Missionary Society was organized and took in a big district. Miss Lynch, afterwards Mrs. Huntsman, was president. Then my wife was appointed and held the post till we came west in 1912.

When it was reported that a railroad was to be built through the district, Mr. Wm. Iverach said, "If the Roblin government builds a railroad through here, I will give an oyster supper for the community." The railway came and in due course my wife and I had a written invitation on a certain date. It was held in the school. Mrs. McPherson was in charge of preparing the oyster stew in the cloak room. It was windy, and the stove smoked, with the result that the stew was hard to take. There was an entertainment of sorts, speeches, etc. which was better. Mr. Iverach was sitting at the head table as Mayor of Isabella. Upon leaving we were each charged 65 cents.

Some ten years ago, the two Heises, Mrs.

Iverach, my wife and myself had dinner here together. Our combined age was four hundred twenty years. I am the only one left. My wife was ninety-two when she died.

1982 — no update.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Sawyer **written by Mrs. W. Shepherd**

The farm belonging to Harry Sawyer, was 35-15-26 in what was known as the Shamrock district. The west half of this section was level with quite a lot of wooded area. The east half was rolling and hilly due to the fact that the Minnewasta Creek ran through the south-east corner of the farm. The buildings were located on these hills so there was an outstanding view of the countryside to the south and east.

Harry Sawyer was born at Oak River, in 1889. In 1906, he came to Beulah with his mother, father, brothers and sisters. In 1913, Harry and his brother, Alf, bought 35-15-26 from a Mr. Harrison. Harry and Alf broke most of the land on the west half of this section. In 1918, Harry Sawyer married Mary Still, whose parents were residents of the same district. They had two children: Verna (Mrs. Sid McCall) now residing at Foxwarren, Man. and Edith (Mrs. Wilf Shepherd) now residing at Beulah.

In 1921, Alf Sawyer purchased his own farm in the Beulah district and Harry took over all of 35-15-26.

Perhaps one of the greatest hardships of the Sawyer family was transportation. The roads at that time and up until 1953, were in poor condition. In winter time they were blocked with snow for months at a time and in summer they were often so full of mud holes they were almost impassable. During the winter the girls would leave for school before daylight and it would be dark when they got home. During the wet periods of the summer, the winter vans were changed over to what was called a "Bennett Buggy". Bennett Buggies were rubber tired wagons drawn by a team of horses during the dirty thirties, when people could not afford to buy gas for their cars. R. B. Bennett was Prime Minister of Canada. The economic condition of the country was blamed on the Conservative Government, so the buggies were called after the Prime Minister. The girls went to school in them. One incident that happened during one of these wet spells stands out in the children's minds. The mosquitoes were very bad and the van driver, thinking he would get rid of them, lighted the fire in the stove in the van and removed the pipe in order to smoke the pests out. Instead of smoking the mosquitoes out he smoked the children

out and they walked the biggest part of the way to school in the rain and mud.

In the early part of this time, Harry hauled all his grain to the elevator at Isabella with the team and sleigh during the winter. It was a long, cold trip.

The seven roomed house on this farm was of frame construction and was built by Mr. Harrison. Mr. Sawyer built the present barn in 1938, obtaining most of the lumber from the lumber mills north of Roblin.

Mr. Sawyer was a trustee of the Shamrock Community Club from the time of its formation until his death. He helped a great deal in the organizing and building of the Shamrock Hall. For years Harry was a familiar figure taking the money at the door for the Shamrock dances.

Mrs. Sawyer was a quiet person by nature but in her own way helped a great deal in the community with fowl suppers, lunches and bazaars. Perhaps the kind of person Mrs. Sawyer was is pretty well covered in this remark that was made by a friend of hers at the time of her death. "I never heard her say an unkind word about anyone."

One of the great advantages of this farm was its abundant supply of water. During the dry thirties people hauled water for miles from this farm and again in 1961.

Mrs. Sawyer passed away in 1952 and Mr. Sawyer in 1961.

Bob and Jessie Scarth

The Scarth story appears in the William Iverach history under the heading of "This Old House" by Mrs. R. Scarth.

Twenty years later! Can it really be that long?

By 1962 we were alone on the farm and finding work a bit too hard for us. We stayed until the fall of 1968 when Bob was over 70 years of age and not as strong and healthy as he once was. But, how to make up our minds to leave the place we loved so well, and the community which had been home, and such a good place to bring up our family for so many years? Hard decisions indeed.

We rented the farm in the fall of 1968, spent the remainder of that year with our children, and in January 1969 we came to Victoria, B.C. We found a little house on a nice lot, on what was then a quiet street in a nearly rural area. After three years we knew we would settle here, and sold the farm. We have had 12 years in this house. We have made improvements to house and yard. Conveniences have come such as street lights, sewers, paved roads. Many new people have moved in, traffic is much heavier, but some of the old neighbors are still here.



Bob and Jessie Scarth and family, 60th Wedding Anniversary, 1981.

We still live in a friendly community with good bus service and a good shopping spot.

The Saanich Silver Threads organization has added a great deal to make life interesting and very worthwhile. Bowling and other games are played, many great social occasions take place, and our choir meets every Monday morning to practise.

Nearly every year we have been able to go home to Manitoba. Many friends have come to see us, and family members have been most kind and thoughtful of us, so the bond between the old home and the new have been kept strong.

Flora and her husband are still in Winnipeg. Cliff, handicapped by a stroke, is still able to enjoy summers at their cottage at the lake and gives us great pleasure with his letters typed with his good left hand. Flora still works at the Medical Clinic.

Robert and his wife Dorothy are still involved with education in Winnipeg schools. Both daughters are married. Lorna and her husband Alex Sanderson are parents of lovely little Jennifer Ann, born February 20, 1979, and James Robert, born October 2, 1981. They reside in The Pas. Isla married Terry Chartrand and they reside at Waterhen, Manitoba.

Shirley and her husband, Carman Ryan, are still farming at Foxwarren. Shirley helps at school, principally with the music at festival time. Their daughter, Patricia, and husband, Roy Reagh, have three sons: David Michael, born December 16, 1974; Leslie Ryan, born July 12, 1977; Kelly Scott, born March 20, 1980. They live at Binscarth. Julie Ryan married Kevin Bridgeman of Rivers. She attends Brandon University, and is as busy with her good horses as time allows.

Kay lost her husband, William Kelly, after a long

battle with illness. She is now married to Lloyd Weibe, lives in a beautiful home in Saskatoon, and is happily employed in a little kitchen shop. Her daughters are both married. Margaret married Frank Quance, she is teaching nursing at Grace Hospital, Winnipeg. Frank is at the University of Manitoba. Judith married Larry Gies. They have a daughter, Lisa Jill, born April 16, 1981. They reside on their farm at Beulah.

Barrie and Shirley have made the usual number of moves common to RCMP personnel: from Regina Training Centre to Vancouver, Brandon, Winnipeg, Newfoundland, Victoria. At present Barrie is an inspector in Ottawa. His oldest son has just graduated from the University of Halifax. Michael is working with computers in Kingston. Rob is ready for Carlton University, and Karen is still at home.

We hope Margaret and Lyle will write a story of their travels some day. The International branch of the Royal Bank has taken them to some interesting places: from Winnipeg to Freeport, Montreal, Jamaica, New York and the Barbados. Schools for the children have been of great concern and the stories of their education and its adventures will be good reading some day. This fall no child will be home, and each will be in a different school. The two older boys are ready for University. Doug will be back at Ridley and Carol at a girls' school in Toronto.

We are proud to know that all our grandchildren have happy homes; their welfare and education being a major concern of their parents. In spite of that first concern, we have been shown the greatest kindness, love and consideration from everyone of our children. In proof of which, we have been notified that everyone of them is planning to come to Victoria to celebrate with us our 60th anniversary. We have had many blessings showered on us over many years. God is good.

Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Schapf

Mr. Abraham Schapf came to this district from Minnedosa. He was a partner with T. C. Lewis in a well drilling business. They drilled wells around here for some time, then purchased the W ½ of 21-15-25 which was later sold to Robert T. Clark. Mr. Schapf and wife, Olga, died several years ago. Their only son, George, is also deceased. His wife and family live in Edmonton, Alberta.

Alfred and Gladys Schweitzer

by R. Rockley

Alfred John was born on May 19, 1898, at Mildmay, Ontario in the county of Carrick. He was the third son of the late George and Almeida

Schweitzer. He had two sisters and four brothers: Milton, Margaret (Mrs. Henry Lints), Wilfred, Marion (Mrs. A. E. Brad), Jack, and Herbert. Jack, in his 80th year, is the only family member living.

Alf came west in 1912 and lived with his brother-in-law and sister, Henry and Margaret Lints, at Decker, Manitoba. He worked for Henry for four years.

In World War I he enlisted with the Canadian Engineers, and was sent to England and France for training. When peace was declared, he left England April 1, 1919; returned to Halifax on the boat (The Meagean); and received discharge papers at Toronto. His home town community of Mildmay presented him with a solid oak plaque, decorated with two scrolls of the Emblem of Canada, his picture in uniform, and his name engraved on it. This plaque has always hung in the livingroom of our parents' home.

Alf liked the West, and returned to Decker, and worked for Henry and Margaret until he married Gladys Muriel Anderson.

Gladys was born on March 5, 1903 at the home farm, 12-15-25, one mile south of Decker. She was the youngest child of the late Douglas and Ann Anderson. She had two brothers, Allan and Arthur, and three sisters: Adeline (Mrs. James Mitchell), Jennie (Mrs. Walter Colbeck), and Victoria (Mrs. Norman Lints). Gladys, in her 79th year, is the only living member of her family. Her mother, Ann, met with an unfortunate accident, falling into an open cellar, while giving music lessons at one of her pupil's home. She never recovered and passed away on Gladys' first birthday. Gladys received her education at Arrowton and Decker schools. She loved her home and often remarks about the good times, and dances they had. If a storm came up the guests would stay overnight. The big white house was torn down many years ago, and the farm is now owned by Mrs. Jessie Wall.

Alf started farming on a quarter section he bought from Mr. Ed Allingham, and another quarter north of Isabella.

In 1923 he gave up farming and went to work for other farmers; later he bought a sawing outfit, and sawed wood for regular customers for about fourteen years.

The few years, 1933-36, in which we lived in the Isabella Community, were happy ones. We had the best of neighbors — the Harry and Jack Finkbeiners, Cecil Wall, Ralph Phillips, Ernest Bedford, and our relatives. We lived in the house on section 14-15-25, owned and farmed by Mr. Harry Quinton. The farm is now owned by Elgin Knight. The house is now situated in Decker and owned by Lyle and Olive

Johns. We remember the good teachers and friends at school. I often wondered how Elmer (Johnnie) Finkbeiner put up with us. In the winter van, when Johnnie was not looking, we would climb out and ride on the sleigh runners. I thought of this years later, when we were responsible for transporting children to and from school.

In 1937 Alf bought a quarter section, 24-15-24, at Lavinia and farmed there for eight years. In 1945 he purchased a half section north of Decker, later another quarter from Mr. Jack Norton. In 1951 he sold the west half to his nephew, Harvey Lints, and bought the Mr. William Jamieson farm, 29-15-24. Alf's son, Russell, took over the farm in 1956 and Alf and Gladys went to Kindersley, Saskatchewan, to manage a senior citizens' home (Sunset Lodge). They stayed for six months and then returned to Decker to take on the caretaking of the Decker School. In 1961 they bought a half section from Mr. James Gammack, the farm now owned by Russell.

Alf and Gladys had a family of seven: Ruth Eunice, Marie Almeada, Margaret Mae, George Alfred, deceased, Russell Harvey, Shirley Ann, and Audrey Jean.

Ruth was born April 8, 1922 and received her education at Decker, Isabella and Lavinia schools. She was a telephone operator and married Albert Rockley in 1945. They have no family. They are submitting their own history.

Marie, born October 13, 1924, received her education at Decker, Isabella, Lavinia, Shoal Lake and Winnipeg. She is a teacher who married Armann Solvason of Woodlands. Armann is a foreman for the United Grain Growers. They live in Winnipeg. They had three sons: Douglas Armann, born 1949; Donald Harvey, born 1950, died 1968; Arthur Norman, born 1953. There are four grandchildren: twins, Bryon and Matthew; Danya, and Anders.

Margaret, born May 17, 1927, attended school at Decker, Isabella, and Lavinia. She worked as a clerk in stores at Shoal Lake, Decker, and Winnipeg. She married Raymond (Ray) Gregory of Decker. Ray is assistant time keeper for the city of Winnipeg. They have one daughter, Linda Fay, born 1950, and a son, Raymond Dwain, born 1952. There is one granddaughter, Angela.

George was born in 1928 and died in 1928. He lived only a few days.

Russell was born May 25, 1930. He attended school at Isabella, Decker, and Lavinia. He married Faye Marie Collins of Darlingford. Faye was a hairdresser. They have three sons, and a daughter: Larry Russell, born May 31, 1957; Cameron John, born April 16, 1959; Lee Ann, born November 12, 1961; Wayne Keith, born November 4, 1967. The family

farm three and a quarter sections of land. They are members of the Decker United Church, take part in community affairs, enjoy curling and hockey. Russell is an associate member of the Decker Legion.

Shirley was born December 9, 1932. She attended school at Lavinia and Decker. She married Douglas Heise of Isabella. She worked as a clerk in the store, and helped at home. They have two sons and two daughters: Harvey, Glenda, Lorelle, and Martin. Doug and Shirley will write their own history.

Audrey was born November 11, 1937 and attended school at Lavinia and Decker. She started to work as a clerk for Neb and Kay Curll in their Red and White store in Hamiota, and has worked most of her life in grocery and jewellery stores. She married Elgin (Gus) Angus of Hamiota. They have one son and twin daughters. Craig was born June 22, 1958; Sharon and Cheryl were born November 21, 1959. Audrey and Elgin have a granddaughter, Andrea. Elgin, Audrey, and Craig have formed a company and own and operate a garage business in Chilliwack, B.C.

Gladys resides in Decker and is a member of the Decker United Church and U.C.W. She enjoys helping with community activities. In summer she takes care of her own yard and has a large garden. She also makes quilts, does crochet work, knitting, etc. in winter time. She received a Certificate of Merit from the Canadian Red Cross in 1979.

Alf was a good husband, father, and grandfather. We all miss him very much. He passed away on March 10, 1965.

The family say "Thank-you" to the Isabella History Committee for giving us the opportunity to write this history.

Robert Howard Scott written by A. E. Brad

Robert Scott was born at Dominion City, Manitoba. He went to Isabella in 1911 and operated the General Store from 1911 to 1919. He then moved to Strasburg, Sask. He died and is buried there.

Mrs. Ethel Marie Scott was born at Dominion City, Man. At the time of her death, she was living in London, Ontario. Mr. and Mrs. Scott had two children, Mrs. Clarence Peterson, born at Isabella, who is now living in London, Ontario. Robert Clare Scott, born at Isabella, is now living at Kapuskasing, Ontario. One child died two days after it was born and is buried in the Isabella Cemetery.

John and Catherine Seales by Winnifred Seales

My father, John Charles Seales, was born in Sta-

pleford, England, in 1882. At the age of twenty-three he married Catherine Argyle of Derbyshire, England. In 1905, they emigrated to Canada, settling in the Isabella District. He worked in the district for some time before farming on Sec. 32-15-25 with his brother-in-law, Charles Argyle.

Four daughters were born to them, Annie Maude, the eldest, who died in infancy, Freda, Alice and Winnifred. My mother passed away April, 1920.

A few months later my father's sister, Harriet Goff, her husband, Horace and son Percy came from England to live with us. Horace Goff became the caretaker for the Isabella Schools, but after three years they decided to return to England, and my father took over the job of caretaking.

In December 1929 my father married Mrs. Dora Koppers, who had three sons, Maurice, Alex and Ivor. In 1944 they moved to Winnipeg and lived there until my father died in May, 1946 at the age of sixty-four.

Freda left Isabella in 1939 and worked in Winnipeg for a short time, then, moved to Portage la Prairie and worked there until 1950. She moved to Winnipeg and worked for twenty-five years with Love's Leathercraft until she retired in 1975.

Alice married Erle McDougall of Portage la Prairie, Manitoba in 1934. During World War II Erle was overseas from 1940 until 1945. In 1947 Alice and Erle moved to Marathon, Ontario, where they still reside. Alice and Erle had three children, Ronald, Erla and Janice. Ronald, the eldest, died in 1945, after a lengthy illness at the age of nine. Erla married Fred Frame of Marathon, Ontario. They have a son, Mark, and a daughter, Heather. Janice married Lloyd Samec of Marathon, Ontario. They have a daughter, Jennifer and a son, Adam.

I, Winnifred moved to Portage la Prairie, Manitoba in 1935. During the War, I worked at #7 Air Observer's School. In 1945 I was employed at the Portage la Prairie Mutual Insurance Company and was with them until 1952 when I moved to Winnipeg. I worked for the General Accident Company of Canada from 1953 until I retired in 1980.

Ed Sisney

Mr. Sisney was a bachelor who lived on S.W. ¼ 11-15-25 (now owned by Wall family). He put buildings on this farm. He gave his life for his country in World War I.

Edmund and Joan Shaw by Joan Shaw

From 1930 to 1933 I spent three very happy years as the teacher of Blaris rural school. The pupils who

attended this institution at that time were very well-mannered; well adjusted to life; and, at no time was there any need to discipline any of them. They were a joy to work with. I attribute this to the respect that their parents had for the teacher. My boarding place, the home of Ernie and Allie Sunley, was a home away from home. These were the years of the depression but that didn't deprive those who lived in the area of good wholesome pleasures. I recall so well the fun everyone had at the dances in which every member of the family joined. As I reflect on those days, I remember that everyone was very kind to me.

On July 1, 1933, I married Edmund Shaw. We farmed in the Cardale district until 1965; when, because of Ed's poor health, we retired to Hamiota. We had a family of seven children but one of our darling daughters died at the age of two years. Presently we have sixteen grandchildren, everyone very precious to us. Ed passed away in January, 1980, a victim of emphysema which had plagued him for almost twenty years. Generally speaking, life has been very kind to me and for this I am indebted to the loving kindness of my immediate family, my relations, and my many, many friends.

Tom and Margaret Shelley by Helen (Shelley) Schneider

Tom Shelley was born in Little Haywood, Colwich, England on February 14th, 1884. He came from a large family and was forced to earn his own living at an early age. He often spoke of his life as a butler, of one job in particular — cleaning the silverware. "None of that slip-shod stuff we get away with these days." Another job was that of gardener and worker in the nurseries. Knowledge and skills gained there served him well in later years and was evident by the nice trees and grounds surrounding his, and Mother's home in Abbotsford.

Tom Shelley came to Canada in the early 1900s. His journey seemed to be ill-fated as the passage was really rough and crew and passengers alike were very ill. The train which was to carry them from the east coast westward, caught fire and Dad as well as many others, escaped with only the clothes they had on. Dad did not give up easily and jokingly laughed about being a "green Englishman" with nothing but the suit he wore and his Christy Stiff to his name.

He worked in Manitoba, near Isabella, as a farm laborer for a number of years. It was there he met Margaret Elliott, who later became his wife. About 1908 he continued westward, working at various jobs in the Edmonton area.

In June, 1911, Tom Shelley, James Stewart (brother of Mrs. Sam Clark), Jack Scott, as well as a number of other men clubbed together to hire a "Locator" to



Mrs. Shelley, 90th birthday party.

take them to the Peace River country, at a price of \$300.00 each. They travelled as far as Athabaska, a distance of 100 miles by team, from there they took the boat up the Athabaska River to a point where they had to portage a distance of 17 miles, among stumps and mud holes. They made the portage by team and a three seated democrat, three men in each seat. Several times they had to walk, as the democrat became bogged down. At one point the democrat upset, landing the only white shirted gentleman, who refused to get out, in the mud.

After this portage they took a boat again as far as Grouard on Lesser Slave Lake. Another hundred miles by team got them to Peace River, which at that time consisted of one store, the Hudson's Bay Co., a hotel, a telegraph office and two shacks. The river was in flood so they were held up until the driftwood was cleared and the ferry could run again. Shelley, Scott, and Stewart travelled 12 miles along the valley and up, what was called, Bricks Hill, near the English Mission. They picked a homestead that was only prairie with brush and bush, and returned to Grouard to file on it. Dad filed on the S.W. 1/4 10, 23, - 23, west of the 5th M. They then returned to Edmonton. The trip back was even worse, as it had rained so much.

In Edmonton they worked in the Cardiff Mines to make what was called a "grub stake". They made enough to buy a team and an outfit to get back to their homestead in the spring. The return trip in the spring of 1912 was uneventful, other than the crossing of the Rapids.

They lived in a tent until they had taken out enough logs for each to build a shack on his own place. The summer was spent putting up hay all of which was lost when fire swept the country.

1912 was the driest year on record in this country, with the following being the wettest. The river overflowed and ran down the streets of Peace River town. Rabbits were practically the only source of meat in the winter of '13 and '14. Our father claimed he ate so many rabbits that he could never face one again.

The process of getting land for crop was slow, as all clearing was done with an axe, and breaking the ground was done with a walking plow. Freightng by team from Edmonton in the winter was hazardous and a strenuous way to bring in a little income, as those pioneers were forced to do in order to survive and get ahead.

Dad told of times when it was so cold — 60 below or more — that a horse could hardly breathe, and a man had to walk in front of the team to break the wind and stopping often to thaw the icicles from the nostrils of the horses with their bare hands. In better times they walked behind the sleigh to keep warm. Sometimes they could see the funny side of these tests of endurance. One such time was when Dad's freight load consisted of two Sisters and their personal belongings, one article of which was a cook stove. The country being a liquor prohibition area, Dad figured a good place to hide a couple of bottles would be in the woodstove. Sisters would not be suspected. When they reached the Peace River hill, it was necessary to "rough lock" the sleigh, to hold it back. Despite this precaution, the sleigh slid and everything was upset and went rolling down the hill, breaking the precious bottles.

In the summer, Dad worked on the D. H. Thomas, freightng north; and any other job that he could get that would bring in an extra dollar. They helped to pay the land taxes by working with a team and Fresno scraper on road building.

In January, 1916, he and Margaret Elliott were married; at last the cooking job was shifted! Dad always said that as a bachelor, he was always appointed to be cook, no matter how bad the meals were. No one ever complained, he knew he would get the job.

Margaret was the youngest of seven children of James and Margaret Elliott. She was born in 1878 and came with her parents from Guelph, Ontario when she was two years old to Manitoba and settled at Arrow River (see "Bridging the Years, page 294). She was educated in that area and taught school at Isabella school from 1907-1915, when she left for Peace River and her marriage.

The oldest son, Robert, now at Nanaimo, B.C., was born in October 1916. A second son, Douglas, was born in 1918. He is still living at Grimshaw, Peace River. A daughter, Helen, was born in 1921, and is now Mrs. Schneider and lives at Grimshaw. A

second daughter, Jessie, is living in Edmonton. Her name is Mrs. Pullen. She was born in 1923.

In 1918, flu hit Dad very hard, but thanks to the untiring efforts from Mother, and a bit of help from the old faithful brandy bottle, he pulled through. Some were not so fortunate.

Life on the homestead was not easy, but Mother was an efficient homemaker and with hard work and a degree of good luck, we fared very well. Mother was not a fancy cook, but meals were always tasty and wholesome. Food was seldom spoiled or wasted.

One incident she laughed about, was when she made a batch of bread. She knew it was no good from the beginning, but she would not dare let Dad know she was going to throw it out. He would eat it regardless of quality. She buried it in the garden. The warm sun made it rise, and she had to continue to bury it for several days. She always had a good garden and wild fruit was plentiful, and having our own meat, we usually sat down to a good meal. Such things as oranges and tomatoes were a rare treat. Rice pudding, rhubarb pie, and saskatoons and cream and sugar in their season were favorite desserts.

Mother was good at handwork. All the girls' clothing was handmade. Even the boys' clothing was handmade when they were young. She was very proud of a set of dishes she had won at a fair for winning most points. She entered jellies, canning, vegetables, baking, sewing, and embroidery. She did admit that one kind neighbor helped her out with a loaf of homemade bread.

The first car Dad owned was a 1925 Ford Touring, which was driven very little and was traded off the next year for a 1926 Ford Sedan, which served the family well for quite a few years. Mother was the main driver when an older operator was required. Other than that, Bob was usually at the wheel. Dad and power machinery never did get along too well. In the old Ford's later years, Bob took the high body off and converted it into a truck with a plywood cab. The entire length of the reconstructed vehicle was somewhat longer than the original, which fitted nicely into the garage. Dad always moved the end of the garage back a little when he put the truck away. Bob cut the lower part of the front end of the garage away and put an extension on so that the motor part of the truck would fit better. He remarked when he had finished, "Now if he does not stop he will be decapitated". Dad kept his head. In the mid thirties a 1930 Oldsmobile was acquired and by 1939, we kids thought we were on top of the world with a relatively new Ford V8.

Dad owned his own threshing machine, a small 21 inch at first, that was fed from one side. Later a larger one that required six to eight men with bundle

wagons and was driven by a John Deere tractor was purchased. He did custom threshing. Harvest was a great time of year, everyone was involved. Hours were long and work was hard, but nearly everyone got a good crop. Wheat that yielded 60 bushels to the acre and graded number one was not uncommon. Dad would be up shortly after four a.m. to feed his horses. He thought a lot of his horses and made sure they had time to eat. The outfit was going as soon as it was daylight and ran until dark. The separator had to be serviced with the aid of a coal oil lantern. Then, due to a shortage of help, the combine took over. One recollection of harvest was when Jack Burt put his hand in through a hole in the casing at the bottom end to take a sample of grain and lost some fingers. He would not see a doctor, removed the kernels from the wound himself, and after a day or two of rest, was back to help wherever possible.

Wheat sometimes sold for as little as 16 cents a bushel. The return from the sale of a beef or hog did not always pay the freight to Edmonton. There is a memory of shooting a dozen or so hogs as the price did not warrant shipping them.

In 1928, Dad borrowed money to buy a quarter section of land across the road from the homestead. The depression struck in the early thirties and it was nearly impossible to pay even the interest, let alone the principal. The thirties were tough years for everybody. What we would have done without storekeepers like Mr. Geyer to carry us for half the year at a time, no one knows. When Dad could sell some grain or some pigs, he would pay the store bill, and Mr. Geyer would give him a few chocolate bars. What a treat that was!! We would divide up one bar at a time, and that way they would last quite awhile.

Dad had gone to Edmonton and bought good lumber from Heywood Lumber Co. and had a basement dug in preparation for a start on a house on his homestead quarter. After purchasing the Werner quarter the decision was made to build there. Sanders and Clark were contracted, and building started. The basement was completed, walls and roof on, and that was as far as hard times would allow the construction to go. The skeleton stood there and Mother's dreams never seemed to get any closer. By 1934 the house was completed or at least made livable by the services of carpenters who would take a pig or beef in payment. Joe Rabchak was one such gentleman, who contributed many hours for very little cash payment. Tiny Raindahl's careful handiwork showed up in cupboards and various renovations. Some were made from good lumber and some from whatever could be salvaged, even appleboxes, with payment little more than room and board.

This was not a warm house as insulation was not

widely used, but it was a home with many fond memories. Mother often said she never knew who to expect for breakfast on weekends, as we all brought home a friend, an act that was common among young folks then. The oak floor and spacious room made a good dancing area. Furniture was easily moved and the walls resounded to Mother on the piano, Douglas with his guitar, and violin music from Fred or Jim St. Germain or other local talent. Sometimes a Box social or Pie social was held to make money for the school Christmas concert with Shorty Drolet as auctioneer, slyly edging the bidder on to a greater effort. Shorty tells of the time he "egged" on one ardent admirer beyond his means and had to loan him the money to pay for the chosen box, money which he never recovered. Dad loved to sing and had a good voice, so that any sing-songs are a pleasant memory.

One near disastrous incident was when a sleigh load of young folk came from the valley for a party. All were able to run behind the sleigh, except one young girl who was recovering from an operation, and was not dressed warm enough for the cold night. She was close to being badly frozen, but suffered no ill effects. So there were risks, but we remember the good times. There was very little money but many are the memories of very pleasant times.

In 1930, Mother and three of we children lived in Berwyn, so Bob could go to school, as Grimshaw had no high school at that time. Douglas stayed home with Dad. Later in the season he joined us. The porridge fare got to be too much for him. Dad made many trips to Berwyn in the cold with loads of wood to help the meagre budget.

On one of those trips Dad was travelling in the ditch to take advantage of the snow, and avoid the ice on the highway, when seemingly out of no where, the train whistle blasted behind him. The team took off across the highway, spilling the sleigh and the wood on Dad. He was pinned under with a broken collar bone, until rescued by someone who had been alerted by a passenger on the train. Bob recollected the highway being so icy that winter that he and Doug skated all the way from Grimshaw to Berwyn.

Another accident which Dad suffered was when he lead a calf home with a rope tied around his waist. The calf decided to take another route, dragging Dad a considerable distance and breaking his hip, when he landed on a stump. Even then he laughed at the plight of "The Green Englishman". He suffered much from that injury and carried a limp for the rest of his life.

In 1947, Mother and Dad left the farm and retired to the west coast. They lived in Victoria, the winter of 1947 to 1948, but returned to the mainland and bought a home in Abbotsford B.C. in the fall of 1948.

They lived in that house until Dad passed away in August 1969. Mother was forced to leave her home when she suffered a broken hip and lived in a nursing home in Abbotsford until Dad died, at which time she moved to a nursing home in Fairview. Her last years were spent in the Auxiliary Nursing Home in Peace River. Even at 97 when her eyesight was gone, Mother would sit at the piano and play the old familiar tunes. She still recited from memory, the poems of some famous authors. As well she could supply a word for a crossword puzzle when the rest of us were stuck. She passed away in June 1975.

Don and Louise Sherwin

by Louise Sherwin (Wall)

I was born November 23rd, 1940 — only daughter of Jessie and Cecil Wall of Decker, Manitoba, and sister to Johnnie and Leonard.

I went to school at Isabella, taking Grades I-XI. During that period of my life I participated in the girls' softball team, and hockey team. I was also a member of the Church Choir, the 4H Seed Club, Calf Club, and Sewing Club. I enjoyed riding horses bareback, with my friends, and also spent a lot of time on the ground after getting bucked off Jan Finkbeiner's pony. We even had a hand at riding the pigs one day — but the smell was a bit more than we could stand!! I even remember, in my earlier days, when I believed everything my brother Johnnie said "Sitting on a calf that was sleeping by the hay stack would be real fun". I sure found out, and ended up sitting in — you know what - by the side of the barn. Maybe I just wasn't cut out to be a cowgirl. The best times were in the winter when all the family went tobogganing



Back Row: Kelvin Wall, Korey Sherwin, Kris Wall, and Greg Sherwin. Front Row: Hazel, John, and Jessie Wall, Don and Louise Sherwin, Kim Wall.

down "Rockley's" hill, after Church. Quite often the teacher would come along, and then it would be back home to Mom's delicious hot Sunday supper, and lots of fun with Dad at the ping pong table or playing cards. My Dad and Mom were always ready to participate in any kind of game we wished to play. It sure was a fun time in my life.

I went to Business College with my friend, Mary Attwood. We attended the Wheat City Business College in Brandon, and stayed in a tiny cosy basement suite in a big old house on Louise Avenue. We enjoyed our Secretarial course, but the best time was home on the weekends, and at the Friday nite dances at Isabella.

My first job was working for Mr. Lawman, the lawyer in Shoal Lake. My dad bought me my first car — an old 1928 Ford which had belonged to Doug Mitchell. Boy, I sure had a lot of fun in the old car — it would go 50 mph down hill with the wind behind. Johnnie painted it Robin Egg Blue, so you could sure see me coming — that was good, as it was best to stay out of my way.

My second job was working for Mr. Daniel Levenick, the lawyer in Hamiota. After working there a year I decided to hit the big city, so a girlfriend and I went to Brandon to see what the big city could offer. I got a job as Secretary-Switchboard Operator at Frank Lawson & Sons, where I met my husband, Don Sherwin. Don was working in the Wholesale Department, and was one of my bosses. You know what they say about bosses — when they give the orders the secretary must obey, so when he said "Marry me", well what could a poor girl do but obey his wishes, which I must say I was very happy to do. Don had been promoted to managing the new Branch Office that Frank Lawson opened in Winnipeg, so after our wedding on November 12, 1960, we lived in a nice three room suite on McMillan Avenue in Winnipeg. I got a job working for Warner Bros. Pictures Distributing, as branch manager's secretary, and worked with that firm for ten years.

During our first years of marriage, as Don had always been interested in building cars, souping up motors, etc., we bought an old 1947 Anglia, and put a big fuel injected motor in it, painted it bright orange, and raced it at Bison Dragways, just east of Winnipeg. We put on quite a show as the Anglia did quite impressive wheel stands, which had the crowd on its feet whenever Don brought it up to the start.

After having the Anglia for a couple of years, we decided to build something that could go a little faster. Don and his friend, Brian Hansell, built a dragster or rail, as they are sometimes called, and they raced it in Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Edmonton, North Dakota, Tulsa Oklahoma, Denver Colorado,

Indianapolis, Indiana, and set several national records for their class of car. It was a lot of fun travelling all over the country and meeting a lot of new friends.

During this time, we bought our first house at 853 Parkdale Street in St. James, then we decided it was time to start a family, and our first son, Korey Leonard, was born on September 19, 1970. I quit work just two weeks before he was born, and we both decided that the most important place for me to be was at home raising our son. Twenty months later, our second son, Gregory Wilfred, was born on May 10, 1972. Starting a family did not make us give up our racing hobby, as I went along and took the babies too. It was a family affair wherever we went.

When we weren't together at the races, I was at home enjoying our two boys, watching them grow. I kept myself very busy with my sewing, gardening, ceramics, macrame, and my evening courses in hair cutting, and upholstering furniture.

As the years flew by our hobby progressed from a front motor dragster to Don's own home-built rear engine dragster. In fact he built two of them. Friends of ours had a tractor for pulling, and we were very interested in finding out more about this, so we took a trip to Saskatoon to see our first big Tractor Pull. The Tractor Pulling bug bit us, so we came home, sold the dragster, except for the engines, and Don started to build his tractor. He started with a Cockshutt 570 rear end, and built it up from there. Lawsons supplied the White tin, so our tractor, when it was all finished, was called "Track Boss". We entered our tractor in the Winnipeg Autorama, and won best vehicle — what a great thrill to beat out all those fancy cars with our tractor. Our first season out was a very short one — one pull only in Yorkton. We broke one small part, but Lawsons decided to move us back to Brandon, as they needed Don to take over the managing of the Firestone Store, so our tractor pulling was cut short that year.

We sold our house in Winnipeg, and left some wonderful friends with whom we still visit back and forth. We had a great life in Winnipeg, and were sad to leave, but we were all looking forward to moving to Brandon. We bought a lovely home at 49 Elmdale Blvd, and we really enjoy life here. We put in a swimming pool, so our summers are very full with swimming and Tractor Pulling. 1981 was a very good year for us, as we did really well in our Tractor pulling, winning three firsts and a third in the first four pulls. We pulled in Killarney, Moosomin, Yorkton, Saskatoon, and Brock, Saskatchewan, and did very well at them all.

Our two boys really enjoy helping their dad with his hobby, and know almost as much about motors, etc, as their dad. Korey is in Grade VI, and Greg in

Grade IV at Linden Lanes School. They both enjoy swimming lessons, and biking on their motor bikes. Greg plays ball in summer, and they enjoy skating and skiing in the winter.

We have all met a lot of nice new friends, and I am now into refinishing antique furniture, and collecting antique glassware. I always managed to find more than enough to keep me busy, enjoying my home life and family. Life has been good to us up to this time, and we hope it will continue on the same path for a long time to come.

Arthur and Dennis Shurvell by Doreen (Shurvell) Whyte

Arthur served in World War II and, while serving in England, he married his wife Dennis. They returned to Canada in 1942 after Art was injured. They moved back to England about 1946 where they still reside.

There were eight children born to them, with two sons now living in Ontario, Canada. They lost their daughter Jackie accidentally in 1970 while she was visiting in Canada. There are several grandchildren.

Art has worked as a factory foreman for a number of years for the British Admiralty. He has returned many times during the years to visit family and friends.

Cliff and Mayme Shurvell by Mayme Shurvell

Cliff was born July 21, 1916 on the farm in the Municipality of Miniota. The family moved to Isabella when he was nine years old.

Mayme was born December 11, 1916 on the farm in the community of Blaris. This was the farm where her grandfather, who came from the East in 1882, was instrumental in getting the Lucas Post Office for the pioneers. He was Post Master for many years.

Cliff received all of his education at Isabella while Mayme took her elementary grades at Blaris school which was built in 1885. She then drove by van to Isabella for her high schooling.

They were both active in sports. They played on a mixed curling team during high school. Cliff was active in hockey and our little town could boast a very good senior hockey team. The rink was a very busy place all winter.

Our family took a lot of interest in hockey as my father (Reg Campbell) played hockey until 1930 and then was Manager of the senior team for many years.

Cliff's Dad managed the grain elevator and had the oil and implement business, so when Cliff was out of school he trucked and worked for him until war broke out. He joined the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada on September 18, 1939.

Cliff and Mayme were married October 26, 1939. Cliff received his training in Winnipeg and Shilo and arrived overseas Christmas Day, 1940. Their daughter was only eight weeks old when he left for overseas.

During the war the Red Cross groups were very busy knitting, sewing, and packing parcels for the boys who had gone overseas.

Cliff was reported missing in action after the Dieppe Raid, Aug. 19, 1942. We didn't receive any more word for five weeks. Word finally came to say he was a Prisoner of War. When released two and a half years later, a group of prisoners came out by way of Odessa. I then received a cablegram from him.

On his return to Canada in 1945 we moved back to Winnipeg. After his discharge he went to work for the Department of Transport at Winnipeg Airport.

Gordon was born February 6, 1947 and Lorraine on March 4, 1949, while we were in Winnipeg.

In 1953 we moved to Broadview, Saskatchewan, where Cliff became Airdrome Keeper. Life was a bit different for the children as we were twelve miles from town and they had to go to school by station wagon in summer and bombardier in winter.

We moved to Sioux Lookout in 1956 where we remained until Cliff retired in 1974 from his job as Airport Manager.

Cliff is a member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch, #78 and a member of St. Andrew's United Church. Mayme is also a member of St. Andrew's United Church and was on Executive of Home and School and U.N.I.C.E.F. Committee. She was an active member of Ladies' Club until the forming of United Church Women and is a member of Unit II. We both enjoyed very much curling and golf.

Beverley married Stan Bruce on July 26, 1958. They reside in Selkirk, Manitoba. They have four children. Cathy married Doug Chorneyko on July 26, 1980 and they live in Neepawa, Manitoba. Judy is attending the University of Winnipeg. Debbie has graduated and is to enter college to take a computer course. Lawrence is still in school.

Gordon married Mary Mehaffey in 1966 and they live in Sioux Lookout, Ontario. They have three boys, Ken, Dan, and Dean.

Lorraine married David Scott on September 23, 1967 and they live in Corunna, Ontario. They have two children, Clifford and Kimberley.

When we retired we got Tom Belmore with the help of Danny Peters to build us a log cabin on Stronger Lake. It is twenty-seven miles north of Highway 641.

We spend our summer between the cabin and town as Cliff has a good sized garden in town. We have a trailer in Arizona and have spent three winters

there. It is always nice to get back home again in the spring.

Earle and Marcia Shurvell

by Earle Shurvell

I, Earle Shurvell, son of Herbert and Annie Shurvell, was born December 12, 1925. I attended school in Isabella until 1947, when I left to work in a shell factory in Toronto. I was there for a short time, when I joined the Merchant Navy, and sailed on the SS Aragon on the Great Lakes.

In 1944, I returned to Manitoba, and worked as a grain buyer for a number of years in a number of places. In 1953, I went to work in the oil fields in the Virden area.

On July 15, 1954, I married Marcia Park of Shoal Lake. In 1959 I purchased Virden Radiator Shop and resided in Virden until 1968. We have six children: Keith, Albert, Lynne, Calvin, Leanne, Dennis. We live at Eagle Point Lodge on North Thomas Lake, near Sandy Lake. We own and operate the Lodge there.

In 1970, I built the radiator shop in Shoal Lake, known as Shoal Lake Radiator and Glass. Our two older boys have a share in this business and they manage it. Keith lives at home. Albert married Holly Farrend in November, 1981, and they live in Newdale. Holly's father was Bob Farrend who had played hockey with a team from Isabella. Our oldest daughter, Lynne, is married to Mark Wruth, an electrician, who works for Riding Mountain National Park. They reside in Erickson. They had two children: Shanda, age 2 and Ryan, three months. Our third son, Calvin, is presently taking instruction at Assiniboine Community College, in auto body mechanics. Our youngest daughter, Leanne, is taking nurses' training at St. Boniface Hospital and is in her second year. Dennis, our youngest son, is three years old.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Shurvell

Mr. Fred Shurvell of London, England, returned home from the Boer War at twenty-six years of age, and decided that he liked the open spaces best, so came to Canada.

The C.P.R. had agents in London, who, for \$5.00 would arrange passage to Brandon, Manitoba, for \$50.00.

He came from Brandon to Miniota. Here he stayed at the Turner House the hotel operated by Harry Turner. He worked as a plasterer with Asa Shunk in the years 1903-1904.

One winter he cut wood in the Lake of the Woods area.

It was while he was in Miniota that he met Miss

Annie Jonas. Miss Jonas worked at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Conway.

Mr. Shurvell and Miss Jonas were married in Hamiota in 1907.

In 1906 or earlier he bought the farm on Sec. 26 Twp. 15 Rge. 26 which was Hudson Bay land. While farming, Mr. Shurvell threshed with the Harry Sawyer steam outfit for twenty-five years. Men were available at \$2.00 per day for eleven hours of work.

The railroad was put in by Mackenzie-Mann Construction Company, then sold to the Government. Men working on the railroad were under contract, and if they broke the contract a sum of money had to be paid in lieu of work. Mr. Shurvell paid this to have a man to help him with the harvest.

The Shurvells lived on their farm until 1955, when their farm home was destroyed by fire. They then took up residence in Birtle for a short time, then moved to Beulah, where they reside at present.

Their adopted daughter Rosie attended school in Isabella, and is now married and living at Courtney, British Columbia.

Mrs. Shurvell passed away July 7th, 1962.

1982 — Fred Shurvell passed away April 4, 1965.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Shurvell

I, Herb Shurvell, came to Beulah in 1906, then went to Birtle to work in the Butcher Shop with the Stewarts. After a few years I went to the farm of my brother, Fred, to help him. Mrs. Shurvell came out to Canada from England in 1910. We farmed until 1926 when we moved to Isabella and built a house there. I was employed with the Western Canada Elevator Company from 1927-1945. We then moved to Winnipeg where we bought a small grocery store. We kept this for two years, then sold it and went back to England. We stayed there two years then came back to Winnipeg, and resided in Charleswood for five



1968, Standing: Bill, Lloyd, Mrs. Shurvel, Cliff, Wes, Doreen, and Art. Front Row: Earle, Terry, Murray and Olive.

years. We then came to Brandon, where we still reside.

We had ten children, Terry, the eldest is the agent for John Deere Machinery in Harding, Manitoba, and has two children. Wesley, living in Winnipeg, is a postal clerk, and has three children. Clifford lives at Sioux Lookout and has three children. Murray lives in St. James and has three children. Bill is living at Elkhorn and has four children. Doreen lives in Brandon and has two children. Earle lives in Virden and has four children. Olive lives in Winnipeg and has seven children. Lloyd lives in New Westminster, B.C., and has six children. Arthur lives in England and has seven children.

During World War II, four of the family, Wesley Clifford, Murray and Arthur served overseas with the armed forces.

Update

by Doreen White

Herb and Annie celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1960. At time of writing there are 45 grandchildren and 55 great grandchildren. One son, William John, died in 1971.

During the depression years, 'Herb', as he was known to most, while an agent for Western Canada Elevator Co. saw many needy people through bad times by giving them credit for such staples as flour and oatmeal and in later years gas and oil to operate their farm equipment, and many times accepted meat, produce or chickens as payment.

He donated a portion of land to the Isabella Community upon which stands the addition of the rink (the waiting room).

Herb died April, 1965 and Annie died November 1970.

Lloyd and Alice Shurvell

by Doreen (Shurvell) Whyte

Lloyd Shurvell, youngest son of Herb and Annie Shurvell lived in Winnipeg for a number of years after leaving Isabella, and attended High School there.

While employed in Kenora, Ontario in 1952, Lloyd met and married his wife Alice. They resided in Ontario and Manitoba prior to moving to British Columbia in 1958. They returned to Brandon in 1965 and have lived there since.

Lloyd owns and operates his own windshield replacement business in Brandon, and Alice has been employed as office manager for Great-West Life for the past ten years.

Lloyd and Alice have six children.

Herbert, the eldest son has his own business in Brandon, and is married and has a young son.

Garth manages an Auto Glass Shop in Red Deer, Alberta, where he and his wife make their home.

The youngest son, Lloyd Jr., lives at home and works with his father.

Sandra married Jim Lukacin from Dryden, Ontario. Jim is in the armed forces, and they reside at Shilo with their four children.

Pamela and husband, Barry Prokopchuk, just recently moved to Brandon from Thompson with their two children. Barry is employed as an electrician.

Marilyn, the youngest daughter, lives in Edmonton, Alberta, and is a department manager with one of the Canadian Tire Stores.

Murray and Betty Shurvell

by Doreen (Shurvell) Whyte

Herbert Murray, son of Herbert and Annie Shurvell, served in World War II. After the war he worked with the Department of Veterans Affairs, the last seven years as a Field Supervisor. He retired in December 1975 after thirty-five years of service (including his army service).

He married Elizabeth Mary Holloway in 1947 and they have three sons.

Dale, a Systems Analyst, resides in Calgary with his wife Joyce, a school teacher.

Barry, a Respiratory Technologist, works at St. Boniface Hospital in Winnipeg and is married to Colleen, a Registered Nurse.

Brent, who is single, resides in Winnipeg and is employed with the Manitoba Telephone Systems.

Winnipeg has been their home since the war.

Terry and Helen Shurvell

by Terry Shurvell

I, Terry Shurvell, eldest son of Herbert and Annie Shurvell, was born June 12, 1912. We lived at that time on a completely equipped farm rented from William T. Preston. At age six we moved to Alex Preston's farm.

I started school at Beulah — Mrs. Murd Smith, using a 490 Chev. car, was one of my first van drivers. The horse-drawn vans were the main means of transportation during those years. One or two years later we were transferred to Isabella school where all members of the family attended school.

Upon leaving school, I worked as a farmhand for Mr. Wallace of Isabella; then George Armstrong, Beulah; Mrs. Sam Clark, Isabella; and Bill Ringland, of Beulah. I recall in 1928 Bill and I moved Ringland's machines from Russell Warren's to nine miles north of Solsgirth. I took a job in the garage in Isabella working for Alex Clark. My mechanical interests began.

Jobs were difficult to obtain, I was happy, with my dad's help to get a job. Dad was working as a helper in the Western Canada elevator in Forrest at the time, and found Charlie Robertson, the general store owner, needed someone to help. My selling career began under Charlie's guidance. Working from seven a.m. to twelve p.m. netted me \$20.00 per month plus my board and room. Each day I made a trip to Brandon to peddle eggs and dairy butter to fifty-two doors, returning with the stock for the store. Eggs sold at ten cents a dozen, delivered. Everyone worked hard in those days.

In the fall of 1933 I started a small store in Isabella. I married Helen Wilcocks of Birtle May 8, 1934 moving my store later that same year to Beulah where I added De Laval and John Deere dealerships to my business. In 1942 I sold the grocery business to Lloyd Wakefield in order to sell full time for De Laval and John Deere. Farming was becoming more and more mechanized during this time.

I chose to move to Harding in 1945 operating the John Deere dealership until 1965 when I closed the business to go farming. Our half section farm north west of Harding is known as the George Bridge Homestead. George was the father of Mel Bridge of Isabella. Between my son, Wayne, and myself, we still farm three quarter sections.

Wayne is also employed as a draftsman with the DND at Shilo. He married Linda Bauer of Winnipeg and they now live in Brandon.

Our daughter, Lana, a nurse, married Brian Butchart of Kenton. He is a bank manager in Spruce Grove, Alberta. They have two children, Monica and Ryan, — our only grandchildren.

Helen and I expect to retire and live in Harding where we have spent most of our married life.

James Wesley Shurvell

by Wes Shurvell

I am the second son of Herbert and Annie Shurvell. My father came to Beulah, Manitoba from London, England in 1906. My mother, Annie Jonas, came from Stenalees, Cornwall, England to her aunt's, Mrs. Fred Shurvell of Beulah. She and my dad were married in 1910. They rented the W. Preston farm (26-15-26). I was born there October 12, 1913. We also lived for a time on the M. Smith farm (14-15-26) and where G. Wierer now lives (23-15-26). I began school in Beulah.

In 1926, our family moved to Isabella where my father was employed with the Western Canada Elevator Company. I completed my Grade eleven at the Isabella school. For twelve years I worked repairing and painting elevators at various points in Southern Manitoba and Saskatchewan. In 1937 I was given the

position of grain buyer at Dalny, Manitoba for Western Canada Flour Mills.

On December 21, 1939, I married Merle Winifred Bardwell, third daughter of Wm. and Florence Bardwell. We were married at the Bardwell family home which is now the Archie Norrie residence. Merle was born in the Crandall area October 10, 1916. Her family moved to Isabella where she lived until our marriage.

We stayed at Dalny until 1940, when we moved to Alameda, Saskatchewan where I bought grain for Lake of the Woods Milling Co. Our first son, Ronald Rae, was born here, August 21, 1940.

I joined the R.C.A.F. as a Wireless Operator Air Gunner in 1942. Merle returned to Isabella during these war years. I served in Canada and the United Kingdom. June 28, 1944 our plane was shot down over Metz, France. I walked 300 km. to Southern France where I joined the British and came back through the lines to Orly Airport, France — to fly to London, arriving September 8, 1944.

In 1945, I entered public service in the Winnipeg Post Office and worked there in different stations for 32 years.

On October 2, 1945 our second child, Sandra Carole was born. Her short life ended tragically from sarcoma in October, 1952.

James Allen was born January 17, 1950. He is now a trainman-conductor with C.N.R. out of Winnipeg.

Kelvin Ross arrived June 17, 1955. Kelvin is an electrician and at present is working out his apprenticeship with Kummen-Shipman Ltd. in Winnipeg.

Ron married Helen Roth, Medicine Hat, Alberta, May 21, 1967. They have two boys, Todd Stewart born March 5, 1969 and Scott James born March 10, 1970. Ron and Helen operate Charleswood Florists in Winnipeg.

Merle passed away after a lengthy illness on May 2, 1972.

December 6, 1975, I married Norma Bryant (nee Handford), widow of Leonard Bryant, Miniota.

I retired from the Post Office in August, 1976. Norma and I reside in Miniota.

William and Alice Shurvell by Alice Shurvell

William (Bill), the sixth eldest of ten children born to Herb and Annie Shurvell, and Alice, daughter of Alva and Marion Brad, were both born and raised in Isabella.

After finishing school Bill worked for Imperial Oil Co. as well as having his own trucking business.

Bill and I were married and had two children, Rae and Joan, before moving to Elkhorn in 1945.

There, Bill took over the management of the Imperial Oil Co. He later worked for the Ogilvie Elevator Co. Bill passed away in Brandon General Hospital on Dec. 7, 1971.

We had had three more children, Jim and Judy born in Dr. Johnson's Hospital Elkhorn and William born in Virden who passed away from pneumonia at the age of four months and is buried in the Isabella cemetery.

Rae worked for Nelson River Co. when they installed the sewer system in Elkhorn. He moved with them to the White Shell area, Calgary and Kitimat where he took his apprenticeship as a steam and pipe fitter, and later received his ticket. For the past fifteen years he has worked for Celenese Co. in Edmonton where he is now pipe inspector. Rae married Chyril Collins or Virden. They have four children, Raymond and Gaye (twins), and Darrell and Brad.

After finishing school Joan trained as telephone operator in Elkhorn and transferred to the Souris telephone office and worked there for ten years. In Souris she met and married Charlie McCormick of Wapella, Saskatchewan. They now live in Brandon and have three children, Susan, Rhonda, and Randy.

Jim worked in Brandon for Brandon Plumbing and Heating. He was married to Jo-Ann Shoemaker. They have two children, Robert and Sheila. They later divorced. Jim moved to Saskatoon where he studied and received his plumber's ticket and is now operating his own business in Saskatoon. Jim married Diane Clarke and has a daughter, Lisa.

Judy trained as a telephone operator and worked for seven years in Elkhorn. Judy married Gordon Oliver of Kirkella, Manitoba and they lived in Elkhorn for six years before moving to Calgary. They have three children, Marletta, Paula and Brett.

In 1966-67 I took Practical Nurses training in Winnipeg and Souris, and after receiving my License returned to Elkhorn to work in Elkhorn Hospital.

In 1969 my father came to make his home with Bill and me. Dad passed away in Brandon General Hospital on April 9, 1978 and is buried in Isabella cemetery.

Bernard and Denise Simard by Denise Simard

I was born on a cold, blustery night in March, 1960 to Archie and Jean Norrie. I grew up with my two older sisters in the big house that my maternal great-grandfather built in 1907. I enjoyed farm life very much and I visit there as often as possible.

In 1966 I started to school at Isabella. I received my grades one and two from Miss Freida Sawatzky. I enjoyed the small school environment and was great-



Bernard and Denise Simard (insert Brian).

ly disappointed when the school closed in 1968. That fall, I began grade three in Miniota. I spent the next seven years there. In 1975 I began my high school education in Birtle. Later, I attended Red River Community College in Winnipeg. There, I enrolled in a Commercial Baking Course.

My early years were not just spent going to school. I took four years of piano lessons from Beatrice Wright. In 1969 I joined our community Explorers group. The leaders were Hannah Reid and my mother, Jean Norrie. After two years the group folded because there were only two of us in the proper age group. I sang in the church choir for several years. I also attended Sunday School. In the winter I enjoyed skating at the rink in town. The Isabella Sports Day was a high point of the summer. More people came to town then than at any other time of the year.

On June 10th, 1978, I married Bernard Simard of St. Lazare. He is the twelfth of a family of fourteen children born to Eugene and Rose Simard of St. Lazare. We lived on his brother's dairy farm where Bernard was employed. We have since moved to town. Barnard now works in Rocanville, Saskatchewan at Goodman Steel and Iron Works as a fitter-welder.

On March 2, 1981, our son Brian was born. He was delivered by Caesarean section two months prematurely. He weighed 3 pounds 13 ounces. His first days were spent fighting for his life on a respirator. Thanks to modern technology he overcame his breathing problems. After seven long weeks, we brought him home. Today he is fine despite his traumatic start in life.

Bernard and I look forward to raising our children in a small town. I hope that they will enjoy growing up in St. Lazare as much as I enjoyed my life at Isabella. Isabella is a perfect example in that it is the quality of the people and not the quantity that counts in the making of a community.

Brian and Isobel Simard

by Bernard Simard

Brian was born to Edmond and Sarah (Gwyer) Simard of St. Lazare. He was one of nine children. The other members of his family were Joe, Mary (Mrs. Eli Decorby), Hilda (Mrs. John Selby), Helen (Mrs. Eugene Fouillard), Leontine (Mrs. Ben Fouillard), Marie (Mrs. Rosaire Roy), Henry and Eugene.

Brian married Isobel Green of McAuley and they had ten children. Annie, Ted, and Allan were their eldest children and they attended school at Isabella while the family was living north of Isabella on 36-15-25. Brian worked for Ray Cooley.

They moved back to St. Lazare in 1945. They then moved to British Columbia where they have lived for the past thirty-six years.

Annie and Ted live in B.C. Allan has been in the Airforce since he was 18, he is residing in Edmonton.

Their other children; Sarah, Mary, Patsy, Daniel and Ernest all live in B.C. Lenard and Rosalie live in Calgary.

John Simms

Mr. John Simms, a bachelor, bought the N $\frac{1}{2}$ 29-15-25 from Mr. J. G. Sutherland. He drilled a well, and started farming. One day while out working he was badly kicked by a horse. Although he got to the house he was unable to get help. He was later found and given aid. Due to his broken bones, he was unable to continue farming, and he went west and bought grain for a grain company.

Murdock and Polly Smith

by Allan Smith and Dorothy Duncan

Murdock Morrison Smith was born in 1871 near Guelph, Ontario, the second son of John Smith, who came from Scotland. Murdock came west to Arrow River with his cousin, Harry Wakefield, in 1903. He worked on the railroad a year, then he bought the south half of 23-15-26 in the Miniota Municipality from a Mr. Jones. He built a two storey house and on February 22, 1905 married Mary Jane Elizabeth (Polly) Sutcliffe, who was born in Worksop, England in 1881. She came to Canada with her parents when she was three and took her schooling at Gnaton.

Seven children were born to Murdock and Polly. They attended Beulah and Isabella Schools.

Neil married Elsie Kerr and they have two sons, Darrel and Don, and one daughter, Valerie. Neil worked in the Medical Arts Building in Winnipeg. He passed away on September 10, 1976.

Allan married Evelyn Hamilton of Vista in 1942. They have three girls. Gail, born December 26,



Smith family: Jim, Dorothy, Allan, Isobel, Neil, and Marion.

1943, married Jim Paul of Winnipeg on July 20, 1974. They have two children: Charmaine, born October 3, 1976; and Jim Jr., born March 22, 1980. Wendy, born June 9, 1949, married Ray Beger of Beausejour on August 4, 1973. They live in Richmond, B.C. Dianne, born November 7, 1955, works in Winnipeg. Evelyn died June 14, 1981.

Jim married Neta Andrews of Rosssburn. They live in Rosssburn and have one son, Leonard. Jim was postmaster at Rosssburn until he retired.

Dorothy married Gordon Lawton of Birtle. They lived at Guernsey, Saskatchewan and moved to Welland, Ontario in 1941. They have one son, Murdock (Murray) who works with Canadian Tire. Gordon passed away on August 12, 1973. Dorothy married James Duncan of Surrey, B.C. on May 5, 1975.

Isobel married Jack Miller and they live at Vista, Manitoba. They have ten children: Eileen, Charles, Wally, Betty, Robeena, Dona, Lois, Ron, Fred, and Ed. Isobel died March 26, 1980.

Marion married Maynard Crookshank. Her story is included in this book.

Glen married Agnes Andrew of Rosssburn and they live in Brandon. They have two daughters, Joyce and Patsy.

Murdock died October 1, 1921 and is laid to rest in the Isabella Cemetery. Polly farmed a few years, then sold to John Wierer and moved to Birtle and later to Rosssburn. There she married Wesley Strong. She passed away on June 25, 1967 and is laid to rest in the Isabella Cemetery.

George and Eileen Snowdon by Marge Kalinowsky and Beth Anderson

Eileen Charlotte, born in 1914, was the youngest of the Melville Bridge family. After completing her highschool education at Isabella, Eileen took a psychiatric nurses' training at Brandon Hospital for

Mental Diseases. She nursed there for eight years before marrying George Snowdon, of Rivers.

Eileen and George spent most of their married life in Rivers and Killarney, and in the United States where George was a circuit minister. In later years, George had a Body Shop in Rivers and Killarney. Eileen worked in nursing homes in both these places. They were very active in the church community. Eileen died in 1972. George now resides in Esterhazy, Saskatchewan.

George and Eileen had three children: Joan, Wayne and Larry. Joan was born May 5, 1940. She trained as a psychiatric nurse and married Wilfred Bollenback. They reside in Selkirk, where Wilf is employed as a social worker. They have one son Brian, who is attending school.

Wayne was born June 13, 1941. He went into the garage business. He married Audrey Freeman of Killarney. They now reside in Nanton, Alberta, where Wayne is in the trucking business. They have two children Bonnie and Harley, both attending school.

Larry was born on June 30, 1946. Larry spent two years in the Airforce, before joining the staff of Manitoba Hydro. He married Beverley McKenzie of Brandon. They now reside in Winnipeg where Larry is a district assistant with Manitoba Hydro. They have two children: Carrie, age five and Wade, age two.

A. and B. Spark

Alex and Bill Spark came to Canada from Scotland in June, 1911. Bill worked at different jobs in many places. He worked for Mr. Drummond, Mr. Walter Ware and then at Strathclair. In 1913, he worked on the construction of the Hudson Bay Railway. After this, he was employed on a farm north of Brandon. In December 1916, he joined the army, receiving his discharge in July, 1919.

Alex worked around Decker for the first ten years. In 1921, he and his brother Bill, bought the S.E.¼ of sec. 6-twp.16-R25 and later the S.W.¼ of sec.5-twp.16-R25 and the S.W.¼ of sec. 6-twp.16-R25. This was in Birtle Municipality but they sold all their grain and did all their business in Isabella.

The soil consisted of black loam and the Minnewasta Creek ran through one quarter. There were a lot of sloughs on the other quarter. The S.E.¼, where they lived, was homesteaded by Mr. Bill Rowan (1900-1913), Mr. R. Scott, (1913-1918), and Mr. A. Clubley (1918-1921). Fences were put up by the Spark Bros. and the five-roomed frame house was built by Mr. Scott. They raised grain and a lovely herd of Shorthorn cattle.

For a number of years their sister, Miss Jessie

Spark, kept house for them. A few years ago, owing to ill health, she went to live at Fairview Home in Brandon.

In June, 1962, they rented their farm to R. E. Doran and son and retired to Birtle after forty-one years on the farm. Mr. Alex Spark said, "If it hadn't been for tractors and modern equipment we would have had to retire years sooner".

Update by Bernice Still

Upon retiring to Birtle in 1962 Alex and Bill Spark enjoyed their friends dropping in for visits. They always had a good garden. Jessie Spark passed away in Brandon on April 20, 1973, at the age of 90. Alex died at Birtle at 90 years of age on October 12, 1975. Bill passed away on October 29, the same year, at the age of 88 years. All three are laid to rest in the Isabella Cemetery.

Wm. Sparling

Mr. Sparling bought the S.E. ¼ 12-15-26 from Mr. Adam Boyce. He lived with his parents in the Beulah District, until he moved to B.C.

He was a very talented singer and was a member of a popular male quartette composed of Mr. Sparling, Mr. Breese, Mr. David Fraser, and Mr. Russell Doyle.

Robert F. Squibb

by Evelyn James

Robert F. Squibb came to Canada in 1892 from London, England, with his brother Frank. He was 16 years old and Frank was 14 years old. They came to Beulah district. His brother, Frank, later became a lawyer and practised law in Hamiota with Mr. Ben-nest. Robert later homesteaded four miles north of Isabella.

In 1902, Robert married Catharine Muir of Arthur, Ontario. Of this marriage three children were born. Myrtle Ann died at six months of age on April 22nd, 1904. Evelyn Janet born Dec. 1906 and Stanley Robert born Oct. 10th, 1910. Mrs. Robert Squibb died in Sept. 1912 at the age of 33. Burial was in Beulah Cemetery.

About this time Evelyn made her home with her grandparents, uncle and aunt at Fergus, Ontario, and was educated there. Robert remarried to Betty McAlpen and Stanley stayed at home with them and went to Rothesay School. Betty died in 1948. Robert was 91 years old when he died in April, 1967. Stanley died in July, 1978 at the age of 67.

Evelyn married John James at Rathwell, Man., in September 1936. They now reside in Treherne, Man., and have two sons, Ronald and Gordon. Ronald is a grain elevator agent at Oxbow, Sask. He

married Marty Dueck of Altona, Man. They have four sons. Gordon worked as agent for Patterson Grain Elevators for 8 years. He later took a job for the Affiliated Fire Inspector Bureau. Gordon married Linda Clark of Neepawa. They have two sons and one daughter and they live at Weyburn, Sask.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stanley

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stanley were an English couple who lived on the S.W. 10-15-25. They only stayed on this farm a short time and moved to take up a homestead in Saskatchewan.

J. Stanton

Mr. Stanton farmed the W ½ of 19-15-25 with Dick Hickman for a year and then by himself for a few years after he was married. He then moved to the south half of 27-14-26, and later to a farm at Arrow River.

Frank R. and Jean Stevenson

written by R. L. Stevenson

Francis Reginald Stevenson youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Stevenson was born on May 24th, 1924. He received his education including Grade Eleven at Isabella School and Grade Twelve at Minn-ota High School.

After leaving school he worked with his father on the farm till 1951 when he took over the S.½ of 36-14-26.



Bonnie, Larry, Lorinda, Frank and Jean Stevenson.

In 1951 he married Jean Evelyn Coxworth youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Coxworth. They have two daughters Lorinda Sue and Bonnie Lynne.

In 1960 he obtained employment with the North American Lumber at Birtle and they still carried on the farm, but in 1961 he was made manager of the company at Dominion City where they now reside. He has rented his farm.

They were very active in all community work. In sports, church and Sunday School where Jean was a teacher for several years. Frank was a member of the Isabella Ball Team and was a member of the choir and was also a member of the Isabella Male Quartette.

Update

by Frank and Jean Stevenson

After leaving the Isabella district and moving to Dominion City, our two daughters, Lorinda and Bonnie, continued to attend school. Lawrence John was born in Winnipeg General Hospital in July of 1964. In January of 1968 the family then moved to Russell, Manitoba, where Frank worked as Assistant Secretary Treasurer for the Pelly Trail School Division. In 1969 we moved to Birtle, MB, and that is where we presently reside. Frank obtained a job as Secretary Treasurer for the Rural Municipality of Birtle. Jean worked in the Red and White Store for five years and has now worked in the Royal Bank for five years.

Lorinda, the eldest daughter, has been with the Royal Bank for eight years, one in Birtle and seven in Calgary. She was married to Mike Sommers in July of 1973. They had one daughter, Amanda Jean, born in September of 1974. Lorinda and her daughter presently reside in Calgary where she is employed at the Calgary Main Branch of the Royal Bank.

Bonnie Lynne married David Andrews of Birtle in August of 1973. They have three children. Tania Christina, their first daughter, was born on December 13, 1974. Bobby-Lee, their son, was born on January 5, 1978. He was that year's New Year's baby in the Hamiota hospital. Robin Lisa was born May 18, 1980. The family now resides on the farm acreage 5½ miles south of Birtle.

Larry is presently attending school at Birtle Collegiate in Birtle. The family resides, where they have for the past twelve years, on Main Street of Birtle.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lawrence Steveson written by R. L. Stevenson

Thomas Lawrence Stevenson was born March 15th, 1920, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Stevenson. He went to school at Isabella until he was fifteen years old, when he left school to assist his father on the farm.

When he was nineteen years old, he enlisted with



Jean and Tom Stevenson.

the Winnipeg Grenadiers. He took his training at Portage la Prairie and Fort Garry in Manitoba, and at Nanaimo and Vernon in B.C. He rose to the rank of Sergeant, and when his unit was posted overseas he was retained as an instructor at Camp Petawawa, where he remained until the end of the war.

He married Jean McLeod Meiklejohn of Winnipeg. After the war he bought the north half of 34-14-26 and farmed there for several years.

During those years they took part in all the community activities.

Jean was a member of the Women's Institute and took part in plays and other activities. Tom was a member of the Isabella ball team, was a member of the choir and was also a member of the Isabella male quartette, until he left the district.

They have since sold their farm and have moved to Winnipeg, where Tom is employed by Mid West Storage Company.

They have two sons: Robert and Glenn, and a daughter, Sandra.

Update by Margaret Coxworth

Tom and Jean continue to live in their home on Ingersoll St. in Winnipeg. Tom still works for Sea Way Mid West Ltd. and has a few more years before retirement. He loves to curl in winter and golf in summer. They bought a cabin at Winnipeg Beach and spend most of their weekends and holidays there.

Their son Robert (Bob) married Cheryl Robertson of Winnipeg December 7, 1974. Their son, Levon, was born November 11, 1976. Bob is an insurance salesman and they live in Barrie, Ontario.

Glenn married Bonnie Chorniski in July 1977. They live in Winnipeg. Glenn works for C.P.R. sheet metal and Bonnie was employed with the bank until

this year. Following the death of her father she went into real estate and took over her father's business.

Sandra married Randy Hallett May 14, 1977. They have a son, Kris Andrew. Randy is a heavy equipment operator.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Stevenson **written by Mr. Lawrence Stevenson**

In 1882, Thomas Stevenson, along with Mr. John Clark, came to this district from Fordwich, Ontario. They came by train as far as Rapid City, which at that time was the end of the railroad. They walked from there to the home of Mr. Donald McKenzie at Arrow River, who had come out earlier from that part of Ontario.

From there they located homesteads, Mr. Stevenson the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of 36-14-26 and took a pre-emption on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$. He later bought the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of 35 from a Land Syndicate.

On the way out from Winnipeg, especially around Portage la Prairie, they passed through a lot of land that was flooded, so one of the more important things they looked for in selecting a homestead was drainage, and it was because the Simpson Ravine ran through this land that it was selected.

The first place in which he lived was a cave, dug out of the bank of a little gully that ran into Simpson Ravine. The front was built up with sods and had a pole and sod roof.

In the winter of 1883-4, he went back to Fordwich and married Margaret Barbara Loudon, returning in the spring with a carload of settlers effects, two horses, four cows, some implements, and furniture, and lumber for a house. By this time they were able to come to Virden by train, where they unloaded the car and moved to the homestead, crossing the Assiniboine River by ferry.

Mrs. Stevenson stayed with friends at Arrow River until the house was partly built. It was a two-story house, 14' by 16' and the upstairs was later made into two bedrooms, which were naturally very small. The house had two ply of lumber, one-half inch sheeting on the inside covered with tarpaper, and wallpaper pasted on that. On the outside was one ply of shiplap and the spaces between the studding were grout, a mixture of coarse gravel and lime. Later some homesteader's shanty was bought and joined to the house for a kitchen. The house at first was heated by the cook-stove, but when the kitchen was added, the stove was moved to the kitchen and a box stove was used to heat the rest of the house. Wood for these stoves had to be hauled quite a distance from the Assiniboine Valley near Birtle, and occasionally from the Riding Mountains. The first stable was made of poles and sods. It was hard to

keep it from leaking, when it rained in summer; but, in the winter, it was really warm which was more than could be said for the house.

The first year one of the horses died, and the other raised a colt, but for a few years Thomas Stevenson worked a yoke of oxen and a horse as a team. The four cows freshened that summer, and butter was the main source of providing groceries. The milk was strained into shallow pans and put in the cellar for twenty-four hours, for the cream to rise. The cream was then skimmed off and put in crocks to sour. It was then churned in a dash churn. The butter was packed in wooden tubs which were taken to the store and traded for groceries or dry goods. The merchants supplied an empty butter tub in place of the one in which the butter was packed. Some made the butter into rolls of various sizes for three, four or five pounds, and later a contraption came out that pressed the butter into one pound prints.

A few years later a cheese factory was started in the district but it only lasted a few years and they had to go back to making butter again.

The first grain had to be hauled to Virden, a distance of thirty miles. They had to cross the Assiniboine River by ferry. The road up the hill was so steep that they had to unload half the load, go up with half the load, unload it at the top, return to the bottom for the other half and reload again at the top of the hill. The grain was all handled in bags at that time.

Mr. Stevenson was the second teacher to teach in the Blaris School, teaching there for two years. He had taken his high school at Collingwood, Ontario and teacher's training at Tait's Academy at Owen Sound, Ontario.

He was reeve of Miniota Municipality in 1893, was councillor for ward three for a term, and was municipal assessor in 1898.

In 1899, he built a new house about a quarter of a mile west of the first building, and in 1900 he built a barn with some help from neighbors, only hiring a carpenter for four days to help put up rafters.

Mr. Stevenson passed away in 1906 and Mrs. Stevenson, in 1941.

They had three daughters: Edna Minerva, Barbara Merle, and Elizabeth Verna, and one son, Robert Lawrence.

Edna married James Irving and lived for a short time at Sedley, Sask., where her husband bought grain. They later homesteaded near Central Butte, Sask., where she lived until her death in 1957. They had three sons: Lawrence, Thomas and Clare, and one daughter, Louise, all living near Central Butte.

Merle married J. P. Fraser and lived first at Niagara Falls, Ont., then Winnipeg, then near Brandon, Man., and now resides in Vancouver, B.C.

They had four sons: Hugh and Roderick both deceased, Douglas of Vancouver, and Murray of Winnipeg.

Elizabeth married W. S. Fraser and lived first at Fort William, Ontario, later moving to Calgary, Alberta, where she still resides. They have one son, William, of Calgary.

Lawrence carried on the farm with his mother until 1913 when he was married to Mary Marion Campbell. Then he bought the farm where he lived until 1951. He has taken an active part in community



Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Stevenson, 1958.

affairs. He was a member of the first board of trustees of the Miniota Municipal School Board, and served on the council for years. He was president of the Agricultural Society for many years. Mr. Stevenson was superintendent of the Blaris Sunday School and secretary and elder of the Church. He took a keen interest in curling and was president of the Curling Club and also acted as secretary for some time. He took pride in his horses and won many prizes with them at the surrounding fairs. At the age of seventy, he broke in his last team and they are still being shown.

Mrs. Stevenson also took her part in community affairs. She was a member of the Blaris W.M.S., and was later made a life member of that organization. She was organist of the church until she took over as choir leader, a position she held for several years. She passed away in 1960.

They had five children: Sarah, Margaret, Thomas, Francis, and Jean.

Sarah E. (Mrs. R. Eklund) resided at Dugald, Man. She was employed with the T. Eaton Co. in Winnipeg. Sarah and Bob lived at Dugald from 1962 to 1972. Bob worked as a car man for the C.N.R. until 1974 when he retired. Sarah worked at Eaton's until 1972. They moved from Dugald to Matlock



Bob and Sarah Eklund.

where they now reside. They enjoy working in their yard and always have a good garden.

Margaret F. was the former Mrs. Jack Iverach. Her husband enlisted with the Winnipeg Grenadiers in the Second World War and died as a prisoner of War in Hong Kong. She later married John Coxworth who has the general store in Isabella. (See John and Margaret Coxworth history.)

Thomas L. married the former Jean Meiklejohn of Winnipeg. He farmed 34-14-26 for a few years, later moving to Winnipeg, where he is employed with Mid-West Storage. They have three children: Robert, Glenn and Sandra.

Francis R. married the former Jean Coxworth. Frank took over the farm from his father in 1951. In 1960, he left for Birtle to work for North American Lumber Co., and soon after was made manager of the company at Dominion City, Man., where they now reside. They have two daughters: Lorinda and Bonnie.

Jean M. (Mrs. R. MacMillan) lives at Hamiota, Man. She taught school at Two Creeks and Oakner and since her marriage taught Kindergarten at Hamiota for a year. They have three children: Cheryl, Sheila and Kenneth.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Stevenson retired in 1951 and moved to Isabella. Since his wife's death in 1960, he has made his home with his daughter, Margaret, in Isabella.

R. L. Stevenson **by Margaret Coxworth**

Dad's history previous to 1960 is written in his father's history (Thomas Stevenson).

After Mother died in 1960, my father came to live with us until his death in 1977.

His hobby was making lawn ornaments and lawn

furniture. Then later he made cedar chests for all his granddaughters. When it became a problem for him to build things, he started to hook rugs for a pastime. He hooked a rug for each of his family. He was a devoted father and grandfather.

He enjoyed driving his car short distances to ball games, fairs and Golden Age Meetings.

On September 29th, 1977 he died in Hamiota Hospital after a short illness.

Mr. and Mrs. Percy Stevenson

written by R. A. (Al) Stevenson

In the early 1920's myself, my sister Vivian, my father Percival, and my mother Louise moved to the Isabella district, where my father worked for Mr. Russell Warren on the east side of town. We lived in town in a house north of where Mr. and Mrs. Brad, the local storekeeper, lived. On a recent trip through Isabella I noticed that the old house is no longer there, and even though I tried to find out its fate, I never did.

I can recall some of our neighbors in town: names like Brads, Warrens, Heises, Shurvells, Brisbins, Beveridges (hardware store) Iverachs, Kennedys, but others that I cannot remember. I remember my playmates were boys from these families. In the country we had many friends also. Names like Finkbeiners, Sutherlands, and I even remember Mr. Don Marshall and his wolfhounds. As a young lad I spent a lot of happy hours at my "second home" with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Sutherland and the two boys, Joe and Allan. Even though the boys were older than I was, they treated me very well and I will always remember the days at Sutherlands, north of town. When I mention "Joe" I just found out not too long ago that his name was George, but he was always "Joe" to me and likely always will be. In later years when we had left the district, we, as a family, made many a trip up to Sutherlands, where mother used to play the piano and we really enjoyed those good old days.

I started school in Isabella in 1927, my first teacher being Miss Olive Thompson, and the principal was Mr. G. L. Dibblee. I went to school for one year in Isabella and then we moved down into the Crandall area. It was sort of odd as I had Mr. Dibblee as a principal in Crandall, and one of my teachers was Mrs. G. Dibblee. I have always been very grateful to have had teachers of their calibre during most of my school years.

My father, Percival, passed away in 1943, and my mother, Louise, in 1981. Dad is buried in the Brookside Military cemetery in Winnipeg, and my mother in Crandall cemetery. My sister is married to Fred Henry and they live in Winnipeg. In 1940 I married

the former Marjorie Doupe from Crandall. After serving in the R.C.A.F. during the war of 1939/45, I worked for the B.A. Oil Company in Shoal Lake, Manitoba and later moved to Brandon where I took employment with the Mental Health Centre, where I am still employed. Some of the great hockey players that I remember since that time are, the Warrens, the Reids, The Orrs, and of course "The" Gordon Kennedy.

Since it is 53 years ago since I left Isabella, there are many names that I have forgotten, but even though the names and faces have slipped my memory, the pleasant memories of the wonderful people we knew in those days still remain with me. Often when we drive through "town" a flood of memories come back and I often wonder where all those people are and what they do. In 1967, the Centennial year, when we were in town for the celebrations, I met many whom I had forgotten and it was so nice to see them all again.

The community of Isabella was always a very active community, and today, after all those years, it still is, as can be seen by the delicious fowl suppers they still have annually.

Thank you for the opportunity to put this small history in your book, and I hope it enables someone to remember "the Stevenson Family".

Allan and Cynthia Stewart

by Allan and Cindy

I, Thomas Allan Ross Stewart, the third son of Tom and Margaret, was born on April 21, 1949 at Hamiota.

I attended school at Isabella, Miniota and Birtle.

Following Grade XII, I taught a year on a permit at Beulah. The following three years, I attended Brandon University.

In 1971, I began teaching at Boissevain. While teaching at Boissevain, I completed my Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Education degrees at Brandon University through night school and summer school.

In July 1975, I married Cynthia Jane Hammond, eldest daughter of Dorothy and the late Clayton Hammond. Our first son, Ryan Blair, was born on Sept. 18, 1978 and our second son, Jonathon Allan Lee was born on Jan. 6, 1981. Lee was the New Year's baby at Boissevain Hospital winning numerous gifts.

With the help of Mum and Dad, friends and relatives, we tore down the Isabella elevator annex and built a home in Boissevain, where we now reside.

I have always been involved in sports in school and out. While playing hockey I was on the Juvenile B, Senior B, C and E Provincial winning teams.

While playing baseball, I was on two Provincial B teams.

I have continued to be active in sports both at the coaching and playing levels.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Stewart

by Archie Stewart

I, Archie Stewart, was born in March, 1894, at Stouffville, Ontario, the youngest son in a family of nine. I received my education in a country school. I served in World War I.

I came to Manitoba in 1918 to work in the Swan River area. Then I moved to Isabella where I started to farm on the Ted Little farm, my machinery being horse driven.

In 1920, I married Marion Kelly, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Kelly. In 1921, we moved to Mrs. J. Frazer's farm where our first son was born. He died a short while after birth and was buried in the Isabella Cemetery.

In July, 1923, our second son, Robert Derward, was born. In July 1926, we rented the Kelly farm and stayed there for four years. During this time our third son, Elwood Garth, was born in December, 1927.

We bought E½ 19-15-25 in 1930, where, in a period of ten years, we built a house, garage, barn, hen house and granaries, which are still in use today. Our water supply was from a drilled well which is still excellent. We planted a nice shelter belt and Mae had a "green thumb" for flowers which beautified the home for us all.



Murray, Terry, Tiny, Craig, Michael Stewart.

Our fourth son, Murray Laverne, was born on July 3, 1935. The two older children received their education at Isabella School but Murray was only in Grade Five when he went with us to Stouffville to live. He finished his schooling at Stouffville High School.

In 1945, Robert married Hollis Lints, fourth daughter of Alfred Lints and the late Mrs. Lints of Decker. We lived together for a year. Then in 1946 Bob took over the farm. Mae, Murray and I moved back to Stouffville, Ontario and bought a home there. I started to work for The Stiver Bros. Grain Co. then, and am still in their employ.



Don and Jill Yetta, and Judy. Shirley Stewart and Karen Yetta, 1981. Mike, Patti and Christine Whale.

Garth served three years in the army, from 1942-1945, and is living in Toronto, Ontario. He married Shirley Vail in 1949 and they have two daughters, Jill, eight years of age, and Patti, six years of age. Garth is employed by the Hydro.

Murray lives with me in Stouffville and is a carpenter. We laid Mae to rest in Stouffville cemetery in November 1960. We miss her so.

Update by Hollis Stewart

Archie continued his work with the Stiver Brothers Grain Company until his death, following a heart attack, in June, 1965. He was laid to rest beside Mae, in Stouffville cemetery.

Garth and Shirley Stewart reside in Islington, Ontario. Garth is still with the Hydro and Shirley is employed as a clerk typist. They have two children: Jill and Patti. Jill was born on June 17, 1954, she worked as a clerk, and married Don Yetta, a photographer. Their children are: Judy Marie, born August 6, 1976 and Karen Nicole, born May 18, 1979. Patti married Michael Whale, an artist. They have

one child, Christine, born September 9, 1979. Both families live in Mississauga, Ontario.

Willis Murray Laverne Stewart was married to Tryntte (Tiny) Boerstra in August, 1964. They have three sons: Terry Mark Archie, born July 2, 1967; Michael Lloyd Garth born July 18, 1969, and Craig Robert Alan, born July 20, 1976. The family all reside in Stouffville, Ontario.

Bob and Hollis Stewart by Hollis Stewart

Bob Stewart, second son of Archie and Mae Stewart, and his wife, Hollis, have continued to farm the home place. (see A. Stewart history.)

In May, 1947, Bob and Hollis became the proud parents of a baby girl, Renee Lynn. A second child, Robert Neil, was born three years later, in June 1950. Six years later, in February, 1956, a third child, Shelley Marion, was born.



Bob and Hollis Stewart.

At the time Bob took over the farm in 1946, he changed to power machinery. A considerable amount of land was broken in the next few years. They have run a mixed farming operation, raising livestock and poultry as well as growing grain. They have improved the shelter belt, and, like his mother, Bob loved to work with the garden and flowers. In 1956 they received the Women's Institute Trophy as the first prize winner in the local Home Grounds Competition.

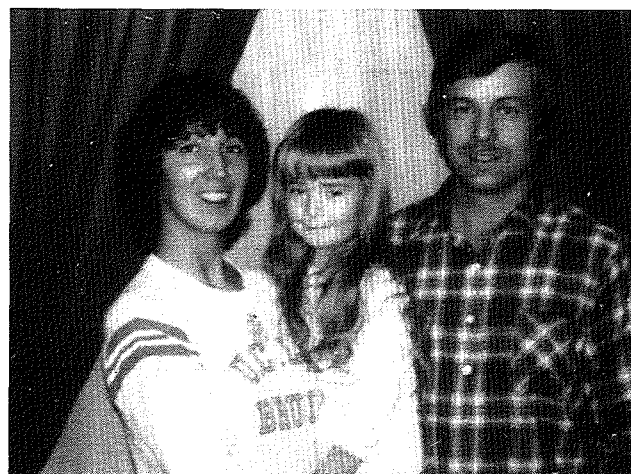
Bob has been very interested in hockey having played for a number of years himself. During Neil's growing-up years, Bob became manager of a boys' team. He curled for a number of years, and has attended many community functions. He drove the school bus to Birtle from 1966 to 1974. I, Hollis,

have helped the two girls with their many hobbies, sewing, music, and sports. Both girls were 4 H members and also members of the church choir.



Tom, Tracie, Wendy, Renee Vernon, 1981.

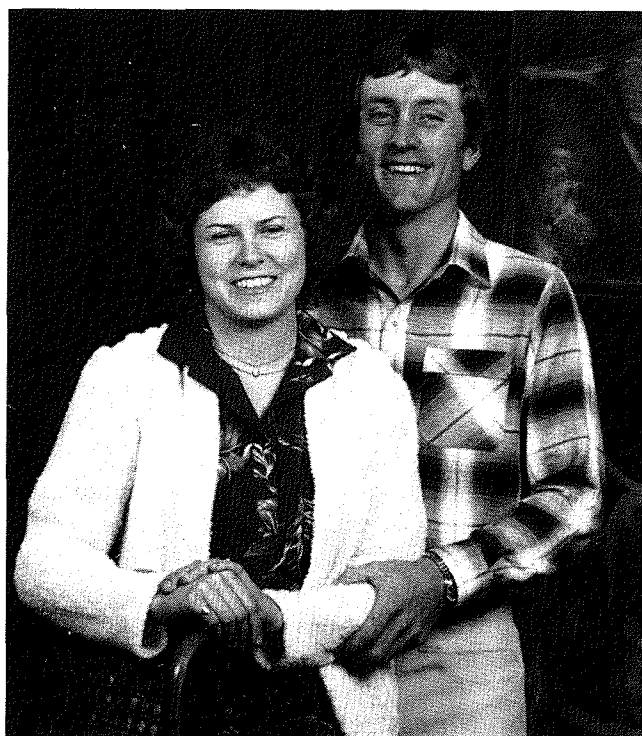
Renee Lynn began her schooling at Isabella, and after Grade X, she attended Birtle Collegiate, where she graduated from Grade XII Commercial Course in 1966. She has been employed by the banking system for over nine years. She went to Stouffville, Ontario in 1968, for a holiday, and met her future husband-to-be, Thomas Jeffrey Vernon. Tom was working at the Stouffville Tribune as an advertising salesman. Tom and Renee were married September, 1969. On March 16, 1970, their first daughter, Wendy Christine, was born. In 1973, Tom and Renee moved to Red Deer, Alberta, and then to Edmonton. On November 22, 1975, their second daughter, Tracie Lynne was born. In 1977, they moved back to Hamilton, where Tom is employed by the Hamilton newspaper. Renee is now a fulltime mother. Wendy is in Grade V and Tracie is in Grade I at Sir Issac Brock school.



Cheryl, Shawna, and Neil Stewart, 1981.

Neil also enjoyed hockey and ball. He attended Birtle Collegiate after he had completed his Grade VIII at Isabella. In 1968, he graduated from Grade XII at Birtle Collegiate, and went to Yellowknife, N.W.T. where he worked for Falcon Bridge Gold Mine for over a year. In 1970, he accepted a position with the Royal Bank at Shilo., later moving to Snow Lake, Manitoba.

In 1974, Neil joined a partnership with his father, and started farming. He married Cheryl Ann Derlago of Beulah, Manitoba. Cheryl also completed her high school at Birtle Collegiate, and received a Registered Nurse's Degree from Brandon General Hospital. They bought the Pool house in Isabella and lived there until July 1980, when they moved to a new mobile home in Beulah, where they still reside. Cheryl worked for a year at the Birtle hospital and is now employed at Morley House in Shoal Lake. Neil and Cheryl have a daughter, Shawna Leigh Ann, born January 30, 1978. At present Neil is farming and also works as a welder with Jim Clegg of Arrow River.



Shelley and Ron Gardham.

Shelley Marion took six years of schooling at Isabella and was then bussed to Birtle. She completed Grade XII in June 1974 and in July she started her career in banking at the North Star branch of the Royal Bank of Canada. She worked in Winnipeg, Virden and now works in Hamiota. Shelley married Ronald Wayne Gardham in July, 1978. Ron is a self employed carpenter. They reside in Arrow River.

Clarke and Judy Stewart **by Clarke Stewart**

I, Ronald Clarke Stewart, the second son of Tom and Margaret Stewart was born on July 17, 1944. I attended school at Isabella and Miniota. I was active in all local sporting activities at Isabella. I also attended the Isabella United Church and become a member of Isabella United Church.

In July, 1964, I joined the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and took my training at Regina, Saskatchewan. My first posting was to Cloverdale, B.C. In Aug. 1967, I was transferred to Langley, B.C.

In August, 1967 I married Judith Elsie Bryant, elder daughter of the late Leonard and Elsie Bryant. In November, 1970 our first son, Derek Wesley James, was born at Langley, B.C. In May 1973, our second son, Kelsey Shane, was born, also at Langley.

In July 1973 we moved to Smithers, B.C., and then to Queen Charlotte City, B.C. in February 1975. In September, 1976 we moved to Duncan, B.C., where we still reside.

We are all involved in the community activities. The boys play ball in summer and hockey in winter. Judy and I curl during the winter months, and play slow pitch softball in summer. I also coach hockey and baseball and am on the executive for Duncan Minor hockey.

At the time of this second edition of history, we are planning on making Duncan our home for a few more years.

Ken and Marjory Stewart **by Ken Stewart**

I was born in the Hamiota Hospital in 1942, the eldest son of Tom and Margaret Stewart of Isabella. I got my schooling at Isabella, taking part in all sports.

In 1958, I travelled by bus to Davenport, United States, to play ball for the Virden Oil Domes. This team was made up of a number of boys from south western Manitoba under the management of Murray Richardson, who was then Recreation Director at Virden.

I started to work at the Royal Bank at Rivers in 1959. I was transferred two years later to McCreary. While I was at McCreary, I married Marjory Ann Pedlow, elder daughter of Mervyn and Alice Pedlow of Hamiota. Our daughter, Jacqueline Arlene, was born, while we were there.

In 1963, we were transferred to Glenboro, where our son, Brock Wesley was born.

Our next move took us to Winnipeg, where I worked in the St. Vital Branch and the Main Branch. We then went to Thunder Bay. We took a trip to

Scotland, along with Marjory's parents. My mother kept house and baby sat Jackie and Brock for the three weeks we were away.

We returned back to Steinbach, Manitoba for a time, then moved to Ottawa. We bought our first home in Ottawa but we were again transferred — this time to Toronto. We bought a home in Scarborough. During this time, I have worked in the Main Branch and Scarborough Banking Centre and at present I am Manager of Commercial Services for Canada with the office in the Main Branch.

Since coming to Toronto, Marjory has worked at the Scarborough Royal Bank Branch.

Jackie has finished her Grade 12 and Brock has finished Grade 10. Brock plays hockey with the Toronto Minor Hockey Association and also likes to golf.

I curl and play hockey with the old timers, mostly for exercise. Marjory and I took a trip to the Bahamas this past year.

We have a trailer at a lake, north of Toronto, at which we hope to spend our weekends. We all enjoy living in Scarborough.

Peter Stewart

by Pete Stewart and Linda Clark

I was born in Scotland on September 8, 1901. Upon the death of my mother in 1910, my father, Duncan Stewart, and I came to Canada. Our destination was Isabella to the home of my sister and brother-in-law, Sam and Katherine Clark. We lived with them, father helped on the farm and I attended school at Blaris walking to and from school. Following my schooling, I then lived with and worked for Lawrence Stevenson for three years. I attended church at Blaris and sang in their choir. Upon the death of Sam Clark, my father worked Sam's farm for two years, helping Katherine.

I married May Miller in 1927 at the home of my sister. We were blessed with two children. Thelma was born on December 10, 1927 and Bill on December 20, 1931. I decided to try farming on my own, renting the E½ of 5-15-25. During this time Thelma and Bill attended school at Isabella. Our family worshipped at the Isabella United Church and I sang in the choir. Father went home to Scotland for a visit. When he returned to Isabella, he continued to help his daughter, Mrs. Sam Clark, on her farm. He was laid to rest in the Isabella Cemetery, (1924).

We moved to Birtle and rented a farm for a short time. The day of our farm sale my car was also sold. When the buyer started it up, it sped across the yard, hitting my wife, May. This accident led to serious health troubles and my wife passed away in 1942. She is laid to rest in the Isabella Cemetery. Bill went to



Pete and Margaret Stewart, 25th anniversary.

live with his Grandpa Will Miller and Thelma and I moved to Winnipeg so I could seek employment. I became employed with the Hillier Paper company.

On November 10, 1945 I married Margaret Adams. We bought a large home and rented out suites. I retired after twenty-four years service with the Hillier Paper Co. Upon Margaret's death in 1975, I moved to live with my step-daughter, Betty Broome and her family in Transcona.

Each summer I come back to Isabella to renew acquaintances with my friends and relatives. Watching the farming operations of today is exciting and interesting; quite a contrast to my days with horses and a plow. I enjoy watching the big combines walk across a field and remember the long threshing days. I remember the wonderful evenings spent with the Stevenson, Campbell, Miller, Sunley, Harrison, Clark, Bell and Grey families. In the winter each family gave their home and we would enjoy visiting and dancing. I played my accordion for those get-togethers as well as for the dances in Blaris School. We would travel many miles by horse and cutter on a cold winters night to a dance.

T. W. and Margaret Stewart

written by T. Stewart

I, Thomas Wesley Stewart, was born on April 16th, 1918, at Isabella in Mrs. Don. Iverach's nursing home with Dr. Fraser in attendance.

I attended school at Isabella and also Sunday School and Church. In Jan. 1940 I put one month in the army service at Brandon.

I was married at Hamiota on September 27th, 1941, to Margaret Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth R. Fraser of Hamiota. It was at this time that I started to farm on my own.

Our first son, Kenneth Wesley, was born in July, 1942, at the Hamiota Hospital. He took his schooling at Isabella and in 1959 he started in the Royal Bank at Rivers. He was there for two years when he was moved to McCreary, Man. where he is still employed.

Our second son, Ronald Clarke, was born in July, 1944, at Hamiota Hospital. He is attending school at Isabella.

In April, 1949, our third son, Thomas Allan Ross, was born in Hamiota Hospital. He is attending school at Isabella.

I farmed with horses up to the spring of 1945, when I bought my first rubber tired tractor.

I have been on the local board of the Manitoba Pool Elevators since 1946 and secretary of the same board since 1953. I have been on the Board of Stewards of Isabella United Church for two different terms and have been an usher there for several years. I have been president of the Community Centre for three years and on the board for another two years, also president of the men's Curling Club for fifteen years.

In May 1960 I represented the local Pool Elevator Association and helped present the brief from Isabella local at the hearing of the C.N.R. at the courthouse in Brandon.

Update

by Tom and Margaret Stewart

A lot of changes have taken place in the last twenty years in our family. Mother, Elizabeth Stewart, passed away September 1964 and was laid to rest in Chapel Lawn Cemetery, Winnipeg with my Father, Wesley Stewart.

Margaret's Mother, Mrs. Ken Fraser, suffered a stroke in April 1972 and after living in Morley House, Shoal Lake, she passed away December 1976. Margaret's Stepfather, Ken Fraser, passed away



Allan and Cyndie with Ryan and Lee, Margaret and Tom Stewart, Kelsey and Derek, Jackie, Brock, Marjorie and Ken, Judy and Clarke Stewart, 1981, 40th anniversary.

January 1981. Both were laid to rest in Hamiota Cemetery.

In December 1962, our eldest son, Ken, who works for the Royal Bank, married Marjory Pedlow of Hamiota. Marjory also works for the Royal Bank. They have two children, Jacqueline 18 and Brock 16. They live in Toronto.

Our second son, Clarke, joined the R.C.M.P. in 1964. In August 1967, Clarke married Judy Bryant of Miniota. They have two boys, Derek 11 and Kelsey 8. They live at Duncan, B.C.

Our youngest son, Allan teaches school at Boissevain. In July 1975, Allan married Cynthia Hammond of Boissevain. They have two sons, Ryan 2½ and Lee 6 months.

In 1966, we bought the NW¼ and SE¼ of 22-15-25 from Frank Gardham of Kamloops, B.C. We had this land rented for 10 years prior to buying.

We have also broke several acres of land on 17-15-25 as well as on the land we bought from Mr. Gardham.

We both love to fish so we put in many happy hours (around the campfire) along with our neighbors, listening to their tall tales.

We also enjoy travelling, so have been on tours to California, Mexico and Florida. We have also been to Alaska, Queen Charlotte Islands, and Texas, besides visiting our family, whose work takes them to different areas of Canada. In 1980, I had a heart attack but we managed our harvest with the kind help of our neighbors.

I have served on Council from January 1968 to the present. We both help at most community functions.

This year, Margaret and I celebrate our 40th Wedding Anniversary.

After travelling around, we still like Isabella as a place to live.

Mr. and Mrs. William Wesley Stewart written by Mrs. T. Stewart

Wesley Stewart was born in Uxbridge, Ontario, on July 16th, 1876. He was the third child of eight. There were four girls; Minnie, Tilda, Sadie and Anna, and four boys; James, Herbert, Archie and Wesley.

In 1898, at the age of twenty two, he decided there wasn't anything for him at home, so he set out for Manitoba. He worked one summer south of Hamiota, returning east again that winter to work in the bush at Sault St. Marie. He returned to Hamiota the following year for two more years. In those two years he worked for A. C. Little and broke part of section 15-15-25 with oxen and a team of horses. He worked one winter in the bush at Elphinstone.

By this time he had met Mr. Duncan Kelly, who

told him about land north of Kelly's farm which was for sale. He decided to buy the south west quarter of 17-15-25 for his own.

In 1902, he broke seventy five acres on this farm with a walking plow and a team of horses. A few years later he bought the other quarter (N.W.)

During the winter of 1902, he worked for Chapmans, returning to his own farm in the spring.

In 1903, he built a shack (our present hen house) and other buildings. The lumber was hauled from Hamiota by horses. While he lived in the shack his sister, Tilda, kept house for him one summer.

Until the railway came, he hauled his grain by horse and wagon to Arrow River and the odd time to Miniota, when the prices were higher there.

In 1914, the present house was built by Mr. Jack Jordon of Hamiota. At this time he had his brother, Herb, and his wife working for him.

In 1915 he lost most of the buildings except the new house in a wind storm. Mr. and Mrs. Cuffe worked for him in 1915.

The present barn was built by Mr. Paul Beveridge in 1916. That year Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Hatton worked for him. After the Hattons left another couple with a few children came one night and he bought their return ticket the next morning.

On June 6, 1917, he married Elizabeth Wilson whom he had met at Don Marshall's home. She had come from Scotland to Pilot Mound and because she had met Mr. Marshall's sisters in the old country, she had come to Marshall's home to visit. While she was visiting at the Marshall's place, Mr. Alfred Lints asked her to help him and his wife out for a month or so. Their daughter Edna had been badly burned. Besides having one other child Mrs. Lints was expecting another.

On April 16, 1918, their only son was born in the present Harry Brisbin home. Mrs. Don Iverach was the nurse and Dr. J. Fraser was the doctor.

In 1919, he dug a well one hundred and six feet deep. In 1923, Mr. Tom Sheridan of Hamiota drilled this well deeper, trying to get a better supply. There was a well drilled earlier than 1919.

From 1916 to 1923, he and his brother-in-law, Harry Reid, threshed together, owning a threshing machine and a Waterloo-Boy engine. They bought this outfit from McConnell Bros. in Hamiota. In 1923, he decided to go on his own, with Harry Reid taking the tractor and he taking the threshing machine. He then bought a Case tractor from Mr. Russell Warren.

In 1925, he bought his first car, a Model "T". This same car was in the parade for Birtle's 75th Anniversary in 1959 and is still in running order.

He farmed actively using horses until 1941. He

then moved into Isabella for three years, farming part time from town.

In 1944, they bought a house in Winnipeg and they lived there until his death in 1953. His wife stayed on alone until the fall of 1961, when due to ill health, she had to give up her home. She then moved to Fairview in Brandon.

Dale and June Still

by Dale Still

I, Dale Allen, youngest son of Lucy and Peter Still was born May 11, 1940, and received my education in Isabella.

I started farming in 1961. In 1962 I bought the E ½ 24-15-26 from my dad. In 1969 I bought the NW ¼ 16-15-25 and NE ¼ 17-15-25 from Robert Scarth. In 1971 I bought the SW ¼ 19-15-25 from Dad and also acquired the NW ¼ 19-15-25 from my dad.

I married June Anne Rittaler on July 24, 1965. June is the second daughter of Minnie and Anton Rittaler now of Glen Ewen, Saskatchewan.

We have three daughters, Karen Anne born August 16, 1966, Terry Lynn born October 27, 1970 and Lucinda Dawn born September 1, 1976.



Karen, Dale, Terrylynn, June and Lucinda Still.

Donald and Marion Still

by Don Still

I, Donald Wilfred, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Still, was born June 26, 1924. I received my education at Isabella school. I served two years in the

Canadian Army. In the fall of 1945, I went to Flin Flon, Manitoba, where I worked for a Fuel and Ice Company, and then at a sawmill for a short time. In 1946, I purchased a share in a taxi company, which I operated until 1953. I then purchased a trucking business. In 1963, I accepted a job with the Fire department as deputy chief for the city of Flin Flon. In 1973, I sold my trucking business when I accepted the position with the fire department, as Fire Chief, a position I still hold.

On June 11, 1953, I married Marion Hillier of Edam, Saskatchewan. She is a registered nurse. We have two children: Donna Lee who was born July 6, 1954, and Grant, who was born September 30, 1955. Donna received her education in Flin Flon and Winnipeg, where she graduated as a physiotherapist in 1975. She worked at the Kelowna General for three years and at the present time is on a working holiday in Australia. Grant received his education in Flin Flon and Winnipeg, where he attended the University of Manitoba, graduating in 1979 with his degree in Commerce. He is at present an accountant with an oil company in Calgary.

I am a member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 73, and of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks of Canada.

Glen and Margaret Still **by Glen Still**

I, Glen Lawrence, the third son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Still of Isabella, was born on April 19, 1930. I took my schooling at Isabella and a mechanic course at Edmonton. I took up farming in 1954 with my dad and brothers.

On October 29, 1955 I married Margaret Beverley Attwood of Blaris. Margaret, the elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Attwood, was born January 18, 1936. The first winter we were married, we lived with my mother and dad. During that winter we did chores for Mr. Scarth and Mr. Hall for a month each, milking cows, feeding pigs, etc.

In the spring of 1956 we moved to the John Chapman farm W½ 24-15-26 which we rented for five years. The snow was so deep that winter that the municipal caterpillar had to open the road. That was the last winter horses were used to any extent for travelling.

On June 28, 1958 our first son, Robert Bruce, was born.

I worked part time at Gordon Ball's garage in Birtle, overhauling tractors, etc. from the fall of 1959 to the spring of 1962.

We bought the farm from Mr. Chapman in 1961.

In 1962 we tore down the old barn and got the bottom half of the new barn built. The next year we



Glen, Margaret, Ken, and Glenda Still.

finished the barn with some help from relatives and friends.

In 1969 I bought the S.E.¼ 14-15-26 from W. Muldoon.

On July 11, 1967 our chosen daughter, Glenda Ruth, was born. On July 16, 1969, our chosen son, Kenneth Wayne, was born.

Over the years we have remodelled the house inside and out, and put up a garage and other buildings.

In 1980 we celebrated our twenty-fifth wedding anniversary.

Glenda and Kenneth are going to school in Birtle. Glenda is starting grade 9 and Ken is starting grade 7 this year, 1981.

Harvey and Elsie Still **by Harvey Still**

I, Harvey Maurice Still, was born on February 3, 1927, the second son of Peter and Lucy Still. I attended Isabella School. I married Elsie Phillips, youngest daughter of Ralph and Hazel Phillips, on July 5, 1951. We farmed in the Isabella district, then moved to Hamiota, Manitoba, and then in 1957 moved to Elliot Lake, Ontario. There I worked in the uranium mines and for the Ontario Government. In 1965 we moved to Fort William, now named Thunder Bay, where we still reside. We have three children: Cheryl Elaine, Allan Harvey, and David Wayne.

Cheryl Elaine Still, born December 26, 1951,

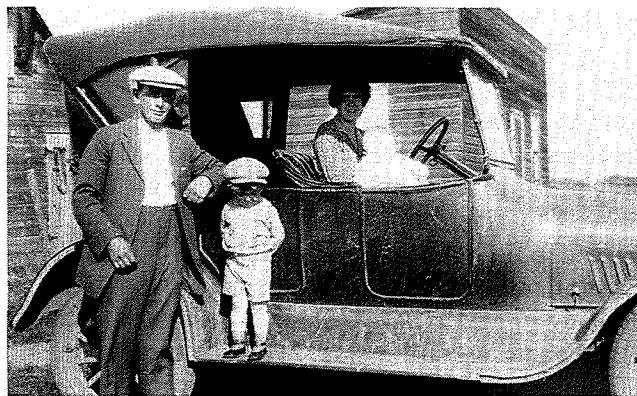
while the family farmed at Isabella, received her elementary education at Elliot Lake, Ontario, and her high school education at Thunder Bay. In 1970 she attended Victoria College, University of Toronto, graduating in 1974 as an Honours student with a B.A. in Religious Studies. Her history is found under Georges and Cheryl Kristolaitis.

Allan Harvey Still, born January 16, 1956, at Hamiota, Man., received his education in Elliot Lake and Thunder Bay, Ontario. During his school years he was very active in sports, especially baseball and football. He pitched in several Little League All Star games throughout Ontario. In 1977 he married Debbie Schiiler and they have two sons: Jeffrey, born December 1, 1979; and Michael, born April 8, 1981. He is employed as a millwright for Great Lakes Forest Products in Thunder Bay and enjoys sports, camping, and fishing.

David Wayne Still, born May 19, 1958, at Blind River, Ontario, was educated in Elliot Lake and Thunder Bay, Ontario. At age fourteen he became interested in communicating with the deaf and taught himself sign language. He took an interpreter training program and received his certificate as a Registered Interpreter for the Deaf. In 1977, at age nineteen, he was employed by Red River Community College in Winnipeg, where he worked for four years as Lead Interpreter. He was president of the Manitoba Registered Interpreters for two years. In 1981 he accepted a position as Co-ordinator for Services for the Deaf for the province of Newfoundland and moved to St. John's, Newfoundland. He is single.

James Still by P. Still

My father, James Still, was born in Shellburne, Ontario, in 1864. He came to Manitoba in 1878, the trip was made by the Great Lakes and rivers. He married Elizabeth Ann Jeffery, born in 1864. She



Peter, Donald, Lucy, and Harvey Still.

came from Tilsonburg, Ontario, when she was eight, travelling by ox-team from St. Paul, Minnesota. They were married on May 6, 1884, in Greenwood Township, north of Winnipeg.

In 1908, they moved to Isabella. They lived three years on the Crozier farm, moving then to Ed. Allingham's for two years. In 1914, they bought a farm from Mr. Doig, 36-15-26. It was called "Spring Bank Farm".

The wells were shallow and water in good supply, as the Minnewasta Creek ran near the buildings. In 1912, they had a portable tractor and thresher drawn by horses.

There were three sons and five daughters in the family. Eliza Jane born January 31, 1885, married Jack Bockwell in 1912. She married twice after this, to Mr. Lewis and to Mr. Harry Howard. There were no children. She passed away in 1957. Emma Maud was born August 23, 1887. She married Herb Allingham. Mary Ellen, born May 21, 1889 married Harry Sawyer. Thomas James, born January 8, 1884, married Bessie Conrad in 1925. He farmed at Isabella for awhile before his marriage, and afterwards at Miniota. They now live at Selkirk. He served in World War I. They have eight sons and one daughter. Pearl Gladys was born April 1, 1899, she married William Hickman.



Ray, Glen, Don, Harvey, Dale, Peter, and Lucy Still, 40th anniversary.

George Albert was born December 9, 1896. He served in World War I and died in Belgium of pneumonia in 1919. Ena Evelyn was born June 26, 1906. She married Chris Ellerington in 1926. They farmed on the Armstrong place south of Blaris, for 3 years, and then moved to the Miniota District. They have retired to the village now. They have two daughters: Lillian and Dorothy. Lillian married Les Horner and they have two daughters: Irene and Donna. Dorothy married Coke Argue and they have three children: Diane, Danny and Olive Ann. All live at Miniota.

I, Peter was born March 1, 1891 and lived with my parents until I bought the west half of 19-15-25 from

Mr. Doig. In 1910 I built a house. In 1918 my parents came to live with me. They later moved to Miniota, then Brandon. They lived with family members until their deaths, my father in 1936, and my mother in 1950.

The land I bought had some broken; I broke more. Other people helped me thresh until 1920, when I bought a Rumley outfit. I bought more land — the east half of 24-15-26, the south quarter from Mrs. Lafortune and the north quarter from John Chapman.

In 1919 I bought my first car, a model T Ford. I married Lucy Hickman at Brandon on July 5, 1923. We have lived on the same farm since our marriage. In 1948 we built a seven roomed house and in 1961 we built a large barn. The old buildings served for many years. We have one well which is quite a distance from the buildings, but is serving us quite well. Now we also have a dugout. In 1950 we bought our first combine.

We have five sons: Donald, Harvey, Glen, Ray and Dale. Donald married Marion Hillier and they reside in Flin Flon. He served in World War II, and now has a trucking business. They have two children Donna Lee and Grant. Harvey married Elsie Phillips. They farmed for a year in Isabella district. They moved to the Hamiota district and then to Elliott Lake, Ontario where he is a security guard. They have three children: Cheryl, Allen and David. Glen married Margaret Attwood. They farm the Chapman place, immediately west of us. They have one son Robert. Ray married Bernice Doran. They farm the Morgan Johnson farm and have three children: Richard, Russell, and Randell. Dale is still at home with us. Glen, Margaret, Ray, Bernice and Dale have all been active in sports such as hockey and ball.

update by Bernice Still

Mum and Dad Still left the farm in 1964 after Dale was married. They moved to a small house in Miniota where they enjoyed a few years of retirement. On May 16, 1968, at the age of 67 years Mum Still passed away after an operation in Hamiota Hospital. She was laid to rest in the Isabella Cemetery. In 1970 Dad moved to a house in Isabella where he lived until he went to Pioneer Lodge at Birtle in 1972. Dad was in Birtle until his health failed when he went to the personal care home in Shoal Lake. He passed away on May 5, 1975 at the age of 84 years. He was laid to rest beside his wife in the Isabella Cemetery.

Ray and Bernice Still (1962-1982)

by Bernice Still and Co.

Editors Note: First part of story found in the James Still history.

Our family increased by one in 1963 when our

youngest son, Ronald Edson was born on August 21. After spending three weeks in Winnipeg Children's Hospital, following an operation for a bowel obstruction, he arrived home to complete our family of four sons. Richard Gordon was born May 17, 1958, Russell James August 2, 1960, Randell Doran, June 10, 1962.

In 1964 we purchased the north half of 23-15-26 from Pete Tkachuk and we moved there in the spring. In 1965 and 1967 we planted a shelterbelt on the north, south, and west sides of the buildings. Trees were supplied from the Nursery at Indian Head, Saskatchewan.



Randy, Rusty, Ron, Rick, Bernice and Ray Still, 1977.

In 1967 we moved the house we owned in Isabella out to the farm and joined it onto the one here. This gave us an eight-room house with basement under the new piece and root cellar under the old. We put electric heat in it in 1968.

After milking cows a few years we decided to go into raising weanling pigs. We sold our dairy cows, insulated and lined up the barn, installed three 5 k.w. electric heaters and two exhaust fans. We then built our sow herd up to thirty sows selling about five hundred weanlings a year. We built a loose-housing shed 28x70 in 1969 to house thirty beef cows.

In 1970 I became Postmistress in Isabella, purchasing the Austin Adams' house. Also in that year we had the dugout enlarged and put in the running water to the barn. By 1972 we were able to have running water in the house too.

In 1973 we bought the H. Miller house for taxes, tore it down and (on the farm) built a two car garage with a loft.

We purchased the north east quarter of 14-15-26 from Bill Muldoon, so now farm three quarter sections of land. Through the years steel bins have

replaced the wooden ones and in 1977 we put up a metal machine shed 46x100. The last few years have been exceptionally dry and we have had to have our dugout filled several times by pumping water with PFRA equipment (Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Association). The water was pumped from a beaver dam in the Minnewasta Creek which runs through our land.

In July, 1978 Ray and I took our first trip — a three week holiday to England and Scotland. We enjoyed every minute of it. In December 1978, I won a trip for two to Hawaii so in January, 1980, we flew to Hawaii with Harvey and Elsie Still and enjoyed a winter vacation. The boys managed the farm while Mother looked after the Post Office.

Rick started school in Isabella and in 1968 when the school closed, he went to Birtle. We drove a feeder-bus from Dushnicky's to the Telephone House on Provincial Trunk Highway on 355 to meet the yellow school bus. After completing grade X Rick went to work at many jobs. He has his class I driver's licence and now works for West Can and Conveyor Belting Ltd. in Brandon travelling all over western Canada installing equipment. In 1979 he married Kathy Christenson of Brandon and they have one daughter, Shannon Lea Ann.

Rusty started school at Isabella also going to Birtle in 1968. He took Grade XII completing it all but one subject. He has since worked with a Canadian National Railway construction gang. Rusty enjoys sports. He plays fast ball with the Isabella men and was goal keeper with Miniota and Elkhorn minor hockey teams. He has played Senior hockey since 1977 with Elkhorn Canadians. They won Manitoba Amateur Hockey Association "D" division in 1977-78, the "C" division in 1979-80 and the consolation side of "C" division in 1980-81. Each year Rusty has won the top goalie award in the division of the league they have played in since 1977.

Randy started school in Birtle in 1968. He graduated from Grade XII in 1980. He stayed home for a year to help his dad who had eye problems, but after three major operations, Ray is fine again. Randy entered Red River Community College in September, 1981. Randy also liked sports playing ball and hockey. He played minor hockey out of Miniota and Elkhorn and Senior hockey with Miniota. In 1974-75 he was on on the 12 and under Miniota team that won MAHA "D" division.

Ron, the only one who attended kindergarten, started school in 1969 at Birtle. In 1981-2 he is taking his Grade XII. Now the school bus comes to the end of the lane and it takes him one hour and fifteen minutes to go thirteen miles to school. "PROGRESS"! Ron plays ball and hockey. Minor hockey was played at Miniota. Ron was with the team that

won MAHA "D" division for 12 and under in 1974-75 and in 1975-76. He now plays senior hockey with Miniota.

Ray and I enjoy sports too. We have coached Municipal Ball and the ladies' and men's fastball teams. We also enjoy curling and take in many hockey games — one year we put 5000 miles on the car just going to hockey. That was before the sharp rise in gas prices.

Ray has served on Rink, Hall, Church and Elevator boards. I have held offices in the Women's Institute, United Church Women and Community Club. We caretake the local community centre and enjoy living in this small community with a big community spirit.

Robert and Brenda Still **by Robert Still**

I, Robert Bruce, was born on June 28, 1958 at the Virden Hospital, the elder son of Glen and Margaret Still. I started school at Isabella and when the school closed its doors, I went to school in Birtle.

When I was eighteen I got my number one licence and started trucking.

I was married on April 28, 1979 to Brenda Marie Radlinsky of Birtle. We are living on SE¼ 14-15-26.

We have one daughter, Candice Amanda, born May 8, 1980; and a son, Jason Robert, born Nov. 27, 1981.

In 1981 we bought the SE¼ 12-15-26. I am presently driving for Bicknell Freighters as well as farming.



Robert, Brenda, and Candice Still.

Ellery and Jessie Sunley by Jean (Sunley) Strachan

John Ellery Sunley was the eldest son of John and Elizabeth Sunley, born on January 25, 1895 in the Blaris district. On November 5, 1919, he married Janet (Jessie) Bell, eldest daughter of Robert and Florence Bell. They moved from Blaris to Decker where they farmed until their retirement to Hamiota in 1956.



Mr. and Mrs. Ellery Sunley, 1960.

They have nine children: Belle (Mrs. Fred Butcher), Birtle; Gwen (Mrs. Ed Elliott), Vancouver; Bob, Boissevain; Russell, Neepawa; Purve, Winnipeg; John, Lamonte, Alberta; Jean (Mrs. Garth Strachan), Hamiota; Keith, Saskatoon; Lyle, Craik, Sask. There are 23 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Sunley were active and willing workers and contributed much to the growth and development of their community. Mr. Sunley passed away suddenly at his home in Hamiota on December 31, 1965. Mrs. Sunley lives at present in Hamiota.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest L. Sunley written by E. L. Sunley

Having been born on this farm, S. Half 25-14-26 M. of Miniota, I feel worthy of being called a native. It is situated in a rolling area of mixed pasture and cultivated land, kitty-cornered by a wooded ravine that runs in the spring or after very heavy rains.

We have an ample water supply, a drilled well eighty-five feet deep, formerly operated by a windmill, then by gas engine, and now by electricity.

I rented this half section along with the N.W. ¼ of 8-14-25 from my father, John Sunley, in 1927, and purchased it in 1936. At this time, we were engaged

in mixed farming, the producing of grain, livestock, cream and eggs, until 1952, when straight grain farming was adopted. In 1946, the S.W. ¼ of 24-14-26 was bought from Frank Palmer, making up a section of land being farmed at present. A tractor has been in use on this farm since 1917 along with a six-horse team, but the tractor has been used exclusively since 1942. The highlight of the year 1944, was the addition of rubber tires to the tractor, and the purchase of our first combine, where you could sit down to thresh.

Our present frame house of eight rooms, started by my father in 1896, and completed in 1902 is still quite substantial. The house which is now heated by propane gas was formerly heated by wood, coal and oil.

Blaris school, built in 1885, was situated on one and a half acres in the south-east corner of this farm and has been an important landmark of this community. The school has been moved in recent years into our farm-yard and used as a work shop. The border of spruce trees still stands as an historical reminder of those early years.

My wife, formerly Allie Miller of Blaris, myself and our family of five, all received our elementary education at this school. Later we boarded the teacher for a good number of years. I served as a trustee for Ward Three on the Miniota Municipal School board for a period of eight years.

Our family of five living (one son died soon after birth) consists of the following, starting with the eldest:

Clarence Laverne was an air frame machanic in the R.C.A.F. during World War II. In 1946, after his discharge, he built and operated a machine shop in Isabella until 1957, when he accepted a position with Cancade Bros. Manufacturing Co. in Brandon, where he is still employed. During his years of business in Isabella, he invented and patented a repac oil filter cartridge that is used quite extensively on tractors, combine motors and trucks. He was married in 1949 to Margaret Page of Beulah and they reside in Brandon with their three children.

John Raymond lives and is employed on the home farm. He spent one year as a qualified egg grader at Miniota Creamery.

Allie Marie married Burton Johnston living on the farm at Isabella until 1955, when they moved to Foxwarren, Man. where he is employed as a grain buyer for Manitoba Pool Elevators. They have two children.

William Glen married Faye Cottingham of Birtle in 1957 and is living on the farm purchased from G. W. Torrance. They also have two children.

Beverley Jean, our youngest, married Edson

Doran of Isabella in 1957 and they with their one daughter reside on the Arrow-Head Farm north of Isabella.

That, with the addition of eight grand-children completes our family up to date.

One of the highlights of our family activities is the Annual Hill and Sunley Clan picnic, which has been held since 1946, usually at Shoal Lake Narrows, with an attendance of some eighty to one hundred and twenty with a possible three hundred belonging to the clan.

Update by Ernie Sunley

In continuing my history from 1962 there have been some notable changes.

Vern, Ray, Glen, Marie and Beverley each have submitted a history.

My grandchildren now have increased to eleven plus eight great grandchildren.

In Nov. 1971, Allie, my wife for forty years, died after a lengthy illness. She was laid to rest in the family plot at Isabella cemetery.

In 1971 I sold a quarter section (8-14-25) to Glen and in 1976 I rented the remaining three quarters to Glen on a third share basis.

In February 1973 I married Kate Bell and moved into Hamiota. Kate and I take an active part in the activities for seniors in Hamiota. In summer, we enjoy lawn bowling, with games at Strathclair, Virden, Kenton, Oak River, Birtle and Clear Lake. Two nights a week we play horseshoes and table shuffleboard. In winter we compete in floor shuffleboard and table shuffleboard with tournaments in our neighboring towns. Carpet bowling is also played once a week. Every Wednesday afternoon is our social time. Games of five hundred, whist, cribbage, crokinole and bingo are played once a month. We have our own Senior Old Time Orchestra which plays often for us. I play at golf twice a week, but don't ask to see my score. Fishing, now, I don't do, as the fish don't seem to like me any more. We enjoy living in Hamiota among such good friends and neighbors.

Glen and Fay Sunley by Glen and Fay Sunley

I, William Glen, third son of Ernie and Allie Sunley, was born January 22, 1932, in Miniota Hospital attended by Dr. Chalmers. Dad drove Mother to hospital in the Model A (with chains) over sleigh roads that hadn't had a car over them since the New Year. When I took Grade XII in Hamiota, I drove the same Model A car (while Mother and Dad were in California).

I went to Blaris school up to Grade VIII, high school at Isabella (IX-XI), Grade XII at Hamiota and one year at the University of Manitoba. Then I



Ann, Glen, Fay, Laura Mae, and Dale Sunley.

worked one year with Vern in his machine shop in Isabella. During the summer I worked with Dad on the farm and spent many days travelling on the B.S.A. (motor cycle). In the fall of 1952 I took a farm workshop course in Saskatoon and bought my first welder from Smith Roles, which they were making in a two-car garage.

I showed my first club calf at Arrow River when I was seven and at Solsgirth when I was nine. When my brother-in-law, Burton Johnston, left the farm in 1956, I took over his herd of cows and bought a half section from G. W. Torrance (S ½ 17-14-25). I built a saw mill, and with the Doran's bought and dismantled Isabella, Beulah, Uno and part of Foxwarren Railroad loading platforms, ripped the lumber and built our farm buildings and corrals. We also ripped a number of poplar trees from our farm. I belonged to the Isabella Seed Club for several years. I helped make and assemble many seed club displays. I was on the Isabella Pool Elevator Board (off and on) for about 10 years. During the 1950's I took part in two 3-act plays that toured the surrounding towns and I was in one shorter play. These plays were directed by Syd Walmsley, Mrs. Harry Brisbin, Mrs. R. Heise.

We now work seven quarters of land, almost one thousand acres under cultivation. We still farm Grandfather Sunley's farm that he started farming in 1895 (S ½ 25-14-26) and the quarter of land that my Grandfather Miller started farming in 1904 (SW 17-14-25).

Vivian Fay, fourth of seven children of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Cottingham was born November 26, 1938 at Birtle, where she attended school and belonged to 4H sewing club. Fay and sister Helen know well how to milk cows with machines, drive tractors and trucks and get meals ready for many people. Fay worked two years in Hamiota Hospital before we

were married on June 15, 1957 in St. George's Anglican Church in Birtle. This was the second wedding in the new church. Fay and Bertha Hamel got along very well for four years in Hamiota Cafe until Bertha became ill from cancer. During Bertha's stay in hospital and at home, Fay spent many weeks helping to look after her. Fay is now a nurse's aide at Sunnyside Manor in Birtle.

There are five maternal generations now living, Mrs. Alf Shepherd, Mrs. Harry Cottingham, Mrs. Glen Sunley, Mrs. David Nykoliation, Jacqueline (Jacque) and Darren.

Elizabeth Ann was born July 5, 1958. Ann went to school at Isabella, Crandall and Hamiota. She worked at Ft. Macleod, Alberta, one summer. She married David Michael Nykoliation, May 5, 1979. They live on their farm at Pope with their children Jacqueline Lynn and Darren Michael. They keep many livestock and operate a corral cleaning outfit with brother Ron.

William Dale, born February 24, 1960 on a cold day in a car without a heater kept his mother and dad very busy until they arrived at Hamiota Hospital. Everyone was okay. He attended Isabella, Crandall and Hamiota schools, belonged to Young People's at Hamiota, attended Peace Garden's Basketball Camp, was three years in Air Cadets, spent a summer in Militia at Dundurn, Saskatchewan, visited Quebec with Young Voyageurs youth exchange, worked a year with MPE, a security Company and Metals Industries, Brandon. He has helped much on the farm where he is at present.

Laura Mae and Nancy Jean were born April 7, 1963. Nancy passed on, on April 10. Laura Mae attended school at Hamiota up to Grade IX. The past two years she has attended high school at Prairie High School (Bible Institute), Three Hills, Alberta and plans on going back. She was active in Hamiota Young People, belonged to Cadets at Strathclair for two years, attends summer long Bible camps at various places. Her hobby is horses. She belonged to the 4H Pony Club at Hamiota.

We kept foster children for seven years and keep in touch with some of their new parents on occasion. One family from Connecticut has visited us twice.

Mr. and Mrs. John Sunley **written by J. E. Sunley**

John Sunley was born near Guelph, Ontario, January 2nd, 1864. Before coming west in 1889, he worked at tempering in an axe factory at Galt. He also worked with the Canada Carriage Co. making buggies. In 1884, he married Mary Elizabeth Laura-son of Guelph. Before coming to Manitoba, two daughters were born, Ethel and Norma.

John came out on a harvest excursion to Virden in 1889. He soon got a job with a farmer by the name of Alex Forsythe, after making Alex's binder tie for him. After harvest he came north to Miniota where his brother George and David J. Hill lived. They had taken homesteads three miles south west of Blaris school.

John bought a yoke of oxen and rented a piece of land about a mile northeast of George's farm. It had a small frame house, sod stable and shed that he used for a blacksmith shop. This building site was on the side of a hill overlooking Pocket's Lake, named after a family of that name. He then commenced blacksmithing, mostly sharpening breaking-plow shares, disks, and harrows and making repairs when needed. Two years later, in 1891, Mrs. Sunley and the two girls came west to Virden, as it was the only railway near at the time. The family lived by Pocket's Lake until December, 1894. While there, another daughter, Myrtle was born. One Sunday, Mrs. Sunley, with Ethel and Norma, arrived home from Blaris church and Sunday school which was held in the school. They were driving one of their oxen single in the buck-board. The ox took them on top of the sod stable which was built into the bank. It was quite common in those days for oxen to take their passengers, or plows, or whatever they were pulling into the slough for a drink (I mean for the oxen). Common names for oxen were: Rum and Butter, Buck and Bright, Pat and Mike, but possibly one of the former names was the cause of their behaviour. The writer of this is quite sure they were called stronger names as well.

Two weeks before Christmas, in 1894, John was out doing the morning chores, when Mrs. Sunley with the three girls in their night clothes came rushing out to the stable as over heated stove pipes had set the house on fire. Before help could arrive, and as there were no telephones and transportation was slow in those days, the house and contents were consumed and they were unable to save anything. Good neighbors and relatives helped wonderfully that winter. Six weeks after the fire, on January 25th, 1895, their first son was born, named John Ellery, in the David Hill's log house (already well filled with Hills).

The following spring John bought the south half of 25-14-26 from a Mr. Simpson for around four hundred dollars. Blaris school was located on an acre in the extreme south east corner of the farm. A short distance north of the school, with a bluff between, the Sunley home was built. It was a small two storey frame house. A stable and another blacksmith shop were also built. A well was dug between the house and school with an ample supply of water at eighty two feet. A windmill was added later and used until

modern pumping engines took over. Once again, John carried on the blacksmith trade. Work was brought many miles on foot, by ox carts and wagons. There were few horses before 1900. He kept a man to break up new land and work the farm. On May 27th, 1902, another son was born, Ernest Laverne — completing the family. About 1910, John gave up the blacksmith work, bought another quarter section and continued farming.

In those pioneer years, both Mr. and Mrs. Sunley, were active in helping build up the community life in the Blaris district. John served on the school board and helped with all activities. One winter he and John Clark, Wm. Rowles, and Frank Campbell curled together in the first curling rink in Arrow River and won a prize of popcorn at their local bonspiel. John Clark had the first model "T" Ford in the Blaris district in 1913 and John Sunley was next with a model "T" in 1914. For lighting these cars had carbide first, then presto gas, then electric lights run from a magneto. One had to race the engine for a good light. The horn, a rubber bulb type — when squeezed — would honk, causing some horse and buggies to leave the road.

Mrs. Sunley was always active in the work of the church and the Women's Missionary Society. She was recording secretary for a good many years. She boarded the carpenters and men that built both churches. She also boarded the men who installed the first telephone system in the district. Many hundreds of pounds of flour were baked into bread for bachelors for several miles around.

The earliest Sunday school picnics were held in the school grounds. John Clark handed out oranges and there were peanut scrambles for all the youngsters. Long tables were set in the shade of Sunley's bluff for a sumptuous supper. After the first church was built, the picnic site was changed to Henry Wilson's farm, a little south of the church. It is now owned by Frank Palmer where the latter's house now stands. The Palmers, however, now reside in Hamiota. Those picnic grounds were where the Blaris baseball club never failed to practise on a Saturday night. Here, too, many a game of ball was played with Arrowton, Crandall, Miniota, Beulah and Isabella until the latter and Blaris joined forces. Blaris was noted for its spirit of unity in all phases.

The second church that was built was a union effort of Methodist and Presbyterian congregations, twelve years before the United Church of Canada was formed in 1925. The pioneers of the Blaris community stood together in hard times and good and endeavored to even improve the good times.

Mr. and Mrs. John Sunley retired from their farm in 1927, to live in Isabella. John carried on his hand-

icraft hobby of wood-work, making many notable articles until his health failed. He passed away in 1941. Mrs. Sunley enjoyed reasonably good health until her ninety-fifth year and passed on in 1956.

The remaining members of the family are as follows:

Ethel married A. Schofield of Miniota and both are now deceased.

Norma married George Torrance of Blaris and now lives in Miniota.

Myrtle married A. L. Decker of Decker and now lives in Hamiota.

Ellery married Jessie Bell of Blaris and now lives in Hamiota.

Ernie married Allie Miller of Blaris and resides on the home farm at Blaris.

The old Blaris school of 1885 has been purchased by Ernie and moved up with his other buildings and is now used as a substantial farm machine shop. The acre and a half of the school grounds was transferred back to the former owner and is growing grain. The tall evergreens that border the east side of the grounds stand as a memorial to the Blaris school site and the pioneer hands that planted them.

Ray Sunley **by Ray Sunley**

I, John Raymond Sunley, was born to Ernie and Allie Sunley on June 7, 1924, in a nursing home at Miniota, Man. All of my education was received at Blaris school except for grades nine and ten.

When almost ten years old, I had the misfortune of being thrown off a wagon in a runaway and had a concussion, not regaining consciousness for ten or twelve days.

Upon leaving school, I worked at home doing some field work and a lot of gardening with a tiller. In 1956 and '57 I was an authorized egg grader in Miniota Co-op Creamery, I now owned my first car. The winter of '49-'50 was spent in sunny California with my mother and dad in our trailer. I played horse shoes quite a bit and still play a little. Have helped with the work on the family farm whenever my health permitted.

My mother died in Nov. 1971 after a long illness.

In 1973 my father remarried and moved to Hamiota. I have continued to live in the old home on the farm, doing my own cooking, housekeeping and driving my car. I also do a little hobby work. One winter I braided an oval floor mat three feet by six, out of colored plastic baler twine.

Vern and Marg Sunley Family **by Margaret Sunley**

Vern stayed at Cancade Bros. until 1965. Then

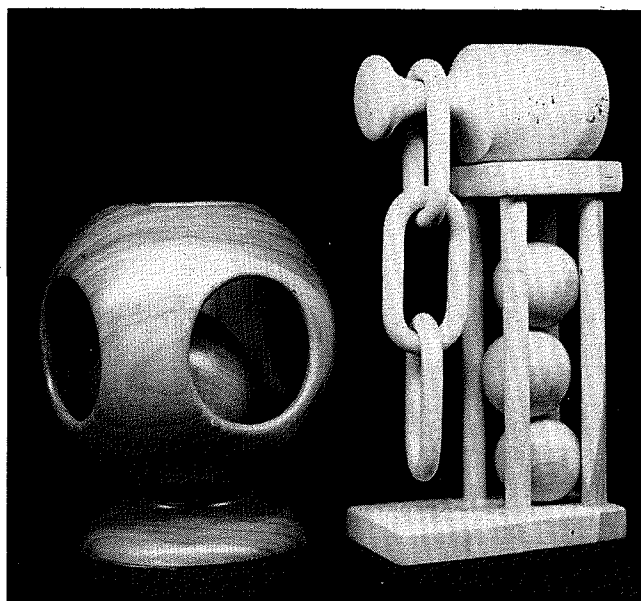
after working for a few weeks on the construction at Pool Packers, he began as a machinist for Hamilton-Jones in Brandon. In 1967, the family moved to Esterhazy, Saskatchewan. Until May 1980, Vern was a machinist at the potash mines. He is retired now and occupies his time with wood carving.

Vicki Elaine, our elder daughter, has one daughter and lives in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Glenda Lucille, our second daughter, has four sons and lives in Lethbridge, Alberta.

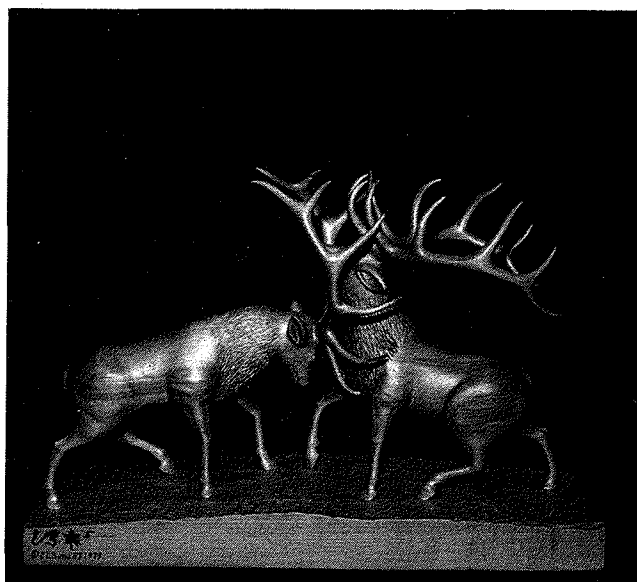
Christopher Lee, our only son, lives in Esterhazy and works underground at the potash mines.

From his earliest days, Vern Sunley was always making something — a kite, a bird-house, or a sling-shot. His motto seemed to be "If you haven't got it and you want it — take the material around you and make it." During the years 1946 to 1957, in Isabella Machine Shop, he earned his living that way, using metal. In 1971 he hurt his back; and to relieve the boredom of not being active, he picked up a block of wood, and, using his ever-present jack-knife, he whittled out a small object (which he later called "Ball and Chain"). Next he tried the head of a mountain sheep: and then that of a deer. He had caught the "carver's bug" and now he cannot be cured. As one project is being completed, another is being visualized.



Vern Sunley's wood carving — abstract.

It has been said that carving is easy. To carve a deer, for instance, you take a block of wood, cut off everything that does not look like a deer, and there you have it! Vern uses a solid block of wood to make a carving and he does not fasten on any pieces. Birch is his favorite wood but he has used ash, poplar,



Vern Sunley's wood carving — two elk locked in combat.

maple, cherry and walnut. The hidden properties of each kind of wood are quite often what makes one piece of finished work different from another.

By the spring of 1975, Vern had tried several ideas and a fellow-worker, Henry Putland, urged him to show his work at the Community College Achievement days at Marchwell and Churchbridge. It was very surprising to find out that the public was interested in the results of his hobby. The next time the carvings were shown was at the Regina Summer Exhibition. At that time, Vern found out that the wood-carvers in the United States were publishing a magazine called "Chip Chats." He joined the National Woodcarvers' Association and started getting the worldwide carving news. The first International Woodcarvers' Competition was held at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto in August 1977. Vern entered seven carvings to be judged in the various classes. He got two 4th ribbons, one 5th ribbon, and two merit awards. The cover of the Nov.-Dec. 1978 edition of Chip Chats featured a picture of the "Fighting Elk" carving. Carvings were entered in the Western Canada Class at the C.N.E. in 1979 and received 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, ribbons, plus a set of carving chisels, an award made possible by the English firm — Marple Tools. Again in 1981, the judges awarded two second-place ribbons for Vern's work — one for a dog, and the other for a walking cane.

Vern has made abstract "things" which are conversation pieces, but his favorite pieces are the animals. To date, he has made whitetails, caribou, elk, moose, mountain sheep and goats, dogs and horses. For a change of pace he makes wall plaques and the walking canes. There is no doubt that as time passes, the list will grow.

He is happy to show anyone his collection. Since retiring in 1981, his time is spent on his hobby with its many phases. Time is limited to twenty-four hours in a day, although he could use longer days if they could be arranged. Most of his tools are hand-made: most of his wood has to be brought in and cured; outlines have to be drawn; and after the carvings have been sanded, each one is finished with the paint brush and urethane. A few times each year he packs up a selection of work and goes to an Art Show or a Craft Show or a Community Fair.

Vern's carvings have gone to homes in Canada and overseas. It is always interesting to learn of their final destinations: one "Northern Caribou" was presented to a visiting delegate from China.

The jack-knife whittling which began in 1971 has grown "just like Topsy". The future is only limited by time and imagination — may we all have lots of that!

Allan and Jeannene Sutherland by Jeannene and Allan Sutherland

I trained and got my Diploma for Chiropractory, but at that time the Medical Doctors did not recognize the D.C.'s and it made it very difficult to make a living at it. Due to the fact that I was very young and inexperienced in dealing with the public I soon was looking for something else in the line of livelihood.

I visited at my sister Doris's (married to Jack Butler). They farmed in the Isabella district then and that is where I met Allan.

I got a job clerking in Leckie's Dry Goods Store in Neepawa and worked there all winter and into May.

Then in June, Allan was bound he was going to join the Army as things were not so good at home, so we went away to Winnipeg and got married on June 16th in the New Westminster United Church on Furby.

Allan joined the Army and after a couple of weeks was sent out to the Army base in Portage for his basic training. We lived in Portage for three months, then Allan was drafted to Red Deer, Alberta, and I followed after he found out he would be stationed there for a while. Living quarters were hard to get so I stayed with a family 2½ miles out of Red Deer until we could get a suite. Our suite turned out to be a large garage made into living quarters and very comfortable too. I got working for Mr. Lundic with the Associated Grocers and enjoyed it very much. We stayed in Red Deer for three years and by the time I had to quit I was assistant manager there. Allan was posted back to Brandon and we bought a two-storey house there and rented out the upstairs

suite to an Air Force couple and their wee daughter. The daughter was with me more than upstairs with her Mom and I really enjoyed having her.

In the fall of 1946, Allan got his discharge and we came back to Birtle to spend the winter before moving out to the farm. I again got a job with Gordon Morris and he was a general merchant at the time — both groceries and dry goods. In April of 1947, we moved out to the farm where we still live.

All we had for a house to move into was an old dilapidated box car affair that rained twice as long indoors as it did outdoors but we made the best of it. After seeding, Allan and his Dad dug and cemented a basement and Al bought a 3-roomed house from Ashcrofts and we moved it onto the foundation. Allan's Dad built a kitchen, bathroom and utility room. It was home.

In 1958 we got our son, John Douglas, born January 28; and in 1963, our daughter, Shirley Ann, born April 15. These two have really made life worthwhile and we are thankful that we have our little family still with us. Doug is 23 now and taking his second year of University trying for his Bachelor of Science degree. Shirley is 18 and hopes to get to college this fall.



Allan, Shirley, Doug, and Jean Sutherland.

We all love the farm and what it has to offer in happiness, freedom and independence and some day when our children are ready to settle down and take farming seriously we hope they carry on where we leave off. It is a good life and we are proud to be farming and working with nature and all it has to offer.

J. G. and Donald Sutherland written by Mrs. Donald Sutherland

John Guthrie Sutherland, was born in the Orkney Islands, on June 27, 1839, the son of Donald Sutherland and his wife, Barbara Guthrie. He spent his boyhood on the islands and received his education in the village where he was born. He left school at twelve years of age and began earning his own living by fishing. When he was old enough to leave home he went to Edinburgh, where he learned the carpenter's trade, obtaining the certificate of a Master Joiner. He later got a position on a sailing ship as a ship's carpenter, and travelled all over the world visiting most of the important ports. He was in Boston when Abraham Lincoln was assassinated, and in India when cholera was killing people by the thousands. He crossed the Atlantic Ocean twenty-three times. Later, he established the firm of J. & D. Sutherland, building contractors, in Leith, Scotland, where he was engaged in business for several years.



Mrs. Donald Sutherland and Mrs. John Bell.

On April 2nd, 1874, at Edinburgh, John Guthrie Sutherland was united in marriage to Magdalene Thompson, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Thompson of Ormiston, Edinburghshire. They came to Canada in 1874 and settled in Toronto. While in Toronto, Mr. Sutherland carried on his carpenter's trade. He designed and built the first two-storey buildings on Yonge Street.

Of this union there were eight children: — Isabella, — born May 28, 1875, in Toronto, receiving her education in Edinburgh, Grand Valley and Blaris School. She became the wife of W. J. Hill, living for some years in the Blaris district, later moving to White Rock, B.C. Barbara, — born November 21, 1876, married Mr. R. Bruce Wallace and lived in the Isabella, Blaris and Arrow River Districts until her death in 1959.

Mr. and Mrs. Sutherland returned to Scotland in

1877 and their third daughter, Magdalene, was born at Leith on August 28, 1878. She married Robert H. Reid of Elbow, Saskatchewan on December 8, 1909. He passed away May 3rd, 1918. She later married Joseph Astle in August, 1925. He predeceased her on August 13, 1937. She now resides in a nursing home in Brandon.

Donald was born July 19, 1880 in Leith.

William Thompson Sutherland was born May 15, 1882 in Leith. He married Marion Wiggins of Arrow River on June 30, 1925. He operated a blacksmith shop in that village until his illness and death in December, 1944.

John Guthrie was born July 3, 1884 in Leith. He married Ann Allan, a Scottish lass on February 14, 1912, and farmed in the Isabella district until they retired to Birtle in 1942. They celebrated their Golden Wedding in 1962.

Mr. and Mrs. Sutherland left Scotland and returned to Grand Valley, north of Toronto and George was born there on December 5, 1886. The family lived on the farm at Grand Valley until late in the winter of 1889. They then left for the land of opportunity, the west, Manitoba, — arrived in Birtle on March 21, 1889. They unloaded their wagon, horses and belongings and set out for their new home. They spent their first night at the David Hill farm which was just west of their own in the Blaris district. Mr. and Mrs. Hill were away and Mr. Sutherland said they wouldn't put them out if they were already in bed, so they laid their blankets on the floor and slept. The next morning they again set out for their new home. This farm was previously owned by a Mr. Spears. When Mr. Spears was trying to sell his farm to Mr. Sutherland he told him that he could sit on the porch of his house and watch the ships sailing up and down the Assiniboine River. Being a man who had sailed all over the world — this sales talk about seeing ships every day persuaded him to buy the farm — sight unseen. In later years he owned twenty-four hundred acres in Manitoba and six hundred and forty acres in Saskatchewan.

Here, on the farm, on the north-west quarter of section 18-14-25 their eighth child was born on August 6, 1889 and was named Irvine. He died in infancy on January 30, 1891.

Mr. Sutherland, being a good carpenter, built a fine set of buildings on his farm, up-to-date for those days. The barn had stone walls with a full sized loft built of lumber and two driveways. The house was built of lumber and heated with a furnace. The lumber was hauled from Hamiota with horses. A Lister lighting plant was installed in 1919 — the first in the district. As the soil is the Maringhurst Loams type, Mr. Sutherland carried on a mixed grain and cattle

raising operation. The fences were built of barbed wire and the water supply was from a dug well, 65 feet deep.

Mr. Sutherland was greatly interested in the agricultural development of the country, and also in all efforts that would make the community a better place to live. He has been credited with having the siding built at Arrow River. The C.P.R. was not going to have a siding between Crandall and Miniota. This was going to make it a long trip for the farmers in the Blaris district to haul their grain. Several delegations had gone to Winnipeg about the matter, but the C.P.R. told them they did not own any land there and did not have crews available to do the work. So the delegations returned home disappointed. Mr. Sutherland said, "Let me try". So he went to Winnipeg and heard the same story. At last he said "Send out a foreman and I'll see there are enough men, horses and equipment there to do the work."

The land for the siding was donated, the foreman came, and the farmers were there early the following Monday with their horses and equipment to build the siding.

As soon as power machinery was on the market, Mr. Sutherland availed himself of these conveniences. In 1905, he purchased his first steam engine, it had been built in 1900. He had the first cream separator, a Mellotte quite an antique by today's standards. It had only two parts to the bowl making it very easy to wash. Mr. Sutherland's first car was a Warren Detroit — 1911 model. His son, Will, brought it home from Elbow, Saskatchewan, in 1913.

During the early years in Manitoba, doctors were not easy to contact, and even when contacted, travel with horse and buggy over prairie trails was very slow, so Mr. Sutherland was often called upon to set broken bones.

Anyone, whether a relative, neighbor or stranger was always made welcome in the Sutherland home. It was the gathering place for the young and old alike.

A maiden sister, — Jane Sutherland, came from Scotland and made her home with the Sutherlands until the time of their passing. Then she resided with her nieces until her death on April 28, 1939. Jim and Jessie Stewart — nephew and niece of Mr. Sutherland came to live with them at Blaris on June 3, 1911. They attended Blaris school and Jessie also spent two years, 1912 to 1914 with her cousin, Magdalene (Sutherland) Reid at Elbow, Saskatchewan. Her marriage to Robert Johnston was solemnized on November 9, 1921, at the John G. Sutherland home at Isabella. Jessie and Bob moved to Detroit in 1923. Jim remained on the farm until 1925, and then he too went to Detroit to live.

George and Donald Sutherland went to Elbow, Saskatchewan where Mr. Sutherland had acquired some land. They farmed this land and operated an implement agency in the town. George loved horses and was the proud owner of a very high spirited one that eventually caused his death. He was riding it home from pasture and fell and broke his back. He lived about six weeks after, and died in the Regina Hospital on August 13, 1914 at the early age of twenty eight years.

Mrs. Sutherland, a quiet, kindly lady, beloved by all who made her acquaintance, passed away on May 30, 1922, after a lengthy illness at the age of seventy six years. Mr. Sutherland's health began to fail about the same time, and he said to his son, Donald, that he didn't have any great interest in life now that his beloved partner was gone, and the family all had homes of their own. He was called Home on August 22, 1924, at the age of eighty five years, and laid to rest beside Mrs. Sutherland in the Arrow River Cemetery.

William Sutherland remained on the farm until 1926, and then he moved to Arrow River to operate the blacksmith shop.

The eldest son, Donald, who had been operating a farm and implement business at Elbow, Saskatchewan, returned in 1927 to take over the home farm. Along with the farm he also took a bride, Mary Jane Wilson of Regina, formerly of Pilot Mound, a registered nurse, became his wife on May 3, 1927.

Farming during the "Dirty Thirties" tested every farmer's skill and knowledge but Donald took it all in his stride. He operated a mixed farm, grain, cattle, and hogs, did a lot of blacksmith work for his neighbours, and also lent his hand at any veterinary work that he could do. During the Second World War when the government was asking the farmers to raise more pork, beef, etc. Donald made every effort he could to keep things going on the Home front. Due to the increased work and shortage of help, Donald's health began to fail, and the Doctor advised him to leave the farm. With a heavy heart he sold all his farm machinery and cattle in 1946, and rented the farm to Lorne Miller for two years. They moved into the big brick house on the Joe Bonner farm west of Arrow River until they could get their own house built in Arrow River. They bought the old Glenlocher school, moved it to Arrow River and had it remodelled and modernized in 1949. Donald opened up the blacksmith shop in 1946 that had been closed since the death of his brother, Will, in 1944. He carried on this trade until ill health forced him to stop work entirely.

He was always greatly interested in the happenings of the day and especially the agricultural aspects. He rented the farm to David Dyck from 1948 to

1958 and William Bell, Jr. has rented it since then. Donald passed away at his home in Arrow River on July 2, 1958, and is buried in the Arrow River Cemetery.

During their years on the farm they attended the Blaris Church and belong to the various church organizations. After we moved to Arrow River, and Blaris Church was closed we attended Arrow River Church.

They were not blessed with a family, but have been foster parents to several refugee boys in a boys' home in Europe.

Mrs. Sutherland still lives in her comfortable home and enjoys gardening, church work, and visiting with all her old friends and neighbours from near and far.

Update

by Hannah Reid

Following Uncle Donald's death in 1958, Aunt Mary continued to live in her comfortable little home in Arrow River. She enjoyed her garden and flowers, church work, W.I., and the Golden Age group. Many children in Europe and Asia were supported through the Christian Children's Fund of Canada. Not only did Aunt Mary send gifts of money every month but she also mailed them parcels of clothing and school supplies. She enjoyed the Canadian Centennial in 1967 and the Manitoba Centennial in 1970 with all the pioneer costumes, parades and celebrations.

In 1969, when age and health no longer allowed Aunt Mary to continue living alone in Arrow River, she sold her house to Kevin and Kay Lelond, and moved into Park Residence in Hamiota. Here, she again became involved in church work and community activities. Visits from nieces and nephews, and other members of her family and friends were always looked forward to and enjoyed. There was also time now for travelling and playing shuffleboard. Red Cross knitting and sewing continued to hold top priority in work to be done every year. In recognition of sixty years of faithful service, the Red Cross presented her with a certificate in 1978.

Following a brief illness, Aunt Mary died in Hamiota Hospital on May 17, 1979 at the age of 94 years, and was laid to rest in Arrow River Cemetery.

George and Helen Sutherland

written by Mrs. G. Sutherland

George, the second son of John G., and Ann (Allan) Sutherland, was born in the "shack" on November 10th, 1914.

He received his elementary education at Isabella School. After leaving school he has spent his entire life in the district, assisting on his father's farm until he took over the farm in the fall of 1942.

That same fall, October 17, George married Helen Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Ernest and Beatrice (Varley) Lawn.

Both parents had emigrated to Canada from England, and had spent many years farming in the Isabella district until Mrs. Lawn passed away in 1954. Helen received her education (grades one to eleven inclusive) at Isabella School, Grade twelve at Birtle High School, and a year in teacher training at Winnipeg Normal School. She then taught for five years prior to her marriage. Of this marriage there were two children, a daughter, Doreen Sharon, born May 11, 1947, and a son, Lawrence Murray, born April 7, 1949.

Several buildings have been added to the farm premises, a hen house in 1945, several small granaries, an implement shed in 1960-1961, a stationary granary this year (1962), while several buildings, particularly granaries have been dismantled. The garage and barn have both been repaired, the barn was also straightened in the fall of 1961. The house has also been remodeled, the kitchen and bathroom in 1946, and the living room in 1951. About this time the old brick chimney was torn down and a new Selkirk set up in its place. In 1949, the old veranda was removed and a sun porch built on the east end of the house. To add warmth to the house the walls were insulated and insul-bricked. The hydro brought changes in electrical living in the fall of 1950 to the home. In the spring of 1956 a hot and cold water pressure system was installed and a new furnace and stoker in the fall of 1957.

Both dairy and beef cattle, pigs, and fowl, both turkeys and chickens have been raised on the farm during the last twenty years. On the farm today there is a horse and colt descended from the horses that John Sutherland Sr. brought from Ontario with him in 1889.

Wheat, oats and hay have been the main crop.

Update

by Helen Sutherland

During this time, both Doreen and Murray received their elementary education at Isabella School. Doreen attended Birtle Collegiate for Grades 11 and 12, and Murray Grades 9 to 12 inclusive, after Isabella High School closed.

Doreen worked in the Royal Bank at Birtle until her marriage to Clare Clark November 18, 1967. They have two children, a son, Kevin and a daughter, Darlene.

Murray married Celia Hookway April 10, 1971. They have three children.

When we retired to live in Birtle October 1974, Murray took over the family farm.

Mr. and Mrs. John G. Sutherland, Jr.
written by Mrs. G. Sutherland

In 1886, John Guthrie Sutherland came to Canada with his parents when he was only one and one half years old. He was born in Leith, Scotland, July 3, 1884. He was the son of John G. and Magdalene (Thompson) Sutherland Sr., who for many years farmed in the vicinity of Arrow River and the Blaris district, and whose home was situated on the north west quarter of Section 18, township 14 range 25. He grew up in this district and received his education at Blaris school.

In 1910, Mr. Sutherland purchased a half section, north half of section 20, township 15, Range 25. Only a few acres along the southern part of the farm had been broken by Mr. Harry Reid, who had settled in the district earlier. That first summer he lived in a caboose, and spent his time breaking and turning over the black loam of the prairie, by means of a steamer and an eight furrowed plow. During the summer of 1911, he built the (12 by 22) two roomed "shack" which forms the kitchen and bath room of the farm home to this day, still referred to as the "shack".

On February 14th, 1912, Mr. Sutherland was married to Miss Ann Wilson Allan, the daughter of George and Isabella (Hamilton) Allan. The vows being performed at the Sutherland home at Blaris. Miss Allan came to Canada from Ormiston, Scotland, in 1906, as a young girl of sixteen.

Prior to her marriage, she helped in a number of homes throughout the district — J. Thompson's, W. Hill's, J. Drummond's, C. Craig's, J. Clark's and F. Campbell's. Of this marriage there are two sons, John Allen and George, both farming in the Isabella community at this time.

The main part of the house was built in 1914, the lumber being purchased in Isabella and transported by horse and wagon. That first winter it was heated by a Quebec heater, then a hard coal furnace was installed in the basement the coming year. In the early thirties, Mr. Sutherland constructed a wood burning furnace, because hard coal had become scarce and expensive. In 1919, the first electric lighting plant was installed in the home. Power was produced by means of a gas engine in the basement.

Later, in 1938, a wind charger was also used to produce electricity.

Between the years 1910 and 1916, several wells were dug without getting a steady supply of water, so Mr. Sutherland had made up his mind, that if he did not obtain an abundant water supply from a drilled well on his farm, he was going to move. In 1916, the deep well was drilled.

This well has provided a constant supply of water

ever since, being repiped and cleaned out once in 1951 in all this time.

On his farm Mr. Sutherland was particularly interested in the growing of grain (wheat, oats and barley) and also in the raising and breeding of live stock, many of which were shown at the local fairs in the earlier years. Mr. Sutherland also recalls quite vividly the old steam threshing days both before and after he took up farming in the Isabella district. He started operating a steam outfit in 1903, at the age of nineteen. He remembers the summer of 1905 or 1906 when there was a 'flu epidemic among the horses in the district, that the summerfallow was even worked by steamer. He purchased wood at forty-four dollars a car-load to be burnt in the engine. The last threshing was done by steamer in 1915, in the following year he purchased his first gas tractor — a 20-40 Case, also his first car, a brass mounted Hupmobile.

During the summer of 1926, the present barn was built, the lumber being hauled from Birtle, both by truck and by team and wagon. The old stable built in 1912 was moved and made into a granary, (now no longer used).

Mr. Sutherland says he never held any office in any organization but he remembers, the groups of men who worked together to build the rink. He was an enthusiastic curler in his younger days. He is a life member of the fraternal order of Masons.

Mrs. Sutherland planted the spruce- maple, — cottonwood — and ash, and some of the fruit trees which surround the farm home of today.

She also has a special talent for decorating cakes, especially wedding cakes, the first one being decorated in 1920 for Jessie Stewart's wedding, and she has baked and decorated numerous wedding cakes in the years between.

In 1942, Mr. and Mrs. Sutherland retired from active farm life and left to make their home in Birtle, where they have resided ever since. They never forget their Isabella friends and a warm welcome is always accorded to any former friends who care to visit them.

On February 14th, of this year, 1962, Mr. and Mrs. John G. Sutherland had the pleasure of celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary, a memorable occasion, which they will never forget, when they received so many congratulations from relatives and friends both young and old.

Update
by Helen Sutherland

Mrs. Sutherland passed away April 12, 1968 and Mr. Sutherland on January 14, 1969. Both are buried in Isabella cemetery.

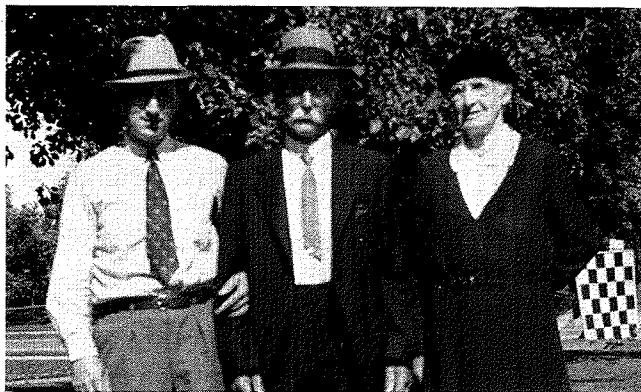
John G. Sutherland, Senior **written by Mrs. G. Sutherland**

(Facts are as recorded in "The Story of Manitoba" 1913).

One of the most extensive land owners in the vicinity of Arrow River was John G. Sutherland, whose holdings aggregated twenty-four hundred acres. He specialized in raising grain, in which he met with unqualified success and was one of the most prosperous agriculturalists in this section of the province.

Mr. Sutherland came to Manitoba from Scotland, his birth having occurred on the Orkney Islands on the 27th of June, 1839. He was the son of Donald and Barbara (Gutherie) Sutherland. They spent their entire lives in the old country and are buried in Burray cemetery, Orkney, where the family has resided for generations. A legend has been passed on from one generation to another in the Sutherland family, that the Sutherlands originally came from Sweden. They were driven out of Sweden for horse thieving and landed on the Orkney Islands.

The boyhood and youth of John G. Sutherland were passed in his native islands, his education being acquired in the parish where he was born. At the age of twelve years, he left school and began earning his own living, following for a time the vocation of fisherman. When old enough to leave home he went



Jimmy Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Sunley.

to the city of Edinburgh, where he learned the carpenter's trade, later obtaining a position on a sailing vessel as ship's carpenter. While engaged in this capacity he travelled over a large portion of the world, and visited in many of the most important ports.

Later he established the firm of J. and D. Sutherland, building contractors in Leith, Scotland, where he was engaged in business for nearly four decades.

In 1886, Mr. Sutherland emigrated to Canada, coming by way of Quebec and Montreal. He first settled at Grand Valley, Ontario, where he bought a

farm, of which he retained possession for three years. From there he came to Arrow River, having traded his Ontario farm, (much of which was covered with hardwood trees), for three hundred and twenty acres of wild land in this district. They arrived in Birtle by train, bringing horses, cattle and household effects with them from Ontario. The first night in the district was spent in the David Hill home (now the Archie Hill home). This was the year 1889.

In the cultivation of this land, he met with marked success, and as opportunity permitted added to his land interests, until he held title to twenty-four hundred acres. Eight hundred acres were located in Township 14, range 25 and 26, six hundred forty acres in township 15, range 25, one hundred and sixty acres in township 16 and a like amount in township 15 range 25 and three hundred and twenty acres each in township 15 and 16 range 25.

The buildings which were conveniently arranged and substantially constructed were erected by Mr. Sutherland and were thoroughly practical and carefully designed to meet their requirements.

In earlier years he engaged in diversified farming and stock raising, making a speciality of pure bred cattle and of the breeding of horses. In later years he devoted his fields exclusively to the raising of grain. Cattle were herded in these days because there were no fences.

As he directed his undertakings in a business-like manner giving his personal attention to every detail connected with the operation of his farm, he met with more than average success, and was regarded as one of the most prosperous grain growers in the district. In addition to his vast holdings in Manitoba, Mr. Sutherland owned six hundred and forty acres in Saskatchewan, making his land possessions aggregate three thousands acres.

At Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1873, Mr. Sutherland was married to Miss. Magdaline Thompson, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Thompson, farming people of Ormeston, Edinburghshire. Here they passed the later years of their life, and were laid to rest in the local cemetery. Eight children were born to the Sutherlands:

Isabella, who became the wife of William Hill a pioneer of the district and who later left to take up residence in White Rock, B.C.

Barbara, who married R. B. Wallace, a farmer of the district.

Magdaline, who became the wife of R. H. Reid of Saskatchewan.

Donald, a farmer and implement dealer of Saskatchewan, later taking over the home farm, who married Mary Wilson.

William, who lived at home and later married Marion Wiggins and resided in Arrow River.

John who farmed in the Isabella district.

George who was a partner with his brother Donald in Sask. He fell from a horse and died of injuries two weeks later in Regina hospital, July, 1914.

Irwin, died when he was two years old, as a result of injuries he received when he fell on a hardwood floor.

In 1910, Mr. Sutherland, on one of his many visits to Scotland, brought a grand-niece, Jessie, age eight, and a grand-nephew, Jim Stewart, age ten, back with him to make their home with his family in the Blaris district. In 1920, Jessie married Bob Johnson. The marriage took place at the J. Sutherland's (Junior) home at Isabella. They left to live in Winnipeg, later in Detroit, Michigan, where they still reside. Jim Stewart left the farm to reside in Detroit after J. Sutherland Senior, passed away in 1926. This summer 1962, Jim returned to visit relatives and friends for the first time in thirty six years.

The family manifested their religious faith through their affiliation with the Presbyterian church. Plans for the construction of the second Blaris church were designed by Mr. Sutherland. His fraternal connection was confined to his membership in the Masonic Order, in which he had taken the degrees of the blue lodge. Politically, he supported the Liberal Party, but never had any official position. He was not remiss in matters of citizenship, but took an active interest in all questions pertaining to the local welfare and progress. He was especially interested in the agricultural development of the country and was a member of the Grain Grower's Company. Mr. Sutherland was held in favorable regard throughout the district, of which he was a long time resident. He conducted his business dealings in a straightforward, upright manner. In matters of citizenship he was progressive, endorsing all movements he deemed of worth to the interests of the community.

Mr. Sutherland was also noted for setting fractured bones.

He purchased his first car, a Warren Detroit in 1913.

Mrs. Sutherland passed away in 1922 and Mr. Sutherland in 1926. Both were laid to rest in Arrow River cemetery.

L. Murray and Celia E. (Hookway) Sutherland

by Murray and Celia Sutherland

I, Murray, second child was born to George and Helen (Lawn) Sutherland on April 7th, 1949 in Shoal Lake Hospital. I attended Isabella school from



Celia, Murray, Leslie, Cheri-Lea and Chris Sutherland.

grades one to eight and then in 1963, Birtle Collegiate for High School. During these years, I was active in baseball, hockey, and also attended the Royal Canadian Legion Track and Field Camp in August, 1964 (at Peace Gardens).

In September, 1968, I began working for the Royalite Oil Company (later Gulf Service) and in April 1973, became manager of the Service Centre in Birtle. At this time, I was the youngest Service manager in Western Canada and am proud to say established the best credit centre in all of Canada.

On April 10th, 1971, I was married to Celia Elizabeth Hookway, in the Beulah United Church (now Beulah Chapel), by Reverend Bob Kayes.

I, Celia Elizabeth (Hookway) Sutherland was born in Nottingham, England on April 16th, 1953 and immigrated to Canada in October 1958 with my mother and one sister. We sailed on the Saxonia, from Southampton on October 1st and arrived in Montreal on October 9th, after a very eventful voyage.

We were seasick most of the time, due to icebergs which you could see from the port hole in our cabin. The one thing that really stands out in my memory, is the ocean going up and down! The first time we felt well enough to set foot on deck, was when we were going down the St. Lawrence River. We were amazed to see the building of the new St. Lawrence Seaway which was completed the following year.

From Montreal, we travelled by train to Punichy, Sask., where we resided until 1963, when we moved to Beulah, Manitoba.

I took my primary schooling, first in Touchwood Hills school, (which was one of the last 'one room schoolhouses'), and then to grade four in Lestock, Sask. After moving to Manitoba, I attended Beulah Elementary until 1967 when I went to Birtle Collegiate for my senior grades.

After our marriage, we resided in 'Grandpa and Grandma' Sutherland's former home in Birtle, until

1974. In the fall of 1973 we made arrangements with Father to purchase the farm and returned to the farm in August, 1974. Murray continued working as manager at Gulf in Birtle, until 1975 and then took a part time position at the Gulf station in Shoal Lake until August, 1976.

We continued the family tradition of mixed farming, changing only our cropping procedures. In 1975 and 1979 we cleared approximately 85 acres, enabling us to create a more productive farm. In 1980, a new pole barn was built, replacing the old one built by John Guthrie Sutherland Jr. in 1926. We still live in the family house built by J. G. Sutherland Jr. in 1914, including 'the shack' built in 1911. Our family is the fourth generation of Sutherlands to live in this home.

We've had four children: Christopher Blair, born May 9th, 1972, attends Birtle Elementary School. According to one of Isabella's early settlers, Chris resembles his great, great, Uncle George Sutherland, killed in 1914. Jolene Elizabeth, born June 13, 1974, died June 15, 1974. Leslie Neil, born October 13, 1975, attending Birtle Elementary School. Cheri-Lea Dawn, born June 6, 1977, Dad's little helper, starts Nursery School this fall.

Wm. Taylor **written by Mr. R. Calder**

The late W. M. Taylor was born in the Parish of Gask, Perthshire, Scotland in the year 1858, and he came to Canada in 1882.

He travelled to Winnipeg, Manitoba, on the C.P.R. which, at that time, was the end of the track. He spent a busy week in Winnipeg gathering settler's effects, such as: oxen, wagon, cow, tent and other articles far too numerous to mention. His early memories of Winnipeg were not very bright. There were no paved streets and on leaving the city, his oxen got mired a couple of times, on Main Street. Many others experienced the same plight.

There were many immigrants going west at the time. The Government supplied them with a guide. It was pretty heavy going. They would often travel half a day at a time through water up to the hubs of the wagon wheels. Many times they were stuck and had to unload.

Mr. Taylor was the one who came furthest west on that trip. His homestead was about five miles east of Old Beulah. For two years he worked in the lumber yard at Birtle.

At that time the Indians were getting pretty restless, so he joined the troops and fought through the North West Rebellion for which he received a Medal. It bears the head of Queen Victoria on one side and the words "North West — 1885 — Canada" on the

other, with "William Taylor B.M.I." inscribed on it as well. It is a silver fob, hung from a blue and red ribbon. The word "Saskatchewan" is at the top of the ribbon.

In 1882, there was a Mr. and Mrs. Kelly who homesteaded the S.E. ¼ of the section on which Len. Hall lived. Mrs. Kelly used to bake Mr. Taylor's bread. For her work, she would get a certain number of loaves for baking a one hundred pound bag of flour. One night Mr. Taylor went up for his bread. In the meantime it came up quite a blizzard and he had to stay all night. Just before going to bed, a knock came to the door. Upon opening it, a man fell to the floor, crying, "I'm frozen". He was on his way from Arrow River to Birtle. They took him in, rubbed his feet with snow, to bring out the frost, and nursed him for three months without a doctor. He lost all of his toes. Through the summer, someone came out from Ontario and took him away.

There's no doubt the young people of today often wonder just how the old timers put in their leisure time, when there were no roads and settlers were so far apart. Well, they did lots of visiting and spent many pleasant evenings in their neighbors' homes, with debates, sing songs, spelling bees and suppers. There wasn't as much choice in the way of eats as there is today. There were no angel cakes — hens were too scarce at that time. There was always lots of music, although the piano and organ were minus. Mr. E. Heise and Mr. Wm. Taylor were both experts with the violin and their talent was in great demand for socials and entertainment within a radius of twenty miles.

The first few years of farming were not very encouraging. One year, everything was lost with frost, the next with drought, which made it impossible to get enough feed for their stock. Mr. Wm. Iverach, Mr. E. Heise, Mr. Taylor and a few others, went up to Dauphin, Man., with mowers and rakes, and put up enough feed to carry them through the winter. There was lots of feed there. They went up later to build stabling for the stock and a shanty for their own use. Then they drove the stock up there for the winter, returning in the spring, all in good shape.

In 1885, Mr. Taylor built a log house cutting the logs and hauling them from the Assiniboine Valley with oxen. Then his mother and two younger sisters came out from Scotland and joined him.

When Isabella appeared on the map, it was named after his mother, Mrs. Isabella Gould Taylor, who was the oldest lady in the district at the time.

Mr. Taylor was a prosperous farmer who had the misfortune to lose his stone house just prior to its completion, by a terrible hail storm which wiped out the whole district as far as crops were concerned.

He was very prominent in church and Sunday school. He taught Bible class in both Blaris and Isabella for many years. He was very interested in the municipality of which he was Reeve and Councillor for many years. In 1908, he went on a holiday to Scotland and England for two years. On his departure, the Reeve, members of the Council and members of the Board of Trade at Miniota presented him with a signed scroll in gratitude for the services he had rendered. It read as follows: "Wm. Taylor-Esq., ex-Reeve of the Municipality of Miniota, Man.

Dear Mr. Taylor,

On the eve of your departure for your native land, we desire, on behalf of the citizens of this town and your many friends throughout the Municipality, to place on record the high esteem and regard in which you are held by them, both as a private individual and a public man.

During the seven years in which you so ably filled the office of Reeve, in this Municipality, your management and administration of municipal affairs were such as to fully justify the confidence which your fellow citizens had reposed in you, when they elected you to that office.

We ask you, therefore, to accept with this address, which is but a small token of regard, the heartfelt good wishes of your friends, for your future prosperity. They earnestly pray that you may be spared for many years to continue the works of usefulness, which have always been associated with your name.

Signed on behalf of the Citizens and Residents of the Municipality of Miniota, Manitoba, this Seventh Day of December, Nineteen Hundred and Eight. Signed by Jas. L. Thompson (Reeve), Wm. Howard (Sec.-Treas.) W. H. Frazer and James Boyce (councillors), Sydney D. Thomas (Pres.), R. K. Chalmers M.D. (Sec.-Treas.), and R. G. MacKenzie (member); the first three were of the council body and the latter three were of the Board of Trade.

He returned from England, coming back to Isabella where he lived until 1918, when he retired to Victoria, B.C. He died in 1941.

"Let us all be up and doing with a Heart for any Fate

Still achieving, still pursuing, learn to labor and to wait,

Lives of Great Men, all remind us, we can make our lives sublime,

And departing, leave behind us, footprints on the sands of Time."

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Teasdale

written by Mrs. S. Teasdale

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Teasdale moved to Isabella

in 1947, from Kelloe, via Kenton where they spent one summer. They settled on the Stan. Wale farm, previously the Harry Reid farm.

The family included Wilbert, Delmer and Stanley. Delmer left the following year to reside in Winnipeg. Mr. Teasdale passed away in 1951.

In 1949, another son, Clifford Teasdale, and his family took up residence in Isabella while Cliff was employed at Decker. They later moved to Minnedosa. In October, 1961, Stanley was married to Miss Ruth Russett of Birtle. They now reside in Isabella and Mrs. Teasdale and Wilbert, still reside on the farm.

Update

by Ruth Teasdale

Mrs. Teasdale and Wilbert lived on SW 20-15-25 until Mrs. Teasdale passed away in June 1965. She is buried in the family plot at Shoal Lake. The following year Delmer, Min and boys moved out from Winnipeg and stayed for some time. In 1969 Wilbert moved to Abbotsford to live with Stan and Dorothy (Teasdale) Jackson. He passed away there in 1972 after a lengthy illness. He is buried in the family plot at Shoal Lake.

Stan and Ruth Teasdale

by Ruth Teasdale

Stan and I were married in 1961 and lived in the Kennedy house. In 1964 we bought the former Harry Brisbin house where we lived until we moved to the farm in December, 1969.

In December, 1967 our first daughter, Lesli Jean was born at Birtle Hospital, and in September 1969 Laurie May was born at Birtle Hospital. They both attend school at Birtle. Lesli is in Grade 9 and Laurie in Grade 7. They have taken part in 4-H programs and Lesli was in Birtle Collegiate Choir for one year.

Stan and I enjoy fishing and golfing during the summer and I enjoy curling in winter.

Arnet and Agnes Thompson

by Agnes Thompson

My history until 1962 is recorded in "Rural Reflections", so I will continue from there.

Arnet passed away in 1969 at the age of 77. I stayed in Brandon until the end of June 1970. Then, I sold my home and came to live in the Broder Block in Hamiota.

Hazel and Cliff still live in Winnipeg. Cliff is employed by Canada Packers, Hazel works part time at the Children's Hospital. They have four children.

Allan married Carol Shaw and they have two boys, Richard and Vincent. Allan works for Bristol

Airspace in the Rocket Lab. Carol works for the Telephone Company.

Sharon married John Panting. They live in Calgary and have two daughters, Cheryl and Heather. John works for American District Telegraph (A.D.T.). Sharon works for an implement company and has her own office.

Mavis married Bob Richen. Bob works for the Winnipeg Fire Department. Mavis works for the Manitoba Government as a Provincial Magistrate.

Douglas married Judy Richardson, and they have two children, Katherine and Daniel. Doug works for the Federal Government in the Old Age Pensions branch. They live in Winnipeg.

I enjoyed my growing up years in Isabella and still like to return for some of your social functions.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Thompson **written by Mr. and Mrs. J. Chapman**

James Thompson, as a young man, taught school at the Old Beulah school about half way between the old and new Beulahs. Some of his pupils were: Mrs. E. Forrester (nee Bessie Paynter), her sisters, some of the DoYLES, Dickens and others. His father was blind for years, and when Jim was a boy he led the horse while his father plowed with a one furrow walking plow.

Mr. Thompson married Elizabeth Chapman. They had three children. One daughter, Olive, married Mr. George Dibblee and they have two daughters: Diane, who is married, and Buda at home. The Thompson sons were Jim and Harry.

Mr. Thompson had a large farm and a large house and barn. The house had two stairways — one for the family and one for the hired man. They always had a lot of men and help in the house. For a time he operated a cheese factory and people for miles around took their milk there. He was very good at hunting and had several stuffed animals that he had shot. He, Mr. Chapman, and Mr. Charlie Crockart bought the first large Case steam threshing outfit in the community. They threshed the stacks of grain for the district. When he moved to Beulah he was unfortunate in his tenant and was awarded in court the sum of \$6000.00 but was not able to collect any of it. His wish was to retire and live in Beulah but he died from a heart attack in 1935.

Mr. Thompson was honest and well respected. When the Shamrock community opened their Sunday school in the new hall, he was given the honor of conducting the first service.

1982 — no update.

Pete and Ann Tkachuk **by Jean Sedgwick**

On November 2, 1946 my father, Peter Tkachuk and my mother, Ann Zenchyshyn were married. Father was born at Horod, Manitoba on April 25, 1916. Mother was born at Olha, Manitoba April 23, 1923. They farmed at Horod living with Father's parents for the first year of their marriage. Then they moved to their own farm a mile farther east of his parent's farm. Father also worked at the sawmill during the depression years. I, Jean, was born here March 11, 1950. Mother was never too pleased with their hilly land for a farm and so they decided to sell their farm to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wozney and move to a flatter part of Manitoba. So on March 15, 1952 they purchased their new farm from a Mr. Frederick Bowman at Isabella. They hauled all their belongings and cattle in trucks with help from some friends.

So once again they went into mixed farming. Everything went fairly well except that they never had water on their property. Father purchased a drill to drill for water with the help of the Jewar brothers from Beulah. They drilled numerous places and as deep as 110 feet, but never came up with any water.

I attended Isabella school. We attended the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Birtle, which Father helped build. We dealt with John Coxworth for most of our groceries and supplies for the house.

Father purchased a welder and tried welding his machinery repairs at home. He soon had a few neighbors coming over to see if he couldn't weld their repairs for them. He loved to help people in any way he could.

I'll never forget when he put up the new gate going into the barnyard from our laneway. He was bringing home a cow in his pickup truck. As he was driving down the lane he realized he had no brakes in the truck. He looked up and saw his new gate and swerved the truck towards the milkhouse where he aimed for the step hoping to come to a halt but instead it jumped onto the step and went through the wall. He wasn't too popular with Mom that day for he knocked over the milk separator and a lot of canning jars. So he saved his gate and put up a new wall in the milkhouse and revived the shocked cow in the back of the truck.

I'll never forget the time my mother decided she would take a crash course in driving. She waited for Father to go to the field before she got into the car. She got it going all right but didn't know how to stop it. We had about a city block in the front of our house where she went around the fruit trees until she ran out of gas. She tried to start the car again to get it back into place before Father came home. She wore the

battery right down. She never could drive and never attempted to try after that day.

My father suffered with ulcers for a few years. When he took ill Ray Still came with an offer to buy the farm. Before we knew it we had sold the farm to Ray and Bernice Still and family. We had our auction sale April 23, 1964. We moved to our new residence, 540 Douglas Street in Brandon the next day with sadness upon moving away from our friends and neighbors. My father worked for Pool Packers on the building crew and then for Clayton Construction for the next couple of years. Then Hydro offered him a job. He worked for Hydro as a logger and mechanic for thirteen years until his death May 14, 1981. He would have been 65 on May 25, 1981 when he would have been retired. Mother predeceased him on September 17, 1979.

I married Milton Sedgwick and reside in Brandon with my husband and three children, Sheldon 11, Michelle 9, Raymond 8. My husband has worked at the Research Station for the past twenty-two years. I have looked after outpatients from the Mental Hospital for the past nine years. We try to help get them into society once again.

Mr. and Mrs. Tocher

Mr. and Mrs. Tocher and family rented the J. L. Thompson farm NW¼ 1-15-26 for awhile. The children attended Isabella School. No further trace can be found.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Torrance written by G. Torrance

Mr. John Torrance came from Grey county in Ontario in or earlier than 1882, with their family of three sons and three daughters. They started with a carload of settlers' effects and all went well until they got to Brandon when some place between Brandon and Oak River, their car caught on fire. J. S. and Enos Torrance were already here. Charles, one of the boys who was with the car, stayed in the car trying to put the fire out. He stayed as long as possible but finally had to jump. He was hurt and his lungs were full of smoke. He did not live long after. The rest of the family settled near Oak River for sometime, then came to the farm on sec. 16-14-25, north west of Crandall. John Torrance died on November 27th, 1909, and his wife preceded him in 1896.

J. S. Torrance did not stay long. His wife passed away so he took her to Ontario for burial, and never came back.

Enos Torrance, who lived near Oak River, married Eliza Brownridge. They moved to a farm on the section west of his father's. He took a pre-emption

and built a home on the section north of where they were. George and Louie were born before they moved. Pearl and Melvin were born on the present farm near Blaris school, which they all attended. Church service was held in the John Torrance home until the Blaris school was built in 1885, where they held church until the Methodist church was built. Enos Torrance died when George was fourteen years old, so they had a hard struggle after that for some years.

The girls married and lived not far from home. George married Norma Sunley and lived on sec. 17-14-25, the same section on which he was born. They had four daughters. His mother passed away in 1926. Mel carried on farming until 1942 or 1943 and then worked in different places, going to Calgary where he got a job and still lives, but still owns his farm.

1982 no update.

Mr. I. H. Travetick

Mr. Travetick lived on the S½ 18-15-25., in 1900. (no further trace)

Mr. and Mrs. Ross Emerson Vasey written by Mrs. J. T. Finkbeiner

Ross Vasey came as assistant principal to Isabella School in September, 1932. The following year he was engaged as principal, taking the place of G. E. Pickard. In 1935, he was married to Miss Gwen Thompson of Binscarth, who had taught Grades One to Three in Isabella school for the past two years, 1933-1935.

Ross and Mrs. Vasey took an active part in all local activities. Mrs. Vasey was church pianist, and Ross was choir leader for a time. Ross also taught a young men's class in Sunday School, and took part in many plays, for which he had a very special talent.

In 1938, they moved to Elkhorn where Ross was engaged as principal in Elkhorn High School. In November 1940, twin daughters, Rose and Catherine, were born to them. Mrs. Vasey never really recovered and passed away in early January 1941.

Ross gave up teaching for a while, but later returned to the profession, and taught in Winnipeg for a number of years. He is now a school inspector in the Greater Winnipeg area.

He has remarried, and there are now five daughters. Both he and Mrs. Vasey are active workers in Westworth United Church, Winnipeg.

1981 no update.

V. G. Vining

Mr. Vining farmed the S½ of 18-15-25 buying it

from Travitick in 1906 or possibly before. No further trace can be found.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Thomas Wall

written by Mrs. C. Wall

Cecil was born in Berghapton in the County of Norfolk, England, on January 14, 1897. His father was a market gardener. He had two sisters and four brothers. One brother was killed in action in the first World War, and one was killed in a motorcycle accident.

Cecil left school when he was fourteen, and went to work at Culzean Castle near Ayr, in Scotland, where he stayed for four years.

He came to Canada in 1914 and worked in New Brunswick for two years.

He came west to Manitoba early in 1916 to work for Mr. Jack Finkbeiner. In 1917 he joined the Canadian Infantry and went overseas where he remained until the close of World War I. He returned to Canada and again worked for Mr. Finkbeiner.

In 1921, he bought the south west quarter of Sec. 11-15-25 from Mr. Harry Finkbeiner for \$8,000.00 and began farming for himself that spring. He bached for nine years. During that time, he took part in all community affairs, and was secretary of the Sunday school for some time.

On November 10, 1930, he married Jessie Justina Klym, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Klym, of Rosssburn. One year later, on our first wedding anniversary, our first son was born. He was named Leonard Samuel, for his two grandfathers. A year and a half later on Valentines Day, February 14, our second son was born. We named him Sydney John, after my brother and Mr. and Mrs. Finkbeiner's oldest son.

When the boys started to school, we drove them to and fro for some time, then they used bicycles for a while. Then Cecil bought an old Indian pony and a two wheel cart for them. The pony couldn't or wouldn't pull the cart up the hill, and the boys would get off and push.

In 1934, we went to Winnipeg, and drove home our first Ford V.8'. Two years later we bought a 1/2 section of land four miles north and traded the car for a new John Deere tractor.

Fred Proden worked that land for one year, then Clare Hodgson worked it for one summer. That fall, the house on the farm burned down, and all the contents were lost. From then until he sold it, Cecil worked the land himself.

In 1940, the barn at home burned down and later in the summer with the help of the kind neighbors, we built a new barn. That fall November 23, 1940, our

little girl was born. We named her Lillian Louise for Cecil's two sisters.

We were quite happy with our little family, but our house was too small. In 1943, we bought a house from Mr. Ed. Heise of Isabella for \$1000.00 and moved it out to our farm. We sold our small house to Mr. Bill Hall of Decker.

One year later, Cecil met with an accident which almost cost him his life. One cold day in October, he went to work on the north farm as usual. While walking beside the tractor to adjust the carburetor, he got caught in the wheel, was knocked down, the cultivator ran over him, and he was dragged for some distance. He was badly hurt and lay in the cold until eleven o'clock at night, when John Finkbeiner, son, Johnnie, and Ernie Lawn found him. They brought him to Hamiota Hospital, where the doctors feared for his life, but with God's help, he was able to return home after six weeks in hospital.

A year and a half later he sold the north farm to George Phillips and bought the west half of Sec. 12-15-25 from Fred Young. The farm was stony and dirty, and it took Cecil and the boys three years to clean it.

In 1950, Leonard finished his Grade XII, and joined the Airforce. He had loved planes from the time he was a little boy. During his six years in the Airforce, he was stationed in every province in Canada, and flew to different parts of the States, also to England, Ireland and Scotland.

Late in September, 1956, we went with Leonard to Comox, B.C. where on October 5, he was married to Ardyth Chamberlain, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Doug Chamberlain of Comox, B.C. His sister, Louise, was one of the bridesmaids. Following their marriage, the happy couple left for a short honeymoon.



Leonard and Ardythe Wall, 1956.

moon at Port Alberni, before returning to the groom's base at Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. The next day as they were crossing the street, a runaway car came down the hill behind them. It struck Leonard and carried him across the street, and into another car and he was instantly killed. His marriage had taken place, just eighteen hours before.

His four Airforce buddies who assisted at his wedding, were pall-bearers at his funeral just a few days later. Leonard would have celebrated his 25th birthday on November 10.

It was the first holiday Cecil had ever taken, and we had all enjoyed the trip to B.C. so very much, but our trip home was such a sad one.

After this tragic event, Cecil tried to ease his sorrow, by losing himself in work. He bought the east half of Sec 12-15-25, from Mr. VanNorman. The north east quarter borders the town of Decker.

Cecil was a generous and a kind man, and was ever ready to lend a helping hand to any one in trouble. He was a member of Isabella United Church and served on the Board of Stewards for a number of years. He was a member of the Board of Decker Pool Elevators at the time of his death on January 28, 1960.

Cecil had not been back to his home in England since the war, so we had finally decided to make the trip in the winter of 1960. He had been ill in hospital for a few weeks before Christmas, but had recovered fairly well and the Doctor felt the trip would do him no harm. Just two weeks before we were to leave, he took another attack, and passed away before he reached the hospital.

The evergreens he planted over forty years ago, the fruit trees and flowers, all missed his loving care, but are kept just as well as if he were doing it himself.

Our only daughter, Louise, was married on November 12, 1960 to Donald Sherwin of Brandon. They now reside in Winnipeg, where Donald is the branch manager of Frank Lawson and Son. Louise works for Warner Bros. pictures.

Our younger son, Johnnie, works the farm. Late last fall, he built a fine loafing barn to house his herd of cattle. Johnnie is still unmarried.

This is the story of our life together. We had much happiness, also sadness, but we must carry on until it is our time to be called to join Our Maker.

Update by Jessie Wall

After my husband, Cecil, died, my son, Johnnie, took over the farm and farmed one and one half sections of land. In 1963, Johnnie bought a section of land, 1-15-25 from Miss Osterhout for 20,000 dollars, and I learned to drive the John Deere tractor to help him with the farm work.

For recreation, we golfed in summer, and curled

in winter. We joined Isabella and Beulah square dance clubs.

On December 19, 1964, Johnnie married Hazel Gill of Strathclair, who had been teaching in Birtle. We lived together until Hazel finished teaching. I then moved to my own home on 12-15-25.

Since Cecil and I had planned on going to England to see his sisters, I decided that I would make the trip alone. After flying to New York, I boarded the Empress of Canada and sailed to Liverpool. The seven day voyage was filled with games and entertainment, and was very enjoyable.

Cecil's sister, Lily, and I toured England and Scotland to see the many places that Cecil had talked of. We saw the Culzean Castle where he had worked as a boy and the Bobby Burns cottage. I returned home on the same ship.

In 1969, my daughter, Louise and I, flew to Hawaii for two weeks. In 1971, a friend and I went to Montego Bay in Jamaica, and enjoyed tours, and local highlights. In 1973, I went with the Norman Olfrey Tour to California for three weeks. Here I saw Temple Square in Salt Lake City, the Tabernacle Choir, Knott's Berry Farm, and Disneyland. That same fall I went on the Olfrey tour to Eastern Canada. In January, 1974, I toured again with Norm Olfrey. This time to Florida. The Cypress Gardens were very beautiful, and I enjoyed seeing the Kennedy Space Centre. I flew to Hawaii again, and also to Texas. In 1978, my sister-in-law and I flew to London, England, and from there toured Sweden, Norway, Germany, Denmark and Holland. My last tour was to Alaska, in 1980. I have seen a lot of the world, and met a lot of wonderful people every where, and I loved them all. I thank God that I had a chance to enjoy it all.

John and Hazel Wall

by John Wall

I, John Sidney Wall, was born February 14, 1933 on the home farm at Isabella, the second child of Cecil and Jessie Wall. I received my education at Isabella. After completing Grade XI, I took an automotive and diesel course in Edmonton. Upon returning home I assisted my father on the farm and also rented land, the S.E. quarter of 11-15-25 from Harry Finkbeiner, and later the west half of 21-15-25 from J. F. M. Johnston. Later I rented the N.W. quarter of 12-15-25 from my dad while in the process of buying the S.W. quarter of 12-15-25.

In 1957 I built a workshop in which I spent many hours repairing, welding and building pieces of machinery such as a harrow-bar, snowblower, two front end loaders, V-plow and a tractor cab.

After Dad's death in 1960 I continued working



Kelvin, John, Kim, Hazel, and Kris Wall.

the farm and also built a loafing barn in 1961 to house 75 head of cattle. At this time I also had a barn full of pigs.

In 1962 I bought a section of land 1-15-25 adjoining our present farm. This land had a great deal of bush on it so I purchased a small Cat. D4 in 1964 and cleared a great many acres.

I married Hazel Gill of Strathclair in December of 1964. Hazel completed her schooling at Strathclair and took teacher training in Winnipeg. She then taught at Rothesay from 1959-1963 and in Birtle from 1963-1965.

After 1965 we could no longer acquire reliable help so we dispersed of our pigs and also our herd of cattle in 1966. That same year we bought the home quarter S.W. 11-15-25 from Mother. We also continued to work Mother's east half of 12-15-25. Needing a bigger tractor at this time, I bought my first 4-wheel drive Versatile, one of the first in the district.

Since then we have made a few changes such as building a new house in 1971. With the price of farm machinery soaring we decided to put up a metal shed in 1976 to house our equipment. Some fifty years after Dad planted our present windbreak we added a row of trees to the west and east of the yard.

We have three children: Kimberly Louise born August 28, 1966. Kelvin Cecil born April 22, 1969. Kristopher John born October 18, 1971. They are presently attending Hamiota School. We as a family

enjoy camping, swimming, water skiing and ice fishing. The children are also involved in team sports.

I have always been interested in sports and community affairs. I have played ball and hockey. I enjoy curling and golfing and serve my turn on church, hall and rink boards.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bruce Wallace **written by Mrs. W. Attwood**

My father came to the Blaris district from England as a young man around seventeen years of age. He worked for different farmers around the district during the summer months. In the fall he worked on the threshing gangs, as the threshing was done from the stacks after freeze up. His work was that of a busheler. After working out for a few years, he took a homestead on Sec. 28, north of Isabella, where he homesteaded with Walter Ware. After a time he sold this and bought the N.E. ¼ of 26-14-26, the Wm. Simpson homestead, which consisted of ¼ sec. of good loam. A ravine now known as the Simpson ravine, passed through this quarter. There was a ravine, pasture land of about thirty acres, and a line of sloughs along the west side. A shallow well gave a good water supply. A one room shack and small stable were on the south corner of the quarter.

In January, 1907, he married my mother, Barbara Sutherland. On the third of December the same year, their first child, a daughter, Mary, was born.

In those days there were no phones, and they relied on horses as a means of travel. In times of sickness, one had to venture out, be it storm or fine weather, to get a doctor. The Blaris community was blessed with a very fine neighbor, Mrs. Walter Palmer, who was never too tired or too busy when the call for help came to her door.

My father and mother were busy but happy, working for the good of their home and community.

Father was very fond of horses, and took a great interest in his drivers showing them at small fairs. Mother was busy baking bread and getting her butter and jam ready for showing. They were two young people full of life, hope and plans for present and future. They added another room or two, to the one-roomed home, enlarged the stables and broke up a few more acres of land with a team and walking plough. Along with the addition to buildings and land work, there was the arrival of three more children, all girls: Magdaline in February, 1910; Barbara in November, 1911; and Florence, February, 1914.

They had just started to pay for another ½ section of land, N½ 25-14-26 which they bought from Henry Wilson, when Father took sick and was in Winnipeg hospital for some time. As it was war time, it was almost impossible to get help. Mother, with what

help she could get, managed one summer and one winter, but as Father did not improve too much, they rented the farm in the spring of 1916 to Mr. and Mrs. Robert White, a young Irish couple. Mother and girls moved to the Robert Calder buildings, one quarter mile north of Isabella town, taking with them a few cows, a team of horses and their hens. They cleaned up the old two-roomed house, as it had not been lived in for some time, and made it quite comfortable.

The following spring on the 31st day of March, 1918, my Father died. His sister, Florence, who had come out from England after he had married, stayed with Mother for a few years, and with her help, Mother managed to look after her cows and hens, selling butter and eggs to as many of the town folk as she could supply.

Mother was a school teacher, so got quite a few days substituting in the school, and through the years, finished paying for her farm.

In the fall of 1919, Mr. White bought a farm of his own. Mr. and Mrs. Wyness and their daughter, Marion, were the next tenants, and they stayed for a number of years. Mr. Wyness died in 1932. Mrs. Wyness and Marion, with hired help, carried on for a few years, but found the farm quite a responsibility, and they held a sale in 1934. Mr. and Mrs. F. Robinson were the next tenants.

While my mother, my sisters and I were at Isabella, we attended Sunday school and school. Mother took quite an interest in young people. One Easter Sunday she formed a choir of young girls. As they came on to the platform they each carried a white lily as they sang "This White Lily Has a Story". This was the start of a choir in Isabella Sunday school. When the skating rink was built, Mother bought skates for herself and we girls and taught us to skate.

The few years at Isabella were hard years, being war time. One outstanding thing in my memory is, at that time grain was sold on the open market and each day after four, it was our chore to go down to the elevator and get the wheat quotations to take home to Mother. Then came the headache, should I sell, or should I hold? There was no phone to turn to or no one to help make the decisions. But in spite of all the worries there were many pleasant memories such as the Annual Sunday school picnic at the Narrows. If the woods could talk, I am sure we would hear many happy stories of four little girls and their friends, as they made believe with their play house, dolls, mudpies, telephones and so on, and a busy Mother who was never too tired to listen to their tales, and judge the bouquets of wild flowers they gathered.

In the spring of 1922, Mother had word from Mr. Calder, that he was returning to the farm. This meant another move. Where? Mother's father, Grandpa

Sutherland, asked her to come home with him, as Grandma had died the previous year. This she did, Mary still attending school at Isabella and the rest of us going to Blaris for the remainder of the term.

The year 1922, was the first year the Miniota Municipal school field day was held, and Blaris won the pennant for the rural schools. The term beginning in the fall of 1923, Clayton Miller drove Barbara and I to Arrow River, and Florence continued at Blaris.

In the summer of 1922, Grandpa Sutherland drew up the plans and Mother had a new barn built on her farm.

Grandpa Sutherland died in the summer of 1923, so in the spring of 1924 Mother bought a house in Arrow River, and moved to town. This was quite a change from the long hours and hard work, but the change she needed, as the responsibility she was shouldering by herself was not always the easiest. Mother grew very fond of her new home and community, and had more time for community work. She taught the Bible class, helped with the C.G.I.T. group with which she loved to go camping in the summer.

In the summer of 1929, Mother had a four room house built on the quarter left to her by her father. We girls finished our high school education at Arrow River, and Normal School at Brandon and Winnipeg.

Later, each was married from home. Magdaline, was married to William Attwood on Christmas Day, 1933. They lived for the first few years on the Russell Lynch farm, and in the fall of 1937, moved to Mother's home farm 26-14-26. Barbara, married Spence Littlejohn, on Dec. 6, 1934. They live at Arrow River on Sec. 20-13-25. Florence married Homer Lelond in Oct. 1936. They live in the Crandall district on the S. ½-8-14-25, a half section that had been left to Mother by her father. Mary, married Alanzo Hurst on May 24th, 1938. They have resided in Shoal Lake since their marriage.

I am sure "Grandma Wallace" shall long be remembered by the Arrow River school children, for her keen interest in their work and play, which brought them all very close to her. Behind her kitchen door, was a locker for their mail and parcels, all to be called for at a later date. She will be remembered by all, as she stood on her step as the vans gathered, with mail for this one and parcels for that, lest they forget.

Mother spent the last two years of her life with her youngest daughter, Florence. She died on the 5th day of October, 1959. She left four daughters, nine grandchildren, and one great-grandson (Robert Bruce Still). The day of her funeral, October 7th, the first snow storm of the year, started, about noon. By night roads were blocked, and cars were stranded for

as long as three or four days before the snow plough could get out. This snow came to stay for the winter.

Mr. and Mrs. William Wallace **written by Mrs. N. Henderson**

William Wallace was born, April 24th, 1865, at Lime Lake, Hungerford Township, County of Hastings, Ontario.

Being the eldest of a family of ten children, he decided to come to Manitoba about the year of 1886. He settled at Carman, Manitoba, for a time. Later he moved to his uncle's farm at Chater, Manitoba.

In 1889, Dad got his homestead at what was then known as Arrowton Post Office. The location: S.W. ¼ Sec. 2 Township 15 Range 25 West of the 1st Meridian. This was all virgin soil, and was broken with an axe, and plowed with a walking-plow, pulled by a yoke of oxen. When one of the oxen died a horse was bought and the horse and ox worked together very well.

A three room "shanty" of lumber and plaster was built. There was a kitchen and two bedrooms in it. The usual wood stove was used for heating and cooking. The furniture consisted of a table, chairs, and wooden beds with straw ticks. Later, feather ticks were used on the beds.

The grain was taken to Birtle by ox and horse and logs from the Pelly River were brought to build a granary, which is still standing.

On March 29th, 1899, William Wallace married Margaret Ingram, whose birth place, was Lindsay, Ontario. The wedding took place at Gnaton, Manitoba. The officiating minister was Rev. Hazen T. Murray. Witnesses were: Alice Preston and T. J. Wallace.

Their first child, Violet (Mrs. C. A. Brad Winnipeg) was born August 1st, 1900. Earl (Noranda, Quebec) was born October 31st, 1904. On June 14, 1906, a second daughter Olive was born.

In 1907, a large nine room house was built to make room for the growing family. Stanley was born July 19, 1908 (now living at Flin Flon Manitoba). A third daughter, Gertrude, (Mrs. R. V. Williams, Flin Flon, Man.) was born September 9, 1911, and on March 31, 1914, "Minnie" Mary (Mrs. Nelson Henderson, Crandall) was born.

On May 3rd, 1914, Mother passed away. This was the first burial in the Isabella Cemetery. On March 28, 1916, Olive died and was buried in Isabella Cemetery.

In the middle 1890's one of the first "Bernardo Boys" came to live with Dad and was there until about 1917. The boy's name was Joe Fryer and he was twelve or thirteen years old when he came out. I still keep in touch with him at Claydon, Saskatchewan.

In 1907 Dad, along with W. H. Miller and George Phillips bought one of the first steam threshing outfits and travelled a large area each fall from Lavinia to the east and west to Beulah.

William Wallace resided on this farm until 1944 when he went to make his home with his daughters. He passed away in Winnipeg October 23, 1946.

Other tenants who lived on this farm: Elmer Johns, 1941 to 1944; Wm. Maddock, 1944 to 1947; sold to Mag. Little in 1947.

Update **by Gertie Williams**

My brother, Stan, passed away in 1970. My sister Minnie died in 1974, and my sister, Vi Brad in February, 1980. My brother Earl is living in Toronto and I reside in Flin Flon.

Rev. and Mrs. S. A. Walmsley **written by Mrs. S. Walmsley**

Sydney Arthur Walmsley was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, in 1924. He and his brother Bob and Mother and Dad moved to England in 1930, where his brother and parents still reside.

Sid was educated in England, and in 1940 joined the British Army, where he served until 1946. From 1946 he was secretary to a member of parliament, until he came to Canada in 1948.

In 1950, he came to Isabella as a lay preacher where he served for two years. On May 15th, 1951, he married Miss Dorothy Walmsley of Elm Creek.

They moved to High Bluff in 1952 where their eldest son Donald, was born in Portage la Prairie, in September.

Sid began Theology at United College in October, 1953, commuting back and forth from his charge on the High Bluff circuit.

A second son Robin, was born in Portage la Prairie in April 1956.

In June 1956, Sid, was ordained to the ministry of the United Church of Canada. His first appointment was on the McConell-Decker pastoral charge, where he served from 1957 until 1959.

In the spring of 1959 he received a call to St. Paul's United Church in Virden. He accepted the call, and is still serving the Virden charge.

1981 — no update.

The Warren Story **by J. E. Warren**

My father, Russell Warren, son of James and Charlotte Warren, was born at Violadale, later moving to Crandall; where he married my mother, Elizabeth Johnson, on November 1, 1905.

In March 1909, the family moved to a farm, one

and one quarter miles west of Isabella, and resided there until March, 1920, when they moved to the farm across the street east of Isabella.

My father and mother had four sons and two daughters; Earle and Mildred, born at Crandall, Elva Myrill, Austin, Kenneth and Edgerton born at Isabella.

My Mother died December 23, 1932, and was buried December 25 at Crandall, some Christmas! My Father died March 30, 1961 and is buried in the family plot at Crandall.

I believe our original farm was a section of land. It grew many good crops. Water was scarce. Dad dug one well in the ravine, which was the only producing well we had. Dad had 11 other wells drilled on the farm; one by the government and they even went down 1140 feet, and never got out of soapstone. Mother fed the three well drillers for two months while they were there.

Our original house was one long room which served as kitchen and livingroom. One bedroom was built on to it. It was cold in winter. You could see the frost on the nail heads in the winter. As the kitchen slops were thrown outside, flies by the thousands came into the house in the summer. There were always sticky fly catchers hanging from the ceiling, and black poison discs in water on the window sills.

The threshing at the start was done by a travelling steam engine gang. Later Dad and Duncan Kelly bought a separator and Case tractor, and we did it on our own.

Mother and Dad used to, periodically, bundle Mildred and I up in the cutter, and drive to Beulah to skate, while we watched. There was always the annual oyster supper in the church basement, the annual school Christmas tree, a real event! The sports day held south of town with its races had prizes; a 5¢ pack of Spearmint gum was always given for first prizes.

After several years in the small house, Dad had a six room addition build on, with a full sized basement and cistern. You could generally see a mouse or two floating on top of the water. There was a pump in the kitchen from the cistern, so things got easier for Mother.

Later Father bought the half section west of ours, and broke it up. I remember the first crop of oats went 110 bushels to the acre.

The prairies were covered with flowers in the spring and summer; there were lots of strawberries; in the bluffs there were pincherries and chokecherries. We used to get our raspberries from the Rossburn ladies who used to drive from there to sell them.

Dad used to get six barrels of Ontario apples

every year, Northern Spies and Russets are the only names I can remember.

While we were small, Mother always had a summer picnic on our lawn. The highlight, as I remember, was the scramble for peanuts and candy and the 5¢ gum. I have a picture and the now 65 and 70 year olds were pretty small then.

We all went to the United Church at Isabella and to the Mission Band at Mrs. Kennedy's. I doubt if the present day children know what a mite box is. School Field Day was always a day to be remembered. Isabella, Beulah, Arrow River and Miniota were the main contestants. Miniota was always hard to beat. Our ball team was lucky when Steve Bell, Ralph Armstrong and Gordon McKee came to Isabella school from Blaris.

I wrote my autobiography a couple of years ago, and I could write a whole book on our life at Isabella. It was a wonderful place to grow up.

I was interested in the last "Rural Reflections", where everyone and their children had drifted to, so maybe someone would be interested in ours. I married Nora Corke and we are now retired after 55 years on the CNR payroll — possibly a record for anyone in Isabella on a company payroll. We live at Victoria, and have four sons. Jim is an orthopedic surgeon in Victoria. He married Joan Sinclair, and they have one son, Robert, and two daughters, Anne and Ruth. Kenneth is a school supervisor in Victoria. He married Kathy Reddon. He has two step-sons, Stephen and Kody, and two sons, Kit and Keeley. Phillip is a realtor in Victoria. He married Wendy Lovatt. They have three sons: Scott, Sean and Paddy. David is manager of Johnson Terminals at Campbell River B.C. He married Judi Aitkin and they have one daughter, Christine.

Mildred married Jasper Merrick. They had one son, Warner, who is manager of Chargex for the Royal Bank of Canada, (Western). He lives in Vancouver, and is married to Theresa Osadchuk. They have one son, Jason. Their daughter is Betty-Ann. She married Bill Alercott, manager of Gulf Oil at Nanaimo, B.C. They have a daughter, Lynelle, and a son, Daryle. Mildred died July 2, 1979 and Jasper on October 17, 1966.

Elva Myrill was born July 23, 1910 and died August 18, 1910. Austin is a realtor in Kelowna, B.C. He married Florence Bardwell. Their children are Joyce and Lorraine. Joyce married Clive Gilchrist of Kamloops, a life insurance salesman in Kamloops, and they have one son, Kevin, and two daughters Susan and Katherine. Lorraine married Barry Braden of Kelowna. They have two daughters Cheryl and Janice, and a son Bill.

Kenneth lives in Victoria now after retiring there

from Prince Rupert, B.C. He married Jean Chapman. Their children are Gwen, Robert and Murray. Gwen was married to Wayne Bell. They had three daughters: Debra, Cynthia and Marney, who only lived one day, and one son, Keith. Robert, a school teacher and librarian, married Anne Whitehead of Victoria. Their children are: John, James and Brent. Murray John is single and manages a Co-op store.

Edgerton lives at Fort St. John and remained single.

Francis and Mae Watters and Family by Mae Watters

I, Mae, completed my education at Arrow River and Miniota. In 1947, I married Francis Watters and we lived on the Geo. Sunley farm (SW-14-14-26) for nine years. We moved to the Frank Lelond farm, south of Arrow River, in the fall of 1956.

We have two children, Bob and Linda. Bob married Trudy Nugent of Virden in 1972. He farms and lives in the same yard as we do. They have two children, Pat and Lori. Pat is in Grade 3 at Miniota. Lori will be going to Kindergarten in the fall of 1981.

Linda took her education at Miniota and Birtle. After completing her Grade 12 at Birtle, she took a stenography course at Assiniboine Community College in Brandon. She worked for Canada Unemployment for 1½ years and is now employed as secretary for the teachers of Birtle Collegiate. Linda was very active in Miniota 4-H Merry Homemakers, winning a gold watch award in 1977.

Thomas and Bertha Webb by Margaret Ashcroft

Tom Webb was born at Daventry, Northamptonshire, England in June, 1902, and came to Canada in March 1914. For six years he lived near Barrie, Ontario. In the spring of 1920 he decided to see what the west was like and made contact with Mr. A. E. Doherty who offered him work for the summer. Tom lived around the Orrwold and Decker districts for a number of years, working for different farmers. He joined the Orange Lodge and was a member of the United Church.

In 1927 he married Bertha Young of the Rothesay district. Bertha was born at the Young family home and took her schooling at Rothesay and Isabella. After Tom served for four and one half years in the army during World War II, the Webbs purchased a farm in the Rothesay district where they lived until their retirement to Birtle in 1970. After retiring Tom worked for several years for North American Lumber in Birtle. He has been active with the Birtle Legion, holding the office of secretary and treasurer

of the branch for a number of years. Bertha keeps busy with knitting for their grandchildren and great grandchildren. Tom and Bertha have a family of eight children.

Bill married Mary McTavish of Cardale and they live in Minnedosa. He is employed by the Rolling River School Division as head mechanic in their garage. They have a family of four girls and a boy. Cathy, now Mrs. Bob Gwyer, is a registered nurse and lives in Minnedosa. Their sons are Scott and Peter. Pat works with Bell Telephone in London, Ontario. Joyce is Mrs. Russ Phillips and works in the Royal Bank in Winnipeg. Marlene and Keith are taking courses at Assiniboine Community College in Brandon.

Winnie is now Mrs. Neil McCallum of Oak River and they have three children. Wendy is a registered nurse in Edmonton and is married to Oliver Morris. Malcolm and Doug live at Oak River.

Doug retired in 1981 after thirty years of service with the R.C.M.P. He married Lillian Smith of Chilliwack, B.C. and they live in Regina. Murray, the eldest of their four children, lives in Regina. Gail is Mrs. Chuck Foster and has one daughter, Amanda. Tom lives in Regina and Margaret is at the University of Regina.

Marie, Mrs. Jack Bartram, lives in Birtle and has a family of five boys and four girls. Vivian is Mrs. Richard Salmon who lives in Thompson and has two sons, Darrell and Cory. John lives in Medicine Hat, Alberta. Ken lives in The Pas and his family of three are Penny, Brad and Jamie. Allen lives in Stockton, Manitoba and has two children, Chris and Robert. Brenda is Mrs. Jim McArthur of Birtle. Their two girls are Christine and Susan. Cheryl is Mrs. Blair Workman of Solsgirth. Bruce, Karen and Gerald are still at home.

Margaret married Frank Ashcroft. They have two girls and two boys. Margaret and Frank farm in the Rothesay district. Nancy is a registered nurse. She is married to Bob Evans and they farm in the Beulah district. Their two sons are Jamie and Jody. Lawson married Shonda Forrest of Virden, they have a son, Aaron, and they farm in the Rothesay district. Colleen is Mrs. Dennis McNabb of Minnedosa and they have one boy, Jared. Derry is a recent graduate of Radio, Television and Journalism Arts at Lambton College, Sarnia, Ontario.

Irene married Keith Johnston. They have one daughter, Beverley, and live at Rivers, Manitoba.

Bert is manager of the Wallace Community Pasture north of Virden. He is married to Nola Pizzey of Foxwarren. They have four children: Kevin, Sharon and Shelley (twins), and Brian.

Bob is manager of the Royal Bank of Canada

branch in Manitou. He married Haroldine Magnusson of Langruth, Manitoba. Natalie attends the University of Manitoba, with Stephen and Susan still at home.

The teen years of the family of Tom and Bertha Webb were spent at Rothesay and Isabella schools. Choir, Young People's gatherings, skating, hockey, ball games and dances were pleasures enjoyed in the company of the young people of the Isabella area. These pleasant times are remembered by all the Webb family.

Mr. and Mrs. George Webster **written by Mrs. Flora Publow**

My father, George Webster, came from Lucknow, Ontario, to farm the N½ of 34-14-26. He farmed in the Blaris-Omar district for about ten years. My mother was Ada Hill, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Hill of Miniota, Man., who were pioneers of the district.

The fences were wire and the water supply was from a well and sloughs. The house was of stone and frame construction and contained eight rooms. The lumber for the barn was brought from Ontario, and was built here with the aid of neighbors. Father did mixed farming.

I have a brother, Robert Webster, living in Winnipeg, Man.; two sisters, Ada (Mrs. Jack Webb) of Windsor, Ontario; Ella (Mrs. J. A. McIntyre) of Calgary, Alberta, (deceased); and myself, Flora (Mrs. Publow) of Winnipeg, Man. My sister, Ella, the eldest, was Dr. Chalmers first maternity case.

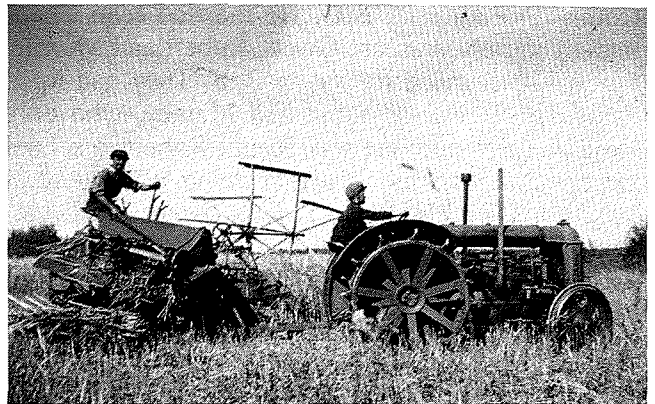
As children, I think we all remembered the big slough out in front of our house and the rows of beautiful maple trees. We are all truly happy to have lived for a time on a farm.

1982 — no update.

George and Janet White **by Jennie White**

George Albert White was born June 10, 1898 in Portsmouth, England. He had an older brother and three younger sisters. His father and mother owned a bake shop with living quarters above the shop. He helped his dad in the bake shop and one of the highlights of this work was the baking of Hot Cross buns. The peddlers would go up and down the streets calling, "One a penny, two a penny, hot cross buns. If your daughters don't like them give them to your sons." George seemed prone to accidents and in one incident got his chest crushed when a cart load of bread over turned on him.

George received his education in an all boys school in Portsmouth. The school masters were very



George White cutting grain with help of William.

strict and discipline was administered by the use of canes either on the hands or on the bottom over the Master's knee. An added punishment was being sent out to buy the cane. He was a good student, liked being in plays and won many honorary awards in the form of books, both in school and Sunday School. He was always up to mischief but was a hard worker.

Due to an allergy caused by the flour dust his dad sold the bake shop and in March 1914 they sailed from Southampton for Canada. It was a very rough voyage. Everyone was sick and kept below deck. The fog horns sounding during the night in thick fog were very scary. After a two week journey they docked at St. John's April 1st.

Their plans were to go to Edmonton and start up in a grocery store, but they were met in Winnipeg by a Rev. Sommerville who advised them to go farming. His son had land in the Birdtail area of Rosburn for sale, a ¼ section half a mile from the siding. They later bought another quarter north of them. Rev. Sommerville helped them to get a team of horses and harness, two cows and hay, so they set out for their new life in Canada, riding in the freight car with the animals and hay. The women folks remained in Winnipeg for awhile.

The buildings were very poor and just 20 acres of land was broken, with the rest being bush, hills and sloughs. A great deal of hard work awaited them, which was quite a contrast to the life in England. As they knew nothing of farming, they were called "green Englishmen." George received his basic knowledge of farming by working for Bill Crukshanks and the Crispin brothers. In winter he worked at the lumber camp, cutting and hauling logs for Pedens Mill near the Timber Reserve. He was a great help to his folks as well. Hail, rust and frost took a heavy toll of crops, so progress was slow. George eventually took over the farm when his parents built a house at the Birdtail siding, one room being used as a post office.

In March 1937 he married Lucy Ann Janet Bartram of Angusville. We were married in the manse in Silverton as the church was not heated in winter. Rev. Bill Calder officiated. The trip was made by team and van over snow packed roads.

Our first home was a two room shack built on the side of a hill overlooking the Birdtail siding. Money was scarce and we raised chickens, turkeys and milked cows, selling milk and eggs to people at the siding, which George would deliver each morning. Gophers and dry weather took a heavy toll of crops. We attended a small church called Ranchvale, five miles away. There was also a hall there for community entertainment. Those were still horse and buggy days for most people.

Our son, William was born in September 1938. In the spring of 1942 we moved to Birtle with Dave Bartram who purchased land $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of town. Janet was born in July. In the fall we bought a half section 17-16-25 in the Rothesay district from Bill Iverach, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of the school.

George drove a team on the school van a number of years. He later took on caretaking at the school. He was up at 5 a.m. to feed stock and milk cows before walking to the school to light fires. Some days were very cold and stormy. A stoker was installed which was a great help and it didn't take so long to heat the school. Twice a day he went down there but got a ride in the afternoon with a van going to pick up the children. He was also on the board of trustees for awhile.

The children both attended Rothesay School and used to skate, curl and play hockey on a slough across the road on the Crawford Lints' farm. At the age of twelve William started playing hockey with Isabella. Many cold stormy winter nights found the little "Perfect" fighting snow bound roads that many larger cars would have found difficult. William took his grade nine in Isabella often going as far as Frank Reid's on horse back to meet the van, or to Flynn's corner which was $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles by bicycle. George drove him in bad weather. School picnics and field days were something all enjoyed, as well as social evenings in the school.

Janet took Grade nine by correspondence at Rothesay and completed her high school in Isabella while working for Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Nichol. The friendly atmosphere of the Isabella community made these two years a very enjoyable time for her. There is much to be said for our country schools both in learning and as a centre which holds the community together. Such a closeness is not found in larger centres.

We attended church in Isabella for awhile, and

then in Birtle when my parents moved there. George served a term on the Board of Stewards.

Janet married Larry Walker of Miniota in February 1960. They have two sons, Bill and Alan. Larry rented the farm for five years. William worked on construction but was home for the winter months. In July of 1965 he married Joan Kennedy of Brandon and took over the farm. They have one daughter, Tracie, and a son, Carman.

In his later years George especially enjoyed driving his car and going to Isabella for mail, groceries and a chat with friends. We remained on the farm until his death in April 1977, one month after celebrating our 40th Wedding Anniversary. I came to Morley House, in Shoal Lake to care for my Mother, who celebrated her 96th birthday in June.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom White

Mr. and Mrs. Tom White were English and were friends of the Stanley family. They lived on the N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ -4-15-25 for a short time. They later moved to take up a homestead in Saskatchewan.

Mr. and Mrs. William Whyman written by W. Whyman

My father, George William Whyman, was born at Headingly, in 1878, and came to Vista, Manitoba, with his parents, in 1879. They travelled in a Red River ox-cart, pulled by a cow and a white horse. Dad went to Saskatchewan as a young man, drove to Invermay with horses and took up a homestead.

He married Ida Greenwold of Invermay, formerly from Wisconsin. Of this union there were four children, George who farms at Invermay; Janet who married Archie MacDonald and lives in Invermay; Charles at Isabella, and myself.

My parents lived on the farm at Invermay until 1946. Then they came back to Manitoba and lived with me until Dad passed away on March 10, 1950. Mother then returned to Invermay to make her home there. She has since married Jesse Rosenberger and now resides at Manitou Beach, Saskatchewan.

I was born at Invermay on March 2, 1926. I received my education at Lone Spruce School. After leaving school I worked for my uncle, Mr. Harry Whyman, at Oakburn, for four years to pay for the farm that I owned at Shoal Lake. I was on this farm for four years. I then sold it and purchased the southwest quarter of 16-16-25. I farmed this quarter for one year before coming to work for Frank Reid in April, 1956. I still operate my farm.

On November 20, 1952, I took for my bride, Esther Harder of Shoal Lake. She was born on June

10, 1936, at Morden and received her education at Morden Public School.

We have two children: Dorothy Ann, born January 3, 1956, at Hamiota Hospital, will start school this September, and Marlene Esther, born May 25, 1958 at Shoal Lake Hospital.

I built a small boat a couple of years ago and we enjoy boating and fishing in our leisure time.

1981 no update.

Bruce and Doreen Whyte

by Doreen (Shurvell) Whyte

I, Doreen Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herb Shurvell, was born March 29, 1923. I attended school — grades I-XI in Isabella. In 1940, I moved to Winnipeg and worked for Eaton's 'Mail Order' House. I married Bruce W. Whyte from Decker in August, 1942 and moved then to Patricia Bay, B.C. where Bruce was stationed. After the war (in 1945) we bought a grocery and confectionery store at Harding, selling the business in 1955 to move to Brandon.

We have two children, Diane Lynn, who is married to Donald Marriott, a Rivers area farmer, and Gregory, who is a Forestry Technician, working in a large Government Nursery in Wabagoon, Ontario. Conservation is a keen interest of his, — a desire to help conserve our national heritage. Diane teaches school at Forrest, Man. Our grandchildren are Lisa, age 15, and Bryan, age 9, who attend Rivers school.

I went back to a Vocational School in 1965 and have since worked as the branch secretary of the Monarch Life Assurance Company.

We reside in Brandon.

George and Joyce Wierer

by Joyce Wierer

George Wierer, son of John Wierer, was born in the Blenheim district near Birtle in 1915. He began school in Birtle, and when the family moved to their farm at Isabella he attended school there.

He served in the Armed Forces during World War II with the Royal Winnipeg Rifles.

George has always enjoyed farm life. In 1946 he bought "The Cuffe Place", 36-15-26, and in 1956 he purchased the "Everett Farm", E ½ 26-15-26. After his father died in 1960, he also farmed the home place, 23-15-26.

In 1951 he married Joyce Sealey from Arden. We have one son, Timothy John, born February 3, 1959. Tim is a pilot with Parson's Airways of Flin Flon in the winter and comes home to farm in the summer. He has now taken over the farming operation from his father, making him the third generation of Wierers to farm the home place.

Mr. Wilson

Mr. Wilson rented the Crozier farm 27-15-25. No further information is available.

Wilson and Bayes

by Helen Sutherland

Mr. Bayes rented the Crozier farm. R. L. Campbell owned it at the time. Ora Wilson, Mr. Bayes' son-in-law and his wife (Mr. Bayes' daughter) and children lived with him at the time. Later Mr. Bayes lived on the SW ¼ 28-15-25 (now Harold Doran's) Mr. Beard farmed this quarter also for a time.

Louie and Charlotte Wolowich

by Charlotte Wolowich

I, Charlotte Ariss, was born to Charlie and Stella Ariss on March 18, 1945. I took most of my schooling at Isabella. After completing Grade XI, I enrolled in a licensed practical nursing course at the Manitoba Institute of Technology in Winnipeg.

In 1965, I married Louis Wolowich of Angusville who had been teaching school at Beulah, and then at Crandall. Right after we were married, I worked at the Misericordia Hospital in Winnipeg, and Louis attended the University of Manitoba.

In April of 1967 as soon as the university exams were over, we moved to Birtle where Lou had accepted a teaching position, and I nursed on a part time basis.

Judy was born in September, 1967 and Brian was born in May, 1969. In July of 1975 we leased "Windy Acres", a drive-in theatre at Russell, and drove back and forth from Birtle, as Lou was librarian at the school. In July 1977, we moved to Russell. Lou continued as librarian, going a full day every other day until June 1979.

In September of 1978 we had purchased the Avalon Theatre in Russell. From that time on we have been kept busy with the Avalon Theatre all winter, and the Drive-In all summer.

We are proud members of the Kinsmen-Kinette community service club.

This year Judy is in Grade IX and is very active in school and community activities such as sports, church choir, and candy striping at the Personal Care Home. In the evenings she has been a great help to us in our business. Brian is in Grade VII, and he, too, is active in school, community, and our business.

Mr. Wood

Mr. Wood rented the Crozier farm 27-15-25 in about 1911, after James Still moved off. (No further trace)

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wood

Mr. and Mrs. Wood homesteaded the N½ 18-15-25 (now owned by Dave Heise). They came in the early 1880's. They had one son. Mrs. Wood was very ill for quite some time. Mrs. William Iverach looked after their son when his mother died in 1883. This was the first death recorded. Mr. Wood gave up farming and returned to his homeland.

Mr. and Mrs. David Wright

written by Rose Wright

The little village of Tillicoultry, north of Stirling, Scotland was home to James Wright, and his wife, Christine Aitken, who were married in 1828. In those days, this part of Scotland was sheep country, and James was also a weaver. When weaving moved out of the home into factories, the family, like many others, set off for a new land. Australia was considered, but friends were coming to Upper Canada, so the Wrights settled on coming to Canada too. The exact date of their arrival has been lost, but it was about the same time as the Cochranes who came on the sailing ship "Susan" on the 17th day of April, 1852, to Montreal.

Sons and daughter of the James Wright family (all of whom came to Canada) were; Malcolm, Hugh, John, Agnes, Robert and James.

At first they settled at Smith Falls, Ontario, but soon moved on westward where the father and four sons took up land in Wellington County between Harriston and Clifford. The four older brothers farmed; James studied and was ordained as a minister.

Malcolm Wright married Rose Henderson who had come with her widowed mother and brother, David Henderson, to Bennington, Vermont. Their children were Margaret, David (born September 8th, 1869), and James. The mother died in 1871 and was buried in the little cemetery across the road from the Bowes Church, as were Mr. and Mrs. James Wright.

The pioneers began a Sunday School for their children, and soon engaged in building a church. The Wrights had been Congregationalists and worked in the building of the new church. A title to the land where the church was built was obtained from John Bowes, but none was granted by the Porterfields for the little churchyard. For some years preceding 1869, and after, the people were ministered to by Mr. Snider. Grandfather Malcolm, aided by a tuning-fork, was proud to have been precentor. The children went to school at Greenbush, near Fulton's Mill.

In 1895, David Wright, influenced by his cousins at Casselton, N.D., decided to see the wonderful prairies. For two years, he worked for Bishop Shane-

ly, the Roman Catholic Bishop in Fargo, N.D. There he was impressed by the rich farm lands and the force of North Dakota blizzards. Even with the stable doors closed, the snow could sift in and leave the stalls half-filled. Tragic was the outcome for any settler who was caught in such a storm — no landmarks — no bluffs.

Another cousin, Mrs. Craig, had settled in the Blaris district of Manitoba. In 1897, David Wright came to Hamiota, then the end of the C.P.R. line. For the next two summers he worked for Mr. Charlie Craig. Wild geese, ducks and partridges seemed to be more plentiful then, but you didn't waste shells unnecessarily. Most of the grain would be stacked, waiting for the big steam outfits to come to thresh it. While the men were stacking, partridges and prairie chicken would come quite close. Mr. Craig taught them to become adept at spearing a chicken with a fork.

Sec. 8-twp. 15-R25 was a Hudson's Bay section. In 1899, David Wright bought the east half of this section. That fall, he brought a car of settlers effects from Ontario. Craig's house continued to be home until he got started.

He had only one team of horses which he brought from Ontario. Aided by his uncle, Alan MacDonald, he hauled the lumber from Birtle for the first buildings. This team also pulled the walking plow for all the breaking — two hundred and twenty acres. He was very fond of these and all subsequent horses he had. It was well known that others could be coaxing and bribing vainly with oat sheaves, while all he needed to do was whistle, call them by name, and the horses would come walking into the barn.

Two factors determined the choice of the southeast corner as the site for the buildings. One was a shallow well with drinking water. He had dug wells in the ravine and up on "the prairie" — all these had to be done slowly and by hand-digging and were failures. The quarter to the south was even more heart-breaking and back-breaking. Mr. Ed. Ariss and Mr. Francis Brown lost track of the wells they dug. The other reason was that this spot was on the Birtle Trail, and being at the south end of the farm, it was nearer to Blaris. He used to walk to services at Blaris Church, a distance of four miles. Mr. Bob Clark recalled that he was their Bible Class teacher.

For eleven summers he farmed and bached. When asked about the winters, he recalled that he didn't keep cattle then, so after looking after the welfare of his horses, he would go to Weaverville, N.C., U.S.A. or back to Ontario. During summers, he would take turns with Mr. Wes. Stewart and Mr. Harry Reid, who were also bachelors, in going to Old Beulah for supplies. At threshing time, if he took the

meat, sugar, butter, flour, etc. to Mrs. Kelly, she would cook for the threshing gang. It seems they had real Paul Bunyan appetites, but Mrs. Kelly was an organizer, who was never fazed by a matter of twenty odd men dropping in for dinner. In pre-telephone days, there was often short notice that the outfit was moving in.

In 1909, people could scarcely believe that the railroad had come to them. David Wright tells about piling up railway ties to the level of the boxcar door, backing the grain box up to that, and loading the first car of wheat.

In 1910, Malcolm Wright and several of his family moved to Hamiota, Manitoba. James went to Weaverville, North Carolina, U.S.A. Hugh remained in Harriston, Ontario. The John Wright family went to Casselton, N.D., the Robert Wrights went to the Westhope, N.D. area, and the James Wrights to Bellingham, Washington. Agnes became Mrs. Ned. Harding and one of her daughters became Mrs. Charlie Craig, a pioneer of the Blaris-Isabella district.

On January 17th, 1910, David Wright and Annie Hood were married at Clifford, Ontario. They came to the farm at Isabella, where they added the kitchen, upstairs, and verandah to the frame house. One morning they were sitting at breakfast during a thunderstorm. Lightning struck the chimney, sending stove lids and a pot of porridge hurtling across the kitchen. Windstorms sometimes took wagon racks and chicken coops to new locations.

Interests then, and in the years following, centred on the work of the church, the Sunday School and its annual picnics to "The Narrows", the school with its winter high-light of the Christmas Tree, a variety concert held in the Church, the summer with "The Boys and Girls Club" fair. Later Field Days were added. Before this, the baseball games were played on the picnic grounds south-west of Brad's store, now Hec. Calder's yard. The big rock in the bluff north of the house there, used to be visited by the children who wondered if it could possibly have been a huge meteorite. This wonder was squelched by the boys, who declared if anything, it was more like a "buffalo wallow".

The adults built the rink, formed the Agricultural Society with its fair, held plowing matches, the political meetings sometimes held in the implement shed — no need for oratorical contests, really.

A sheltered spot on the edge of the picnic grounds was often Sioux Benn's camping site in the summer. From here he visited the homes that were friendly to him. He also visited the Church occasionally, sitting like a statue in the back seat, attentive and reverent. His visits to the schools were sometimes disconcert-

ing to the teachers. Children he recognized, he would pat on the head as "good papooses". Then he would make his way to the back of the room, sit with both hands resting on his cane, listen through a lesson, rise and walk out without a comment.

Chores around the house consisted of straining the fresh milk night and morning into milk pans set on shelves in the basement, and covered with cheesecloth. After some hours, the cream was skimmed off the top into a crock to sour for churning. Not only was butter made at home, but bread, laundry soap (with rendered fat and lye), and quilts. Children were handy at "teasing" wool after the fleeces had been washed and dried. The teasing was done to fluff up the wool and get it ready for "carding". Miss Mary Heise was known as the most skilled carder, and everyone looked forward to her visit when she came to card wool. Her wire carding combs left the wool in soft little bats ready to lay on the material which had been tacked to the quilting frames. The top was then pinned over, and was quilted into a warm, but light, "comforter".

First chores of the morning were usually the taking out of ashes, and the lighting of wood fires. The wood-box could never stay filled very long, nor the swill pail empty. Another morning chore was the cleaning and shining of the lamp glasses, and the filling of the lamps and lanterns with "coal oil". These were set on the "lamp shelf", ready for night. By the time a family had acquired a gas lamp, it had reached the height of elegance.

People who were children in this era, will have among their happy memories the devoted teaching of Mrs. Kennedy, the good work done for boys and girls by Mrs. Warren — her parties and open house, hallowe'en parties at the Heise's, skating on the sloughs, disgracing ourselves with a sticks, stones and mud fight with our Decker guests, local skirmishes between the snobs and the heathen, three years with Miss H. B. Corbett who straightened us out and taught us some good work habits, three years with Mr. Dibblee, who kept us straightened out — flattened if necessary, but who really imparted solid ground work — we loved every minute of it; the coming of Rev. and Mrs. H. I. Bowman and the inestimable value of their lives in our community.

Wonderful friends and neighbors on old "Line 17" were: the Manse, the Tom Ariss family, Bridges, Kellys, Browns, Heises, Craigs, Millers, Calders, Stevensons and Clarks.

The children of the David Wright family were Rose, and Marion and Lorne, who were twins. Marion and Rose have taught in many schools in Manitoba. Lorne is on the home farm at Isabella.

Update

by Rose and Marion Wright

What a debt of gratitude we owe to the men and women who compiled, edited and published "Rural Reflections", 1879-1962! Now we are equally indebted to another dedicated group of people for giving us the opportunity to add to that first book of memories.

When the book first came into our home our mother said "I wish there had been a little about my mother's people, the Cochranes, who came from Kilmarnock in Ayrshire."

Since ancestors of many families who came to Canada endured similar experiences, perhaps a quote of part of the contract agreement for sailing may be of interest. Excerpts from record of: "Ship Susan of Glasgow, 390 tons, registered burden, to sail from Glasgow to Montreal 17th day of April, 1852.

Names: ages

John Cochrane 44

Margaret Cochrane 44 (nee McGaan)

Janet Cochrane 19

John Cochrane 17

James Cochrane 13

Mary Cochrane 10

Margaret Cochrane 8

In addition to any provisions which the passengers may themselves bring, the following quantities, at least of water and provisions, will be supplied to each passenger by the master of the ship as required by law, and also fires and suitable places for cooking, Per week:

3 qts. water daily

10 navy biscuits

2½ lbs. bread or biscuits, not inferior in quality

1 lb. wheat flour

5 lb. oatmeal

2 lb. rice

1 lb. sugar

½ lb. molasses

2 oz. tea

5 lb. good potatoes may at the option of the master of the vessel, be substituted for 1 lb. oatmeal or rice, and in ships sailing from Liverpool, or from Irish or Scotch ports, oatmeal may be substituted in equal quantities for the whole or any part of the issues of rice.

Berths no. 4, 5, and 6

7th April, 1852

Total £19.5

N.B. This contract ticket exempt from stamp duty."

The Margaret Cochrane who was eight lived with her family at Hillsgreen, near Hensall in Huron County. On January 17, 1860, she married William Hood and they lived farther north in Howick, near

Clifford, Ontario. They were buried there. Their daughter, Annie Hood (Feb. 5, 1884-Aug. 21, 1967) married David Wright (Sept. 8, 1869-Oct. 6, 1962) on January 17, 1910 and they made a home at Isabella, Manitoba. Their children were:

Margaret Rose Feb. 28, 1911

Anne Marion Jan. 28, 1914

David Lorne Jan. 28, 1914

The first weekend in July, 1980, many of us returned to Isabella schoolground for the unveiling of the cairn. Everyone there had his or her own Isabella in unspoken memories. We were remembering those who had blessed us with their lives and labors. The buildings will go, for life is change, but "remembering" unites caring and sharing people. We thank those who, by preserving these family stories, have forged the link joining the past with the future in our genuine sense of community.

Lorne and Beatrice Wright

written by Mrs. L. Wright

David Lorne, only son of David Wright and Annie (Hood) Wright, was born at the farm home (Sec. 8-T15-R25) on January 28th, 1914. He received his education at Isabella school and later assisted his father on the farm, renting S½ Sec. 9-T15-R25 from Miss Stella Harrison. Following his marriage to Beatrice Robinson of the same district in June, 1941, they lived there until the retirement of his parents to Isabella village in October, 1941, when they took up residence on the home farm. Later he rented S.W.¼ Sec. 7-T15-R25, which he still has.

Being members of the Isabella United Church, he and his wife have helped with choir, Sunday School, youth groups and various other church activities. Lorne has served on the board of stewards and, at present, is a trustee of the local church.

Having always been interested in sport, he has served on the rink committee and is a trustee of the same. He is a charter member of the Isabella Pool Elevator Association and from time to time has been a director on that board. He has been a trustee on the Miniota School Board for the past six years and, at present, is chairman of the board.

Lorne's interest in livestock began in his teens when, as members of the Decker Swine Club, he and Johnnie Finkbeiner were the Manitoba finalists in swine judging, winning the honor to represent Manitoba at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto in November of 1931. He maintains a herd of Shorthorn cattle, a few pigs and other lines that add to a mixed farm.

They have three children: Jeanette, born July 22nd, 1942, received her education at Isabella school and later Miniota, taking a secretarial course at the

Angus School of Commerce in Winnipeg. She married Ronald Hyndman of McConnell, Man. in September, 1961, and has one son, Richard Allan. They reside in Brandon, Man.

Lorna was born January 24th, 1951 and David was born January, 26th, 1953 and are attending the elementary grades in Isabella.

Update

by Beatrice Wright

Lorne and Beatrice farmed until 1972 when they rented and later sold the farm to William Choptuik. They resided in Toronto for a year working in the Willowdale area. In 1973 they moved to Winnipeg and continued to work as superintendents at Courts of St. James. In May 1981 they retired to Brandon, Manitoba.

Jeanette Hyndman lives in Brandon and teaches at Assiniboine Community College. Rick is apprenticing in plumbing and works in and out of Brandon. Wendy Jean was born August 2nd, 1963. She graduated from Vincent Massey High School in 1981.

Lorna graduated as a registered nurse from St. Boniface General Hospital in Winnipeg. She worked at Dauphin General Hospital and Grace General Hospital, Winnipeg. She married Ken Black, October, 1976. They have a son, James Lorne Stanley, born November 7th, 1977, and a daughter, Joan Kathleen, born May 3rd, 1979. They reside in Brandon, Manitoba.

David graduated from Birtle Collegiate and with courses from Red River Community College has followed a career in the steel industry. He is manager of technical development with a farm machinery company in Winnipeg. He married Dawn Bogar in June, 1976. They reside in the St. James area of Winnipeg.

Mr. and Mrs. Wyness

Mr. and Mrs. Wyness rented the Bruce Wallace farm 26-14-26 in the Blaris district for some time. Mrs. Wyness attended many mothers at the birth of their children. They had one child, Marion. They had a sale and left in 1934.

Keith and Marie Young

by Keith and Marie Young

Keith was born at Greenway, Manitoba, the younger son of the late Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Young. He received his education there, and his high school at Baldur, Manitoba.

Marie was born at Belmont, Manitoba, the only daughter of Mrs. Margaret Myers and the late Robert Myers. She received her education there and took

one year of training at the Provincial Normal School. She taught school at various Manitoba locations.

Keith and Marie were married June 1960. Keith was operating a grocery store at the time. He sold out and went working for Co-op. In 1964 we moved to Waskada, Manitoba. Due to the influence and encouragement of the United Church minister, the late Rev. R. T. Histed, Keith decided to enter the ministry as a Lay Supply. He was placed in Gilbert Plains, Manitoba in July 1968, staying there for five years. So it was in July 1973, that we moved to Miniota to serve in a team ministry which included Isabella. Since then Keith has served at Kenton and since 1977, at Reston-Pipestone. He was ordained in 1974.

Dana Margaret, our daughter, was born at Deloraine on December 10, 1965. Our son, Dion Keith, was born at Gilbert Plains on July 26, 1968. They are fairly normal, inspite of having been raised in a manse. They enjoy their friends, sports, and both do well in their school studies. They both attend the Youth group at the church and also take piano lessons.

Although our association with the Isabella Community was short, we enjoyed the friendliness and warmth of the people there. Oh those suppers at the community hall! We enjoy living in small, rural communities and try to serve where there is a need. Life is rewarding and God has been good to us.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Young

written by Lilian Young

I was born at Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. My father worked in the steel factory. In 1919, he took sick with the 'flu that was raging at that time and he did not recover. After his death, my mother, two brothers, four sisters and I came out to my Uncle Sam's farm at Chamberlain, Saskatchewan.

In a few years my mother married again and the older ones of our family stayed with our uncle. We lived there until September, 1931, when we all went north on account of the drought that was in south Saskatchewan at that time.

We landed in Paddockwood, near Prince Albert, and it was raining heavily. My two sisters Kate and Eva, who were with Uncle Sam and I, were both married in 1933 and that left us to bach, which did not appeal to either of us. At the end of that summer, I left my uncle and went to work for Kate's sister-in-law, who was a widow with four children and needed someone to work her farm. I worked there until 1936. After that I worked for a man who had a large breaking outfit. We broke up land for a number of people around that part of the country, as it was just opening up. This job lasted for a couple of years.

In the fall of 1938, my sister Kate's husband

decided to leave the north and come back to Manitoba. His old home was close to Bagot and he bought a farm near there. Hugh needed help bringing the stock down so my brother Earl and I came down with them by C.N.R. We arrived in November. Hugh's brother, who lived on the home place needed a man for the winter to help him look after his cattle and horses, as he kept a large herd at that time, so I spent the winter there.

The next two years were spent on farms around Beaver and MacDonald district. While at MacDonald I worked for a farmer who had a contract to get the land ready for the MacDonald airfield that was being built at the beginning of the war, so I worked on the airfield for a time.

Not long after this I worked for a farmer near Beaver and while I was there I met Lilian Ariss of Isabella. We were married two years later. I then took a job working on the airfield south of Portage. In the spring I went to work for Mr. C. Burnell of Oakville. This job lasted until August when we came back to Beaver and I started carpentering.

When I joined the Royal Canadian Engineers, Lilian and the two girls came back to Isabella to stay with her parents while I was in the army. I was sent to Chilliwack, B.C., to take my training. When the war was over I was back at Isabella. The next spring I started carpentering in this district. We now live in the house that was built by Mr. W. Palmer.

We have six children Margaret, Roberta, Edward, Garry, Elva and Florence. At present they are all in school.

Update

by Lilian Young

Going back the last twenty years our story in the Isabella History book "Rural Reflections" left off with the children all in school.

At that time Grade 12 was not taught in Isabella, so in 1961 Margaret and Roberta stayed in Birtle. Margaret stayed with Mr. and Mrs. George Flynn and Roberta with Mr. and Mrs. Jim Dalton.

When Margaret finished Grade 12 she applied and was accepted by Brandon General Hospital to train for a nurse. She graduated as a Registered Nurse in 1967. In April of 1968 she married Hugh Fraser who had taught in Isabella from 1965 to 1967. She nursed in Glenboro for one year until they moved to Deloraine where Hugh taught for several years. Margaret meanwhile nursed in Deloraine Hospital. They have two boys, Shawn and Sheldon. Shawn sings in the school and Church Choir, plays in the Grade 5 band and also takes piano lessons. He enjoys hockey in the winter playing with the 10 and unders last winter. Sheldon plays hockey with the 8 and unders.

They left Deloraine and Hugh now teaches in Holland.

Upon finishing school at Birtle, Roberta worked as a Nurse's Aid in Birtle Hospital where she worked for a year. She then was accepted at Brandon General Hospital to train as a nurse. She graduated as a Registered Nurse in 1967. In October of the same year she married D'Arcy Harmacy of Edmonton, who at that time worked on Microwave for Lenkurt of Canada. He was foreman of the crew that installed most of the towers in this area. Until this time they have lived in Edmonton and have one daughter Joanne. They are moving from Edmonton this summer to Bassano, Alberta where D'Arcy has accepted another job. Joanne's interests are singing in the Choir, playing in the school band, taking lessons on the organ — winning prizes in Festivals in Edmonton and Sherwood Park and playing ringette in the winter. Up until now Roberta has nursed at Allan Gray Auxiliary Hospital in Edmonton.

When Eddy started Grade 11 he went in the school bus to Birtle, George Sutherland being the driver at that time. The year he finished Grade 12 he worked with his Father full time carpentering and has until last winter when he went to Brandon to live, carpentering for "Nelson Homes."

When Isabella school was moved to Birtle, Gary was taking Grade 10. When he finished his Grade 12 he also started carpentering and is still working with his Father.

Elva took her Grade 9 to 12 at Birtle, Bob Stewart being bus driver at that time. In November 1970 she married Murray Knight of Decker. They are living on the home farm and have four children, Anita, Steven, Karen and Allan. Anita is very interested in Baton Twirling and has been awarded four trophies in competitions in Brandon. Her teacher has been Bonnie McWhirter, who will be greatly missed when she leaves to attend Red River College in Winnipeg. Steven's interest is hockey in the winter. Karen (3 years) loves to imitate Anita when she practices with her baton. As Allan is just four months old, he is beginning to take a good look at things in this old world.

Florence started Grade 8 in Birtle and went until Grade 12. When she finished her schooling, she worked for the Birdtail School Division at the old Crandall school, mending school textbooks and sorting them out for each grade and getting them ready for the teachers when they needed them. She worked for a short while at Rivers at the Hotel there. Then she worked in a "Jean's" factory in Brandon. She is now employed as Housekeeper for the Clinic at Hamiota District Hospital.

On January 15, 1979, which was one of the col-

dest days that winter, we moved into Hamiota to a house which Bob had just purchased. It was with regrets that we left one of the best communities in Manitoba, where we had spent so many happy years. With gasoline prices rising each year, we decided it was best if we moved closer to Bob's work, which would cut out a lot of extra driving back and forth. In the winter Bob enjoys curling and in summer golfing.

I, Lilian, enjoy golfing and lawn bowling in summer and in winter, floor shuffleboard and carpet bowling. By doing this I have met many nice people and made several new friends.

Joe Zacharias

Mr. and Mrs. Zacharias lived on the N.W.¼ 32-15-25. He was later the caretaker of Isabella School. They had four children.

Post Script

Post Script

Births:

Benjamin Daniel Ariss born April 25, 1982, son of Eddie and Elisa Ariss of Birtle.
Christopher Michael Bedford born November 24, 1981, son of Michael and Barbara Bedford.
Crystle Amber Brown born June 11, 1982, daughter of Jeannette (Dushnicky) and Brian Brown of Brandon.
Jenny Lee Gompf born March 3, 1982, daughter of Larry and Lily Gompf of Isabella.
Russell Shawn Alfred Heise born May 11, 1982, son of Harvey and Cathy Heise of Brandon.
William Ryan John Nykoliation born April 12, 1982, son of David and Ann (Sunley) Nykoliation.
Kurtis Ross Weinhandl born May 31, 1982, son of David and Nancy (Bell) Weinhandl.

Deaths:

Allan Clark passed away June 18, 1982.
Bert Decker passed away in 1979.
Myrtle Decker passed away in 1973.
Cliff Drummond passed away July 26, 1982.
David Gardham passed away November 11, 1967.
Laura Gompf (Irwin) passed away June 2, 1982.
Lorne Miller passed away Feb. 21, 1982.
William Rowles passed away in Victoria in 1964.
James Stewart passed away in June, 1982.
George Torrance passed away in May, 1975.
Norma Torrance passed away in 1966.
Kevin Webb was accidentally killed June 6, 1982.

Blaris Church was torn down in 1982 by Ron Bell and Jeff Scott. Some bricks from the building will be used to erect a cairn.

Ken Harrison was promoted to vice-president

of the National Accounts Division of the Royal Bank of Canada in Calgary.

Ryan Norrie plays goal for a Hamiota hockey team.

Origin of names of schools and towns in the area:

Arrowton School
(35-14-25, 1893-1912) — a school district three miles south of Decker near the Arrow River. It was named Arrowton as it was not a town. The "w" was dropped.

Ethel School
(s.w. 24-15-25, moved to e½ 30-15-24, 1885-1912). The origin of the name is not known.

Isabella
The school and village were named after the eldest lady in the district at the time the school was built. She was Isabella Taylor.

Lucas Post Office
(n.e.¼ 20-14-25) This was named for families in the area.

Omar School
(n.w. 22-14-26, 1904-1923). The school was named for four families in the area: O'Callaghan, McKee, Armstrong, and Ringland. The school was moved to Isabella in 1923 and was referred to as the "tin" school.

Orrwold
Named after the Orr family.

Rothesay School
Named after Rothesay in Scotland by one of the carpenters who built it.

Shamrock School
(13-15-25, 1896-1912) The name was chosen by J. Chapman.

Update

1. Cereals

Wheat (hard spring): Benito, Neepawa, Sinton

Durham varieties: Coulter, Wakooma

Eligible for Utility grades: Glenlea

Triticale: Rosner, Welsh, Carman (protein equal to Glenlea wheat)

Oats: Fidler, Harmon, Hudson.

Barley for malting or feed (blue aleurone): Bonanza, Conquest

Barley for feed (yellow aleurone): Bedford, Johnston, Klondike, Pequis 6-row, Fergus 2-row, Summit 2-row.

Rye: Cougar, Frontier, Pluma

2. Oil Seeds and Special Crops

Flax: Culbert, Dufferin, Linott

Rapeseed (Canola):

Argentine type: Altex, Regent and Tower.

Polish type: Candle

Mustard:

Gisilba (yellow), Blaze (brown),

Domo (Oriental type), Lethbridge (Oriental type).

Lentils: Laird, Eston

Field peas: Century, Tara, Trapper (yellow), Triumph (green)

Fababeans: Ackerperle, Diana, Herz Freya.

Canary seed: two types, Spanish and Moroccan.

Buckwheat

large seed: Mancan, Manor.

small seed: Tempest, Tokyo.

Not grown in our area: Sunflowers, sugar beets, soybeans, potatoes (commercial).

Prices (farm value, source 1980 yearbook, Manitoba Agriculture)

Year	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Rye	Flax	Rape-seed
1946	\$1.67	\$.56	\$.78	\$2.25	\$3.00	
1954	1.31	.62	.92	.94	2.65	
1959	1.37	.64	.78	.88	3.04	\$2.00
1960	1.61	.62	.84	.87	2.75	2.00
1962	1.70	.59	1.00	1.05	3.00	1.75
1968	1.36	.49	.79	1.00	2.84	1.88
1971	1.37	.53	.78	.70	2.00	2.15
1972	1.86	.90	1.26	1.31	4.10	3.10
1973	4.30	1.63	2.51	2.65	9.55	5.84
1974	4.00	1.53	2.22	2.25	9.56	7.07
1975	3.53	1.44	2.28	2.50	6.55	5.11
1976	2.80	1.13	2.00	2.14	6.78	5.82
1977	2.67	.99	1.65	2.26	5.26	6.12
1978	3.61	1.00	1.69	2.40	6.81	6.25
1979	4.63	1.37	2.25	3.68	7.11	6.06
1980	6.00	2.00	3.05	4.50	8.00	6.25
1981	4.45	1.47	2.42	3.00	7.45	6.00

Century Farms that we are aware of:

1881-1981 Heise Farm (s.w.¼ 4-15-25) owned by Art Heise, farmed by Art and Margaret Heise.

1882-1982 Bell Farm (n.e.¼ 24-14-26) owned by Jim Bell, farmed by Murray and Phyllis Bell.

1882-1982 Bell Farm (n.w.¼ 24-14-26) owned by Steve Bell, farmed by Ron Bell.

1882-1982 Campbell Farm (n.e.¼ 20-14-25) owned by Frank Campbell, farmed by Ron Campbell.

1882-1982 Clark Farm (n.½ 36-14-26) owned by Ken Clark, farmed by Ken and June Clark.

1882-1982 Harrison Farm (s.e.¼ 30-14-25) owned by Joe Harrison, farmed by Joe Harrison.

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